

**PENNSYLVANIA DEER FARMERS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

*-To Preserve, Protect & Promote the Deer Industry in Pennsylvania-*



# **NEWSLETTER**

Volume 9

WINTER 2010-11

No. 4

**PENNSYLVANIA DEER FARMERS ASSOCIATION**

## **2011 SPRING MEETING AND BENEFIT AUCTION**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2011**

Lancaster Host Resort  
2300 Lincoln Highway East (Rt. 30)  
Lancaster, PA 17602

**DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 AM with Trade Show**

**ANNUAL MEETING 9:00 A.M.**

**LUNCH 11:00 A.M.**

*(Members and their Families Only)*

**AUCTION**

**12:00 NOON - 5:00 P.M.**

**SILENT AUCTION ENDS - 2:00 P.M.**

**Rooms available - Call 800-233-0121**

**Ask for PDFA Rate of \$99.99**

**Donation / Exhibition Form Included In this Newsletter**

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

*by Dave Griffith*



Hello Everyone,

The day before Thanksgiving 2010 was another political victory for our industry as Governor Rendell signed into law House Bill 2273. House Bill 2273 creates an annual \$75.00 licensing fee for every Cervid Livestock Operation in Pennsylvania. The great part about this bill is that the annual fee will go into a restricted operating account to be used strictly for the funding and administration of our CWD programs. The last several years of budget cuts to the Department of Agriculture was threatening the actual existence of our CWD programs due to the fact they are a quarantine order and not a legislative mandate. The Department of Agriculture, because of the cuts, was considering stopping the CWD program which would have shut down interstate movement of cervids from our state and eventually the industry would have been lost. This new funding will assure that our CWD program will never be lost due to lack of funding. Many thanks to the staff of Milliron and Associates, along with our key legislators, for the help and guidance to get this important legislation passed.

The Governor's race has been decided and Governor Tom Corbett is now in office. The directors of the PDFA have high hopes that our new Governor will take the time to understand the importance of Agriculture in Pennsylvania, primarily deer farming, and stop the budget cuts. We hope he will find wasted monies in other community programs and bring much needed monies back into Pennsylvania's number one industry, Agriculture. We are working hard to build a relationship with the new Governor and his policy people. This is something critical to the future work we need to do in Harrisburg. We wish the new Governor and his staff much success as he works to redirect and grow Pennsylvania.

I have spoken with many of you over the past year about sales tax being charged on deer feeds. The research we have done tells us that although we are exempt on many purchases, in regard to sales tax, feed has its own distinct definition within the revenue code. I have had many discussions with Milliron and Associates about the issue and it is on our front burner for the next year.

Many of the Hunting Ranch operators that I have spoken with have had a solid year. Although we are still dealing with a sluggish economy, it doesn't seem to have slowed the hunters that want a trophy whitetail. I don't know of any deer farmers who had stocker bucks for sale, have trouble moving them. Next year looks as good if not better. Will there be a shortage of stocker bucks next year? I can't say for sure, but indications could start to lean that way.

Breeding stock prices are down, but still very good in comparison to other livestock. This is a great time for a new farmer to get into the industry. This economy will turn and those that saw the opportunities to buy now may be very glad they did.

Our Spring Meeting is fast approaching. It will again be held at the Lancaster Host in Lancaster, Pa. We will soon have available our gun raffle tickets for our PAC, Political Action Committee, Fund. Hopefully you will buy a few and sell a few. This is the main fund raiser for the PAC Fund and has been the key reason we have accomplished so much in Harrisburg. These monies go to support the legislators that support us.

We are accepting nominations for PDFA directors. We need new blood on the board as people who have served many terms take a needed break. If you or anyone you know is interested in being nominated, please contact Bev Gruber or

*(Continued on page 3)*

(from the President, continued from page 2)

George Hazard, Nominating Chairman. You have heard the saying about the bleachers being full of arm chair quarterbacks. Don't be an arm chair quarterback. Don't sit in the bleachers and judge the calls. If you are interested in this industry then get on the field and be a part of the team. We welcome anyone willing to roll up their sleeves and work hard for the good of the industry. We need you!

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who did something to support the Association this past year, no matter how small. This industry has outgrown many others over the past years, and it is because of the hard work, support, and dedication of this membership. Hope to see you at a deer auction somewhere.

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year,  
Dave Griffith, President

## BY-LAW CHANGE PROPOSED

The board of directors would like to propose a by-law change to Article II, Section 2 A., Life Membership. It currently reads, "Life membership shall have all voting membership privileges without payment of annual dues upon payment of a one time fee of \$500.00.

It is proposed that it read, "Life membership shall have all voting membership privileges without payment of annual dues upon payment of a one time fee."

With this change, the board of directors would have the duty of setting the life membership fee.

## DATES SET FOR FALL SALE

September 9 & 10, 2011 has been chosen for the PDFA Fall Sale. The sale will be held at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona.

Our hotel will be the Marriott Courtyard, which is connected to the convention center. The rate is \$104 for Thursday night, but due to a Penn State football schedule change (Alabama is in town), the Friday and Saturday night rate has increased to \$144.00. Due to this, the hotel is asking that you call them directly at 814-312-1800 to book your reservation. Be sure to identify yourself as a PDFA member. **Cutoff date is Thursday, August 25, 2011, but if you're planning to stay, you should call early.**

## ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

At the April 9th Annual Meeting of the PDFA, five directors will be elected for the next three years. Nominating Chairman George Hazard will present the slate at the meeting. All voting members (those paying \$50) and Life members will receive a ballot when they register at the Spring Annual Meeting in Lancaster.

## DIRECTORY HAS GONE TO DESIGN FIRM

The 2011 Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Directory and Resource Guide has left the PDFA office and is in the hands of our design firm, AW Designs in Manheim, Pa. It should be back from the printer by the end of January and will be mailed to you as soon as it returns.

