



**An association of elk and deer
owners committed to the
development of their herds and the
cervid industry in the state.**

What is the KEDA?

- The Elk & Deer Association represents elk and deer owners in Kansas.
- Founded in 1995.
- KEDA is guided by a 5 member board of directors.
- Produces quarterly newsletters for membership.
- Works with Kansas state agencies and other livestock and cervid associations across North America.
- KEDA's members raise elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, sika deer, fallow deer, and red deer.

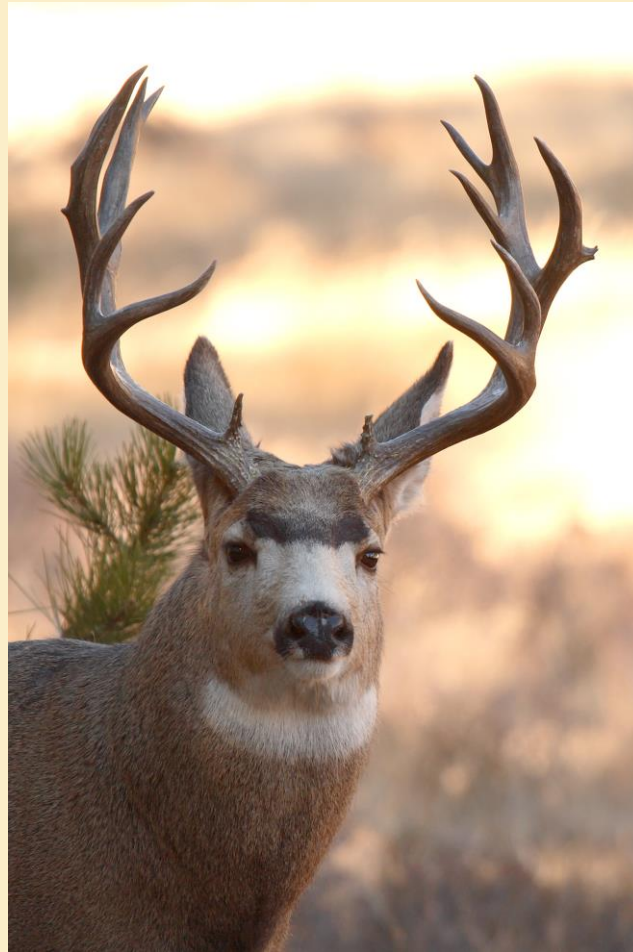
Elk



Whitetail Deer



Mule Deer



Axis Deer



Red Deer



Whitetail Deer



Fallow Deer



Sika Deer



Barasingha Deer



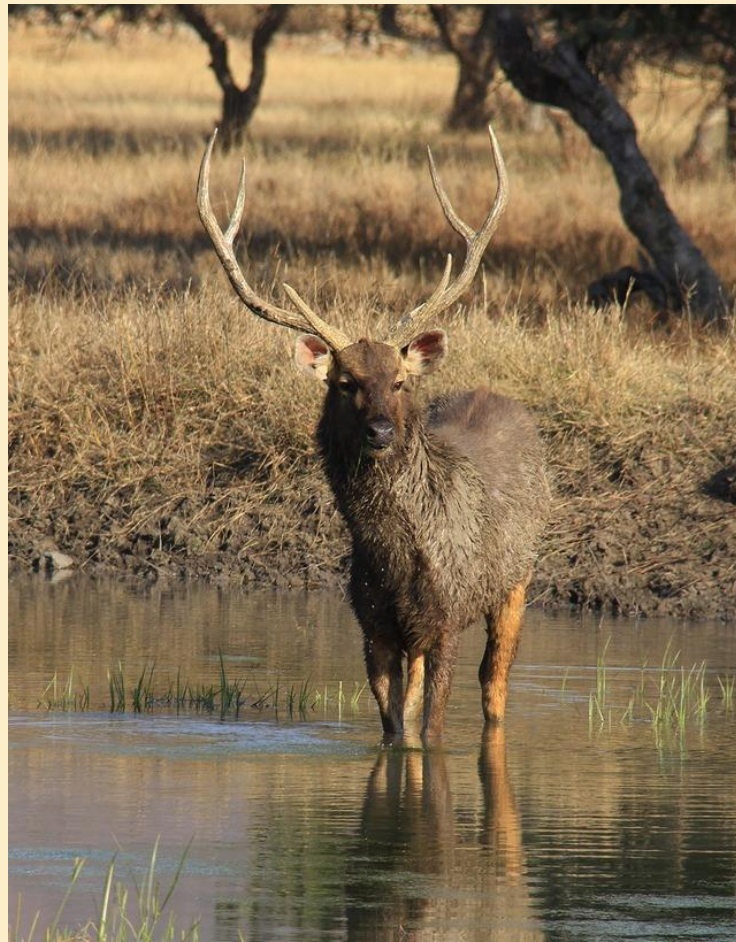
Hog Deer



Pere David Deer



Sambar Deer



Who raises elk and deer?

