



The United Elk Farmers Association

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Greetings from The United Elk Farmers Association hereafter referred to as TUEFA. Founded in January of 2009, TUEFA is the “*new direction*” leader for the elk industry. In the following introductory letter you are going to find positive, progressive and interactive information and ideas that we hope will give you assurance that elk farming and ranching is alive and well and has the potential to be a viable and profitable endeavor for you. We are planning new and innovative strategies to promote and market elk during these difficult economic times. As a member, you will be privy to tools, information and ideas collected and compiled by some of the most successful elk farmers in the business. Our goal is to bring together elk farmers and those interested in embarking for the first time raising elk, into a partnership to educate, promote and manage our elk herds, collectively sharing information and experiences to ensure we are all successful and profitable in this most rewarding and enjoyable way of life. We have gained enormous support from fellow elk farmers who are enthusiastic and positive about this new organization and the direction we plan to lead the elk industry. We hope and encourage anyone interested or who may have a question or two, to call or visit our website at www.TUEFA.com where you will find a list of names and phone numbers.

Mark your Calendars!

and plan to attend our first antler competition to be hosted by Mr. Ted Winters and his wife Jill at beautiful Boulder Valley Elk Ranch in Ohio. This two day event will be action packed, fun and interesting as we all get a first hand look at some of the biggest sets of antlers in North America! Save the dates July 24th and 25th and reacquaint yourselves with many old friends who have joined TUEFA as well as scores of farmers and ranchers who are new to the elk industry.

Communication is the key to any successful business or organization.

TUEFA has in place a website that will be our main source for correspondence with our members.

One of the tools we will use to promote elk and its four components for marketing (harvest bulls, meat, breeding and velvet) is our **Elk Registry**. With three levels of registration, starting at \$5.00 per head, we feel it is affordable to the small farm as well as larger operations. (Your *first time* membership fee of \$300 can be used against registration fees) These registrations will allow us to compile numbers of elk herds per state and nationally that we can and will share with our members. The information gathered will enable us to assist state and federal agencies with management of diseases, regulations and rules and most importantly, *let them know there are a large number of elk farmers, generating work and employment in this country.* These same numbers of elk will also help us to help you, the farmer, market and promote your elk, set standard and fair prices for hunting and meat animals and assist in helping you find the perfect genetics to improve your breeding program and antler size. The use of DNA markers, which are available in the higher levels of registration are a guarantee that you are getting what you pay for, genes from that 500 inch, 4 year old bull.

We also plan to get on board the huge national “Eat Local”, “Where does my food come from”? movement. There is great interest and activity across the nation about where our food comes from and how healthy is it to eat. There is little opposition to the fact that elk meat is healthy, delicious, nutritious, low in fat and cholesterol, and NOT raised on feedlots. We intend to flood the market with all our advertising opportunities and let people know about our wonderful elk meat. A profit can be made selling elk meat when butchered, processed, marketed and priced correctly. As a member, you will be able to join us as we educate the public and open the elk meat market wide open!

When you become a TUEFA member you will be part of a network of elk farmers and ranchers all with the same positive goals and desires. There will be *advertising opportunities, social events*, like the Antler Competition planned for July, *newsletters, support via phone conversations and friendships*. We will publish informative articles, stories and a special “How I did it” column by and about folks who have been successful in the industry for up to 20 years! We will work with the USDA and state agencies to promote and manage our herds to our benefit. We will address issues regarding opening the borders for export of our elk, research and work to improve the sales and pricing of velvet and assist in developing management protocol for CWD, TB and other wildlife diseases.

With that being said, we invite you to join us as we endeavor to promote and improve the elk industry as never before. As with all organizations, member participation is imperative to the success of our very high set of standards and goals. Please when you join, open yourself up to help us in the many areas available that need everyone’s input. We cannot sell your elk for you, but we will provide you with information and ideas that will help you get started in any of the many areas of sales available. So please, join us and become a member of TUEFA, the “new direction” leaders in the elk industry.

If you would like to talk to any of the board members, they are open to your phone calls, in fact want you to call them and discuss your ideas, concerns, and comments.

Sincerely,
The United Elk Farmers Association
Board of Directors & Volunteers

President-Ted Winters, Vice-President-Frank Keeton, Bob Root-Secretary,
Tom Nevins-Treasurer, Director-Paul Braddock, Director-Rick Miller
Office Volunteers-Jonnie Boone & Mika Tyhurst