## GUN RAFFLE BENEFITS ASSOCIATION

Ten Gun raffle tickets will be mailed to each PDFA member in February by first class mail. The proceeds from this fund-raiser goes to support our legislative efforts in Harrisburg. The Raffle Committee has worked very hard to put together an impressive number of guns, cash awards amounting to \$2,000.00 and the grand prize of a Hunt with up to a 145" class buck at Mountain Run Ranch, New Bloomfield, Pa., donated by Harry Strawser and Joe Peachy

The ticket stub and payment can be mailed back to the PDFA office by March 28th or brought to Lancaster the day of the drawing. If you need more tickets contact Bev Gruber at 610-767-5026. The drawing will take place at the Spring Meeting on April 9th at the Lancaster Host.

Be sure to make you checks out to PDFA Political Action Fund. **No corporate (business) checks can be accepted.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Seller \_\_\_\_\_  
Returns Top Portion and Payment by March 27th or bring to Meeting.  
T/C: Bev Gruber PO Box 5 • New Tripoli, Pa 18066

**PA DEER FARMERS ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL GUN RAFFLE**  
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE POLITICAL ACTION FUND  
Winners need not be present. Winners responsible for pick-up and clearance check. Corporate checks cannot be accepted. Make personal checks out to PDFA Pol. Fund. For questions contact Bev Gruber at 610-767-5026. DRAWING WILL BE AT OUR APRIL 9<sup>th</sup> SPRING MEETING.

**GRAND PRIZE:**  
Up to 145" Class Buck at Mountain Run Ranch  
donated by Joe Peachy & Harry Strawser

**OTHER GREAT PRIZES INCLUDE:**

- Benelli Nova 12Ga. camo 28" dbl.
- Browning A-Bolt II comp. stalker 300 Win Max
- Savage Edge Youth 243cal. Detachable box magazine
- \$100 CASH
- Harrington Richards Ultra slus12aa lam stock
- Mossberg Mod. 500 12aa. Trovin Slus gun
- Martin Mod. 1294 lever rifle 44 Mag.
- \$100 CASH
- Savage Edge 223cal. Detachable box magazine
- Mossberg Mod. 535 slus gun 12aa.
- Harrington Richards Mod. 582 22-250cal.
- \$100 CASH
- Remington Mod. 770 7mm-08 with 3x9 scope
- Tikka Mod. T3 lite 300 Win Max
- Savage Edge 25-06cal camo with scope. Det box mag
- \$100 CASH
- Remington Mod. 700 SPS 300 Win Max
- Thompson Center Venture rifle 308 Win
- Remington Mod. 7600 30-06cal pump rifle
- \$100 CASH
- Savage Mod. 938TVS 22 Mag. Thumbhole stock
- CZ Mod 527 223cal rifle
- \$500 CASH
- Remington Mod. 700 CCL 300 Win Max
- Browning Mod. A-Bolt II with buss 300 Win Max
- \$1,000 CASH

**DONATION - \$10.00 PER TICKET**

## How cold was it?

It was so cold . . .the squirrels were throwing themselves at an electric fence!  
It was so cold . . .Grandpa's teeth were chattering - in the glass!  
It was so cold . . .we had to chop up the piano for firewood - but we only got two chords.  
It was so cold . . .Starbucks was serving coffee on a stick!  
It was so cold...we didn't clean the house - we just defrosted it!



## AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

You will soon be contacted by mail or by a fellow Deer Farmer for your donation for the Spring Auction. As most of you know this event is what keeps our association afloat.

A format similar to last year will be followed. We will have a silent auction as well as a regular auction. Last year's auction totaled almost \$50,000 so lets try to top that this year.

Send your auction item information to Kelly Pittenger, 4733 Warrensville Road, Montoursville, Pa. 17754. She can be reached at 717-435-5809 or email [thundervalley@uplink.net](mailto:thundervalley@uplink.net). The form can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

Our auctioneer will again be Aaron Kanagy, K&R Auctioneering Service, from Bellville, Pa.

If you have time, please consider asking others in your community to support our association. You do not have to be a member to donate. We will recognize their donation and give them recognition.



## EDUCATIONAL MEETING PLANNED

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 26th for an excellent educational session.

You remember last year we had two Spring Regional Meetings, one held in Grantville, Pa. and one held in Clark, Pa. For the 2011 year a combined meeting will be held in Moshannon, Pa., just four miles off the Snow Shoe exit of I-80. This is as close to the center of Pennsylvania as we could find.

The meeting is being held in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and both deer farmers and veterinarians are invited. The cost will be \$25.00 per person. The day will begin with refreshments and check in from 8:00-9:00. Speakers will include Dr. Karen Martin, Dianne Miller, Dr. Jason Brooks from Pennsylvania State University and Sarah Yuriscic from PDA.

A roast beef dinner will be served for lunch and the program will conclude by 3:00. A question and answer session will conclude the day's program.


A separate mailing for registration will be sent in February.

## WANTED

Cervid farmers willing to help promote the cervid industry by hosting an FFA Day at their farms (see story page 13). Please contact Laurie Seale at the Cervid Livestock Foundation for more information - 830-928-3143 or [lprasnicki@centurytel.net](mailto:lprasnicki@centurytel.net).