- Kansas has been a home to domestic elk and deer since the 1980's.
- There are approximately 80 cervid ranches in Kansas.
- Ranch's herd size range from 10 to 400 head.
- Elk and deer ranches are all over state but mostly concentrated in the eastern half.
- Elk and deer ranches provide sole income for many Kansans.

Why raise elk and deer?

- Elk and deer are profitable in several markets.
- Breeding domestic elk and deer is just like breeding cattle or any other livestock.
- Elk and deer give opportunity for ranchers to try something a little different.
- Elk and deer can be raised on land that could not otherwise be utilized.
- Elk and deer are considered domestic livestock in Kansas and most states. (KSA 47-2101)

Markets

- Meat markets
 - There is a widely growing demand for elk and deer meat, especially elk.
 - Elk meat is very lean, high in protein, low in cholesterol
 - Elk meat has doubled in value since 2008.
 - Current meat prices ranch from \$3.30-\$4.50 for elk on the rail.
 - Elk meat is commonly sold at farmer's markets and restaurants.
 - This provides a viable path for cull animals.

Markets

- Trophy bulls/ trophy bucks
 - There is a popular market for trophy elk bulls and trophy bucks sold to fair chase game ranches.
 - Domestic breeders are able to produce large bulls and bucks due to superior genetics.
 - Game ranches range in size and are commonly several thousand acres.

Markets

- Velvet
 - Elk antlers are valuable for velvet antler.
 - Velvet is harvested by cutting off antlers in late spring and early summer.
 - Antlers grow back every year.
 - Velvet is sold to Asian markets and used for medicine.
 - Velvet is used to relive arthritis
 - Currently valued at \$35 a pound
 - An average elk bull will produce 20 pounds of velvet

Markets

- Breeding Stock
 - Breeding stock is commonly sold between ranches and at auctions.
 - Values vary depending on the quality of genetics.
 - Elk cows and does are commonly artificially inseminated.
 - Proven elk cows range from \$2,500-\$8,000 per cow.
 - Proven whitetail does range from \$1,000-\$10,000.

Markets

- Artificial Insemination
 - Semen is sold from elk bulls and whitetail bucks.
 - Elk semen prices range from \$100-\$500 per straw.
 - Whitetail semen prices range from \$100- \$5,000 per straw.
 - Opportunity to improve genetics
 - Many Kansas breeders A.I. their cows and does.

Care

- Cervids usually wormed 2-4 times a year.
- Calves are vaccinated.
- Fed grain, corn, or deer pellet everyday.
- Fed brome hay and alfalfa.
- All animals must have 2 forms of ID- dangle ear tag and metal USDA ear tag.
- Many animals are DNA registered and matched to sire and dam.

Care

- Cervids are allowed to roam in pastures with 8" high perimeter fence.
- Fence guidelines are regulated by KDA.
- Herds are often divided into separate female breeding groups, bulls and calves.
- Elk and deer are managed with squeeze chutes.

Health Testing

- TB accreditation- Herds participating in the TB accredited herd program test every animal every three years.
- Local vets use the skin test or blood test.

Health Testing

- Voluntary CWD Monitoring Program.
- Many ranches participate as it is required in order to sell animals out of state.
- Every animal is inspected annually by KDA state vet for signs of CWD.
- Every animal that dies in a participating ranch must be tested for CWD.
- Due to USDA budget cuts, these costs are now paid by producer.

CWD

- Chronic Wasting Disease
 - CWD positives are very rare. Usually .002% infection rate in most states, many zero.
 - CWD has never been proven to harm humans or transfer to any non-cervid species animal.
 - Many untrue and unproven perceptions regarding links to CWD with farmed cervids in news editorials.

Trophy Ranches

- There are several trophy ranches in Kansas that provide hunters with an opportunity to have a fair chase hunt of an elk or deer.
- Ranches must comply with Kansas Dept. of Agriculture's hunting and fence regulations.
- Hunting is a significant source of revenue the for the state.

Future

- The future is bright for deer and elk ranchers as there is a steady and growing demand for farmed elk and deer.
- Organization and education is key.

Challenges

- Unfunded mandates.
- Elimination through regulation.
- Anti-agriculture and anti-hunting groups.
- Inaccurate public information.

Thank You!!

- Visit KEDA online at www.kansaselkanddeer.com
- Visit the North American Elk Breeders Association(NAEBA) at www.naelk.org
- Visit the North American Deer Farmers Association(NADeFA) at www.nadefa.org
- Visit the Exotic Wildlife Association at myewa.org