3-6 YR. REFERENCES INCLUDE M&M WHITETAILS, SWAMP HOLLOW WHITETAILS, BLOSSER WHITETAILS, ROPP'S WHITETAILS, LEVEL CREEK WHITETAILS, SUMMIT CREST WHITETAILS AND H&E DEER FARMS

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## Donation & Booth Form

(Please Use a Separate Form for Each Item Donated)

**DEADLINE: March 1, 2011**

### Booths at Spring Auction:

- Yes, I would like a booth at the Spring Benefit Auction.
- No, I would not like a booth.
- Electricity
- Full Page Ad (\$200)

Lot #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

PDFA Member  Non-Member

Buyer's #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

PDFA Member  Non-Member

### Donation item (Non-Semen)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Donation item: (Animals/Semen)

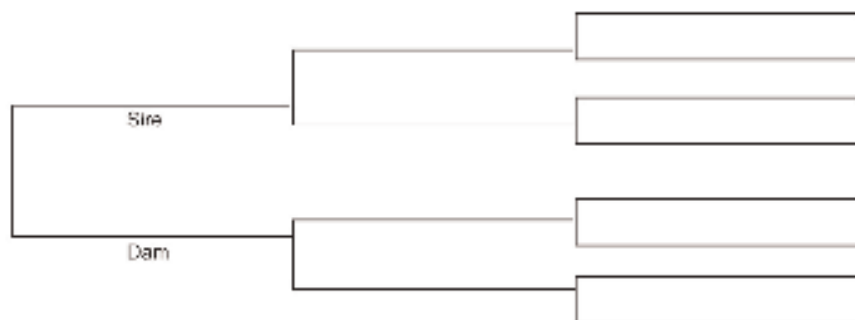
CWD Date: \_\_\_\_\_ TB: \_\_\_\_ N/A: \_\_\_\_ Certified: \_\_\_\_ Accredited: \_\_\_\_ Brucellosis: \_\_\_\_ N/A: \_\_\_\_ Certified: \_\_\_\_

Accredited:

Animal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity of Straws: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the pedigree chart below - write the animal's name on the line above each level.

Please include a picture of your animal for the catalog. Photos can be emailed as Jpegs to: [grandvalley@mplink.net](mailto:grandvalley@mplink.net)



\_\_\_\_\_  
Animal Name                      Rack Size                      @                      Years

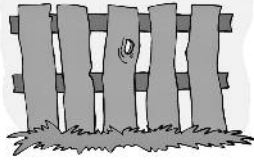
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAIL TO:

PDFA Spring Benefit Auction Committee • Attn: Kelly Pittenger • 4733 Warrensville Road • Montoursville, PA 17754

## OVER THE BACK FENCE

by Beverly Gruber  
Executive Director



Your office staff has been busy the last couple of weeks, finishing up the directory. It is now at the printer. Hopefully the directory will be printed next year in late August for September delivery.

The Spring Sale is coming up quickly. Be sure to respond to Kelly Pittenger when she calls for donations.

Your Association uses these funds to keep up the work of the group, so give generously.

-Bev





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## Mark Your Calendar



### The tentative Board Schedule is as follows:

- Friday, November 17
- Wednesday February 16  
(Huntingdon Fairgrounds)
- Friday March 25
- Friday May 13
- Thursday June 16
- Friday August 12 - Reedsville
- Friday October 14
- Friday November 18

Except where noted, all meetings take place at the Huntingdon Ag Extension Office

### The 2011 NADeFA Annual Conference and Exhibition

March 17-19, 2011

Gaylord Opryland Hotel & Convention Center  
Nashville, TN

### PDFA Spring Sale & Annual Meeting

April 8 & 9

Lancaster Host Resort & Conference Center  
Lancaster, Pa.

### PDFA Fall Meeting

September 9 & 10

Blair County Convention Center  
Altoona, Pa.

## PDFA NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Below is the rate schedule for newsletter advertising for PDFA members. If you are interested in taking out an ad, call the office. If you would like to advertise in all four issues you may do so for the price of three.

Reproduce a business card (2 x 3½)	\$ 10.00
1/8 Page (2½ x 3½)	15.00
1/4 Page (3½ x 5)	25.00
1/2 Page (5 x 7½)	50.00
Full (7½ x 10)	100.00
To enclose a one-page flyer (8½ x 11)	250.00



# THE HARRISBURG PERSPECTIVE

Milliron Associates

John Milliron, Ken Brandt and Andrew Goodman

BY ANDY GOODMAN, MBA

The House and Senate Republican and Democratic leadership announced their Committee Chairmen for the upcoming two year session. After four years in the minority, the Republicans will control the House. They also control the Senate. Consequently, Republicans will be the Majority Chairmen and the Democrats will be the Minority Chairmen. Each Majority Chairman has the responsibility to manage each hearing or voting meeting. He or she also has the ability to either vote or ignore legislation that has been referred to their Committee. I expect both caucuses to announce the membership of each committee in the near future. As soon as I have that information I will make it available. Please call or email me with any questions you may have.

The Republican Majority Chairmen are:

**Aging and Older Adult Services** - HENNESSEY, Tim (Chester County, 26th Leg. Dist.)  
**Agriculture and Rural Affairs** - MAHER, John (Allegheny/Washington Counties, 40th Leg. Dist.)  
**Children and Youth** - O'BRIEN, Dennis M (Philadelphia, 169th Leg. Dist.)  
**Commerce** - HESS, Dick L. (Bedford/Fulton/Huntington Counties, 78th Leg. Dist.)  
**Consumer Affairs** - GODSHALL, Robert W. (Montgomery County, 53rd Leg. Dist.)  
**Education** - CLYMER, Paul I. (Bucks County, 145th Leg. Dist.)  
**Environmental Res & Energy** - HUTCHINSON, Scott (Butler/Venango Counties, 64th Leg. Dist.)  
**Finance** - BENNINGHOFF, Kerry A. (Centre/Mifflin Counties, 171st Leg. Dist.)  
**Game and Fisheries** - EVANS, John R. (Erie County, 5th Leg. Dist.)  
**Gaming Oversight** - SCHRODER, Curt (Chester County, 155th Leg. Dist.)  
**Health** - BAKER, Matt (Bradford/Tioga Counties, 68th Leg. Dist.)  
**Human Services** - DiGIROLAMO, Gene (Bucks County, 18th Leg. Dist.)  
**Insurance** - MICOZZIE, Nicholas A (Delaware County, 163rd Leg. Dist.)  
**Judiciary** - MARSICO, Ron (Dauphin County, 105th Leg. Dist.)  
**Labor Relations** - MILLER, Ronald (York County, 93rd Leg. Dist.)  
**Liquor Control** - TAYLOR, John (Philadelphia, 177th Leg. Dist.)  
**Local Government** - CREIGHTON, Tom (Lancaster County, 37th Leg. Dist.)  
**Professional Licensure** - HARHART, Julie (Lehigh/Northampton Counties, 183rd Leg. Dist.)  
**State Government** - METCALFE, Daryl (Butler County, 12th Leg. Dist.)

**Tourism and Recreational Dev.** - STERN, Jerry (Blair County, 80th Leg. Dist.)  
**Transportation** - GEIST, Richard A. (Blair County, 79th Leg. Dist.)  
**Urban Affairs** - ROSS, Chris (Chester County, 158th Leg. Dist.)  
**Veterans Affairs & Emer. Prep.** - BARRAR, Stephen E. (Chester/Delaware Counties, 160th Leg. Dist.)

The Democratic Minority Chairmen are:

**Aging and Older Adult Services** – Rep. Lawrence Curry (Montgomery, 154 Leg. Dist.)  
**Agriculture and Rural Affairs** – Rep. Joseph Petrarca (Westmoreland, 55 Leg. Dist.)  
**Appropriations** – Rep. Joseph Markosek (Allegheny, 25 Leg. Dist.)  
**Children and Youth** – Rep. Louise Williams Bishop (Philadelphia, 192 Leg. Dist.)  
**Commerce** – Rep. Peter Daley (Fayette, 49 Leg. Dist.)  
**Consumer Affairs** – Rep. Joseph Preston (Allegheny, 24 Leg. Dist.)  
**Education** – Rep. James Roebuck (Philadelphia, 188 Leg. Dist.)  
**Environmental Resources and Energy** – Rep. Camille "Bud" George (Clearfield, 74 Leg. Dist.)  
**Finance** – Rep. Phyllis Mundy (Luzerne, 120 Leg. Dist.)  
**Game and Fisheries** – Rep. Edward Staback (Lackawanna, 115 Leg. Dist.)  
**Gaming Oversight** – Rep. Rosita Youngblood (Philadelphia, 198 Leg. Dist.)  
**Health** – Rep. John Myers (Philadelphia, 201 Leg. Dist.)  
**Human Services** – Rep. Mark Cohen (Philadelphia, 201 Leg. Dist.)  
**Insurance** – Rep. Anthony DeLuca (Allegheny, 32 Leg. Dist.)  
**Judiciary** – Rep. Thomas Caltagirone (Berks, 127 Leg. Dist.)  
**Labor Relations** – Rep. William Keller (Philadelphia, 83 Leg. Dist.)  
**Liquor Control** – Rep. Dante Santoni (Berks, 126 Leg. Dist.)  
**Local Government** – Rep. Robert Freeman (Northampton, 136 Leg. Dist.)  
**Professional Licensure** – Rep. Harry Readshaw (Allegheny, 36 Leg. Dist.)  
**State Government** – Rep. Babette Josephs (Philadelphia, 182 Leg. Dist.)  
**Tourism and Recreational Dev** – Rep. Thaddeus Kirkland (Delaware, 159 Leg. Dist.)  
**Transportation** – Rep. Michael McGeehan (Philadelphia, 173 Leg. Dist.)  
**Urban Affairs** – Rep. W. Curtis Thomas (Philadelphia, 181 Leg. Dist.)  
**Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prep** – Rep. Chris Sainato (Beaver, 189 Leg. Dist.)

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Senate Majority Chairs:

**Aging & Youth** - Sen. Kim Ward (Westmoreland)  
**Agriculture & Rural Affairs** - Sen. Elder Vogel (Beaver)  
**Appropriations** - Sen. Jake Corman (Centre)  
**Banking & Insurance** - Sen. Don White (Indiana)  
**Communications & Technology** - Sen. Michael Folmer (Lebanon)  
**Community, Economic & Recreational Development** - Sen. Jane Earll (Erie)  
**Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure** - Sen. Robert Tomlinson (Bucks)  
**Education** - Sen. Jeffrey Piccola (Dauphin)  
**Environmental Resources & Energy** - Sen. Mary Jo White (Venango)  
**Finance** - Sen. Mike Brubaker (Lancaster)  
**Game & Fisheries** - Sen. Richard Alloway (Franklin)  
**Inter-Governmental Operations** - Sen. Lloyd Smucker (Lancaster)  
**Judiciary** - Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (Montgomery)  
**Labor & Industry** - Sen. John Gordner (Columbia)  
**Law & Justice** - Sen. John Pippy (Allegheny)  
**Local Government** - Sen. John Eichelberger (Blair)  
**Public Health & Welfare** - Sen. Patricia Vance (Cumberland)  
**Rules & Executive Nominations** - Sen. Dominic Pileggi (Chester)  
**State Government** - Sen. Charles McIlhinney (Bucks)  
**Transportation** - Sen. John Rafferty (Chester)  
**Urban Affairs & Housing** - Sen. Eugene Yaw (Lycoming)  
**Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness** - Sen. Lisa Baker (Luzerne)

Senate Minority Chairs:

**Aging & Youth** - Sen. LeAnna Washington (Montgomery/Philadelphia)

**Agriculture & Rural Affairs** - Sen. Lisa Boscola (Monroe/Lehigh/Northampton)  
**Appropriations** - Sen. Vincent Hughes (Montgomery/Philadelphia)  
**Banking & Insurance** - Sen. Michael Stack (Philadelphia)  
**Communications & Technology** - Sen. Larry Farnese (Philadelphia)  
**Community, Economic & Recreational Development** - Sen. Wayne Fontana (Allegheny)  
**Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure** - Sen. Lisa Boscola (Monroe/Lehigh/Northampton)  
**Education** - Sen. Andy Dinniman (Chester/Montgomery)  
**Environmental Resources & Energy** - Sen. John Yudichak (Carbon/Luzerne/Monroe)  
**Finance** - Sen. John Wozniak (Cambria/Clinton)  
**Game & Fisheries** - Sen. Richard Kasunic (Fayette)  
**Intergovernmental Operations** - Sen. John Blake (Lackawanna)  
**Judiciary** - Sen. Daylin Leach (Delaware/Montgomery)  
**Labor & Industry** - Sen. Christine Tartaglione (Philadelphia)  
**Law & Justice** - Sen. Jim Ferlo (Allegheny/Armstrong/Westmoreland)  
**Local Government** - Sen. John Blake (Lackawanna)  
**Public Health & Welfare** - Sen. Shirley Kitchen (Philadelphia)  
**Rules & Executive Nominations** - Sen. Jay Costa (Allegheny)  
**State Government** - Sen. Anthony Williams (Delaware/Philadelphia)  
**Transportation** - Sen. John Wozniak (Cambria/Clinton)  
**Urban Affairs & Housing** - Sen. Jim Brewster (Allegheny/Westmoreland)  
**Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness** - Sen. Tim Solobay (Greene)

## **CERVID HEALTH GROUP STRIVES TO ADVANCE DEER INDUSTRY IN PENNSYLVANIA**

A group of experts led by Penn State University's Dr. Jason Brooks met for the first time at PSU's Animal Diagnostic Laboratory to begin discussions regarding advancement of the PA deer industry. In attendance were members of the Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association and the Pennsylvania Elk Breeders Association, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and faculty from the Penn State Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, Animal Diagnostic Laboratory, and Deer Research Facility. The group discussed the most urgent needs of the industry and approaches to making progress through education, service, research, and policy. The initial objectives of the committee are to improve diagnostic veterinary services in Pennsylvania, to strengthen the relationship between the industry and Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission, and to develop educational tools for deer producers and veterinarians.

Attending the meeting from the PDFA were Diane Miller and Bob Lieberum.





Annual Spring Benefit Auction  
**MEAL SPONSORSHIP**  
**DEADLINE: February 7, 2011**

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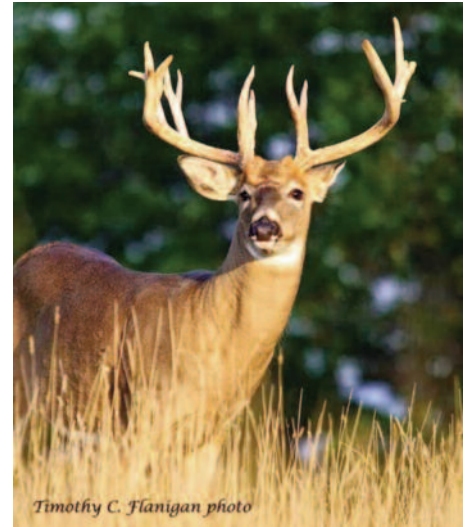
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PRINT name as it appears on credit card	
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*Thank you for your support!*

## Cervid Livestock Foundation Scholarship Announcement

The Cervid Livestock Foundation (CLF) will be offering 2 \$4000 scholarships this year to any 2011 graduating senior entering into an agricultural field of education. The scholarship guidelines and rules can be obtained by visiting the North American Deer Farmers Association website at [www.nadefa.org](http://www.nadefa.org). The scholarship information is listed under the Cervid Livestock Foundation tab. You may also contact Laurie Seale at [lprasnicki@centurytel.net](mailto:lprasnicki@centurytel.net) or 830-928-3143 for more information or for the application and guidelines. Applications will be accepted until April 15, 2011.

Our guidelines have changed and we no longer require a NADeFA membership to be eligible for the scholarship. If you have friends or family members who will be graduating from high school this year, please share this information with them.



## THE WHM GROUP DONATES LAND TO WILDLIFE FOR EVERYONE ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

The WHM Group, Harrisburg, has donated more than 135 acres of land along Bald Eagle Creek, and a \$50,000 maintenance fund for the property, to the Wildlife for Everyone Endowment Foundation, State College.

The property, known as the Bald Eagle Wetlands, was acquired and developed since 2002 by The WHM Group under contract with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation as wetland mitigation for environmental disruption caused by the relocation of Interstate 99 and as a Federal Highway Administration demonstration site.

The WHM Group bought the property; designed and secured all state and federal environmental permits; completed all construction, and then monitored the results consistent with permit conditions.

“The WHM Group's science and business goal for the Bald Eagle project was to avoid any and all long term mechanical support systems for the project, while creating a fully functioning ecosystem capable of sustaining a habitat to host the return of Pennsylvania's indigenous species as overseen by Mother Nature,” explained B. Michael Schaul, President of The WHM Group.

The site has attracted an increasingly diverse wildlife population, includ-



ing species from aquatic mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

“Reports to The WHM Group by neighbors, residents and wildlife not-for-profit organizations that regularly visit the site tell us that species not previously seen there are now using the wetlands and habitat,” said Schaul. The WHM Group is comforted by the return of animals and plants to the site, which demonstrates that the science and business practices followed by the company yielded these successes.

The site includes more than 50 acres of wetland that The WHM Group created, employing runoff and ground-fed hydrologic sources to maintain the ecosystem; about 15 acres of upland woodland; a quarter mile of Bald Eagle Creek, which are multi-use recreational stream stocked with trout; road frontage on Old Rt. 220 and a township road. A few archeologically important sites of former Native American encampments have been protected on the tract.

In addition, a few archeologically important sites of former Native

American encampments have been protected on the tract.

Vern Ross, executive director of WFEEF, said in the near-term, the foundation plans to develop wildlife viewing platforms, trails and educational facilities on the site.

As part of the project, The WHM Group inserted into its contracts with Penn DOT its intention to donate the property, after the wetlands mitigation project was completed, to a suitable not-for-profit organization for its perpetual care and use.

Schaul said The WHM Group selected WFEEF because of its not-for-profit business objectives and its overall wildlife educational strategies.

WFEEF was established to provide private support to enhance wildlife habitat, scientific research and education; land preservation; youth programs and for a science and research center.

The WHM Group is a company, owned by its original incorporators, dedicated to the pursuit of environmental solutions through a collaboration of good science and sound business practices. For more information about The WHM Group, visit [www.whmgroup.com](http://www.whmgroup.com). For more information about the Wildlife for Everyone Endowment Foundation, visit [www.wildlifeforeveryone.org](http://www.wildlifeforeveryone.org).

# RABIES IN CAPTIVE CERVIDS: A REAL DANGER

In the summer of 2010, a Pennsylvania WTD farm lost at least five deer to rabies in less than one month. A sixth animal that died during this time was not tested, but probably was also rabid.

This deer farm is a very well established, well cared for operation, with excellent animal care, facilities, and sanitation. The owner is very knowledgeable about the deer industry, has been in business for many years, has excellent records and participates in all regulatory programs available to him. His WTD are of very valuable stock and are all insured. The deer were vaccinated against several other diseases—but not against rabies. Although the owner had seen his friend's doe die from rabies less than a year before, he didn't think it was a big risk, so he had not yet vaccinated his own herd against the disease.

He agreed to share what happened to him so that other deer farmers or hobbyists would recognize that rabies is a very real risk for any mammal in PA, even captive cervids.

Briefly, the deer owner first noticed a doe lying flat in the pen. He went out to check on her and she jumped up and ran off. She seemed okay. Then within 24-48 hours, her ears were drooping and her eyes were half closed although she was still walking. Despite medical treatment she died within a few days. This owner always has a full post-mortem exam (necropsy) performed on his animals if they die. Because the owner had seen a rabid deer before, he asked the lab to test for rabies too. She was positive for rabies.

Over the next three weeks, four buck fawns from the same pen became sick and died from rabies. Three had similar signs of disease—slow, stumbling sometimes, droopy ears, lying down more than usual, and then dead. One was more unusual: he became aggressive, chasing, rearing and striking at adult does and the vet and making strange noises.

Most of these deer just seemed to be kind of slow or sick, like a deer with pneumonia or some other ordinary kind of infection. The fawn that became aggressive was more obviously unusual and the fact that many of the sick deer had trouble walking normally is a little bit unusual.

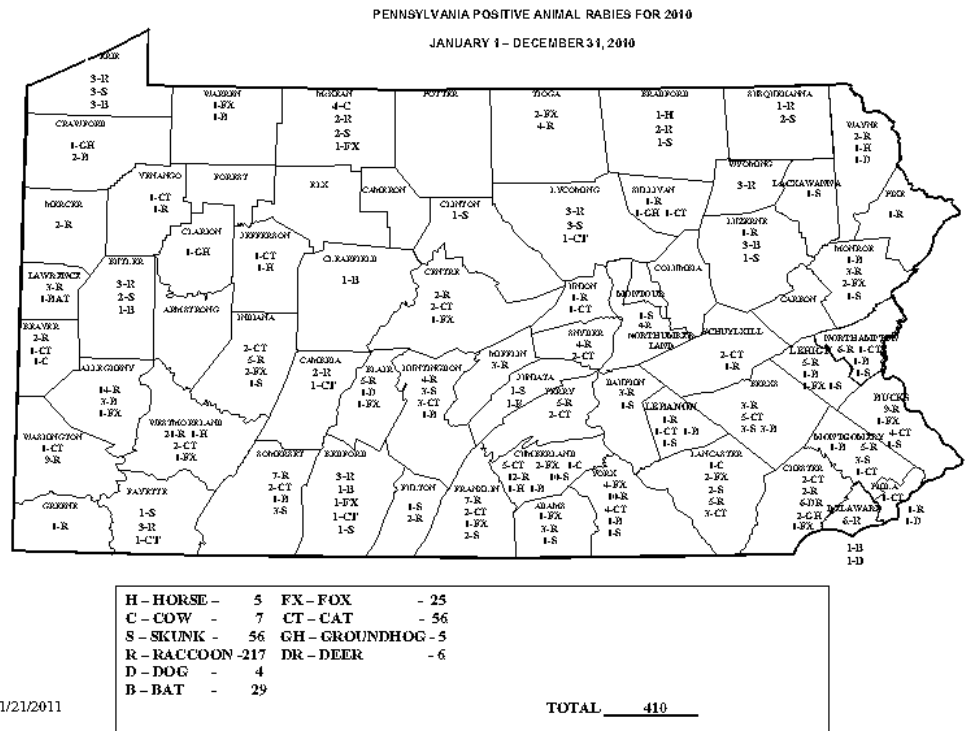
This was a very costly loss for this producer as insurance refused to cover these animals. He will now be vaccinating all of his deer annually against rabies. He discussed using rabies vaccine with his veterinarian and his veterinarian was happy to supply him with the vaccine. He has a chute system, but has also darted some of the animals with vaccine.

Since this deer farmer was concerned from the beginning about rabies, he knew not to touch the animals' faces without gloves and not to try to take CWD samples from them after they died so that he and his family were not exposed to rabies. Rabies is usually spread from the saliva of a rabid animal getting into a fresh open wound (like a bite from a rabid animal) although it could also be spread by getting saliva into eyes, nose or mouth or

being exposed to the brain tissue of the rabid animal in any of those ways. Once a person or animal becomes sick with rabies, it is almost always fatal no matter how much treatment is provided. If a person is exposed to rabies and receives treatment before they become sick, the disease can be prevented.

Pennsylvania has a LOT of rabid wildlife and cats, so captive deer and other domestic animals can easily be exposed to rabies. If you are concerned that your animal may be rabid, please contact your veterinarian or your PDA inspector or Regional Veterinarian for information about how to get the animal tested. Some of the ways you can try to protect your animals against rabies include excluding wild mammals from your pens (especially skunks, raccoons, coyotes, and feral cats) and vaccinating your domestic animals against rabies.

If you have any questions about rabies in animals, please contact your regional PDA office. If you have any questions about rabies in people, please contact the Pennsylvania Department of Health or your municipal health office.



# CERVID PROBIOTICS

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Powdered additive to your milk replacer

▶ **ENERGIZER**  
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# OKLAHOMA SUN

Semen Available, collected by Ray Favero.  
Bred Does available - typical blood lines.

Porky

Romeo 325

Rooster 220+

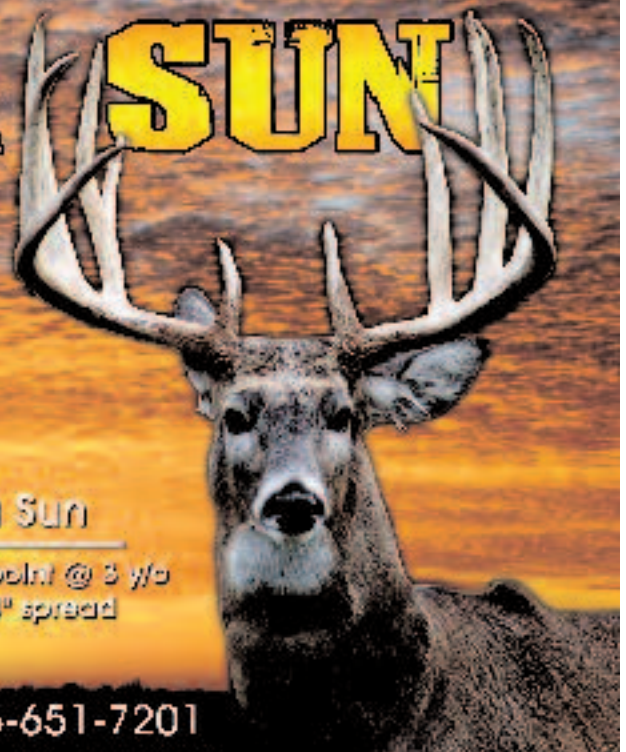
Oklahoma Sun

**Sunset View**

197" Main frame 10 point @ 3 y/o  
very typical 21 1/4" spread



Ray Hanson 715-651-7201  
2644 10th Ave Chetek, WI 54728



## **TB BLOOD TEST RESEARCH UPDATE**

### **BY LAURIE SEALE**

Veterinary Services (VS) is evaluating the Cervid TB Stat-Pak for potential use as an official blood test for TB. The project will evaluate how well the test performs in the field in captive and free ranging elk, white tailed deer and reindeer. The research will be conducted from December, 2010 through September 15, 2011. Captive cervid herds conducting herd TB accreditation testing this winter/spring are being asked to participate in the study.

Animals that test non-negative on the Cervid TB Stat-Pak will be purchased through the federal indemnity process, euthanized, and necropsied to evaluate disease status. Indemnity will be based on market price, but there will be indemnity limitations so it is not recommended to sample valuable animals for this research project (only volunteer to

test animals you are willing to part with).

VS will cover the costs of blood tubes, shipping fees, and will reimburse herd veterinarians \$4 per animal for collecting the blood samples. VS expects the sample collection to be completed by March/April 2011. If the study outcome is favorable, VS will take the next steps for approval as an official test. The cervid industry has expressed the need to have the test available for use beginning the Fall/Winter 2011 testing season provided the study outcome is favorable.

If you are interested in participating in this research project please contact one of the TB committee members: Glen Zebarth – 320-815-1049; Shawn Schafer – 651-212-1315; Charly Seale – 830-928-3158; or Kyle Wilson - .865-405-8609.

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## **FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DEER FARMER**

*By Laurie Seale, CLF Executive Director*

It has been said that the future of any nation lies with its youth. Gain their hearts and minds and you can change the future of any country. How do we do that? By spending time with kids, listening and talking about the things that we, as an industry, are passionate about. This goes a long way molding the minds of our country's youth. Not all these kids we talk to will become ranchers or farmers, or have the passion that we possess for the industry, but one thing for certain is that they will be voters. They may not remember the difference between horns and antlers, but what they will remember when some legislative effort is aimed at crippling the agricultural industry, is that someone took the time to tell them the real story about the whitetail, elk, or exotic industry. They may just cast the votes necessary to keep us in business.

Through the Cervid Livestock Foundation, my husband Charly and I hosted the first FFA Day at our farm in Gilman Wisconsin. The Cervid Livestock Foundation hopes that this will become a regular event all over this country. Forty-five FFA students from two schools in the Gilman area attended the event and learned about artificial insemination, nutri-

tion, animal diversification on your ranch and farm, economics of non-traditional farming and ranching, what species are compatible and those that will not survive the harsh winters of the north and those that do well in those climates. The students also learned about antler development, and how to score antlers, as well as chemical immobilization of certain animals. One very important topic involved discussions on hunting ethics, fair chase hunts, captive breeding and high fence versus low fence hunting.

After the lectures were completed the students were taken on a tour of the deer pens where they learned more about the basics of deer farming. This part of the day was voted as their favorite. They watched as we ran deer through our handling facility and learned how well deer respond to being handled. They also got to see how we artificially inseminate deer.

The students were treated to a lunch of grilled venison back strap and elk burgers. They were not told until after lunch what they had eaten. Many of the students who had stated they did not like venison changed their minds after dining on these two venison delicacies.

The highlight for most of the kids

came when they were given their own set of antlers to take with them. What was surprising was that some of these kids had never seen deer antlers, much less had a chance to hold them in their hands.

This event was a major success and most can be attributed to the cooperation of the schools and the willingness of the teachers to let their kids out of school for the day to experience this fantastic industry. A special thank you goes to Mr. Leo Windschitl of ADM Feed, who so generously sponsored this event.

Those who would like to host an FFA day and have the opportunity to show our youth this industry can contact me at the Cervid Livestock Foundation (830-928-3143) to obtain a copy of the curriculum used for the FFA day. The CLF welcomes the opportunity to help you plan and host the event, as well as help find a financial sponsor. Charly and I enjoyed the event so much that we plan to make this a yearly event at our ranch in Texas and our farm in Wisconsin. Please consider hosting such an event at your farm or ranch to help spread the word about the cervid industry!

## USAHA CONFERENCE 2010

*By Laurie Seale*

This year's United States Animal Health Conference was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota November 13-17. I always enjoy it when the conference is held close to home as it makes traveling to and from so much more convenient.

Cervid and exotic producers from all parts of the country attended the event. Industry attendees represented the following associations: North American Deer Farmers Association, Exotic Wildlife Association, Reindeer Owners and Breeders Association, North American Elk Breeders Association, Whitetails of Wisconsin, Whitetails of Oklahoma, Whitetail Deer Farmers of Ohio, Indiana Deer and Elk Farmers Association, and Texas Deer Association.

One of the key topics of interest to the cervid industry this year was the status of Chembio's licensed TB blood test and its approval for use in cervids. USDA chose not to approve the test for use at this time, but decided instead to approve more research in an effort to get the test validated as soon as possible. This all is dependent on finding adequate funding for the research. The research will include collecting 500-1100 blood samples in order to validate how the test performs in the field. USDA has prioritized the following species for the blood test research: elk, whitetail, red deer and reindeer. If you will be TB testing this spring, please consider volunteering to submit blood samples for this research. USDA would like to get samples from at least 10 different herds. The program manager, Dr. Alecia Larew Naugle, is tentatively planning to start the research this coming spring and hopes for an approval date of fall 2011 if the research goes well.

The latest TB infection in a Nebraska elk herd showed that the current skin test was a complete failure.

Chembio was fortunate enough to conduct some research on this herd as well. According to one of Chembio's directors, Konstantin Lyashchenko, their licensed test did extremely well on the Nebraska herd. The data collected from this herd will help immensely in validating their blood test. Although there are other companies also conducting research for a TB blood test, none of them have applied for a license. This puts Chembio at least a year ahead of the other companies.

The federal CWD rules are another topic of interest to the cervid industry. We heard from the new CWD program director, Dr. Patrice Klein that the rules have finally been dusted off and have left the desk of Dr. John Clifford. The final draft has been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Dr. Klein is hoping for a March 2011 date for their final approval. The cervid industry also made a request for the cervid TB and Brucellosis rules to be brought to the forefront and again be considered for

publication. It has been at least two years since either of those proposed rule documents have received any attention.

I remember a saying I once read, "We could slow down the aging process if we put it in the hands of Congress." USDA is much like Congress; the rule making process and especially research validation move much slower than any of us would like them to. Unfortunately, there is not much we can do about it other than keep the pressure on the regulatory officials by attending this very important meeting each year.

Having said this, I would like to remind all of you how important it is that we maintain our presence at this conference and give input to the people who regulate our industry. Those of us who have attended this conference for a number of years have developed a rapport with researchers, wildlife agency representatives, USDA/APHIS representatives and state veterinarians who value our input and expertise.



*Skip West (OK), Glen Zebarth (MN), Steve Laughlin (OH), Carolyn Laughlin (OH), Shawn Schafer (ND), Brad Thurston (IN), Deb Thurston (IN), Dick Winters (TX), Laurie Seale (WI), Charly Seale (TX), Warren Bluntzer (TX), and Daryl Simon (MN)*

**CERVIDAE LIVESTOCK OPERATOR LICENSE UPDATE**

On November 23, 2010, Governor Ed Rendell signed into law House Bill 2273. This law requires a fee of \$150 every two years for the Cervidae Livestock Operations license for every premise with cervids, unless they are exempt. Those cervid operations that are exempt include:

- those with a Menagerie Permit from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, or
- those operations with less than ten contiguous acres, ( this means has a total of less than ten acres, not just ten fenced acres) and have an annual gross

agricultural income that is less than \$10,000 ( agricultural income would include such things as Christmas tree farm, crops grown for sale, etc.)

If your operation qualifies for exemption from the Cervidae Livestock Operations license and the associated fee, please complete the required part of the application including the signature page and return it to the Bureau of Animal Health at the address provided on the application.

. If your license is due to expire on or after January 22, 2011, you will be required to pay the \$150 for your two

year license.

If your license is due to expire before January 22 and you apply before that date, there will be no charge for the two year license.

If your license expires before January 22 and your license renewal is not received by PDA until on or after January 22, you will be required to pay the \$150 two year license fee and the two year license will run from the issuance of the new license rather than the expiration of the previous license.

Please contact Mary Martin at 717-783-5309 with any questions.

**PDFA Lifetime Members**

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 Joseph Barry, Newmanstown PA  
 Denis Beachel, Danville PA  
 Dean Borntreger, Millersburg OH  
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 Andy Coblentz, Punxsutawney PA  
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 Jesse Esh, Newburg PA  
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**[www.padfa.com](http://www.padfa.com)**

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