

SB 216

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/27/92

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE:

5/5/92

The Finance Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 216

"An Act authorizing moose and caribou farming."

and recommends:

replace with _____ CS SB 216 (FINANCE)
or adopt previous _____ CS _____
 attaches amendment(s)

same title
 new title
 technical title change (HB only)

adopts _____ Letter of Intent

further referral to the _____

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

NEW FISCAL NOTES: Dept/Date

zero fiscal notes _____

fiscal notes _____

appropriation--no fiscal note

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES: Dept/Date

zero fiscal notes DFBG 4/2/92

fiscal notes _____

DO PASS:

Sub Study

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

*No Rec
Fish Oily (NO REC)*

1. *Patron no rec*

Co-Chair: Signature/Recommendation

2. _____

Co-Chair: Signature/Recommendation

FISCAL NOTE

Bill Version: SB 216
 (S) Publish Date: 4-27-92

STATE OF ALASKA
 1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: _____ Department Affected: Fish and Game
 Title: An Act authorizing moose and BRU: Wildlife Conservation
caribou farming. Component: Wildlife Conservation
 Sponsor: Senator Dick Shultz
 Requestor: Senate Resources Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO.

0	4	7	3
---	---	---	---

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

REVENUE FUND SOURCE: 1024	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

Changes in <u>CSSO 216 (FIN)</u> have no fiscal impact. This fiscal note is appropriate. <u>5/5/92</u> date <u>KSN</u> Comte Aide (initial)						
Changes in <u>CSSB 216 (RES)</u> have no fiscal impact. This fiscal note is appropriate. <u>4/27/92</u> date <u>TLO</u> Comte Aide (initial)						
	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: No FY 92 impact.

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)
 This analysis assumes that (unlike farmed elk, bison, muskoxen, reindeer) surplus moose or caribou are not defined as "domestic mammals;" the sale, transfer or transport of live animals may be regulated by the department; passage of the bill will not result in widespread, uncontrolled private ownership of these species.

Prepared By: Phil Koehl PK Phone: 465-4190
 Division: Division of Wildlife Conservation Date: 4/1/92
 Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]
 Agency: Department of Fish and Game Date: 4/2/92

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 216 (FINANCE)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHULTZ, Frank

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act authorizing bison, moose, deer, and caribou farming and relating to game
2 farming."

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 * Section 1. AS 03.05.010(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) The commissioner of natural resources shall

6 (1) direct, administer, and supervise promotional and experimental work, extension
7 services, and agricultural projects for the purpose of promoting and developing the agricultural
8 industry within the state including such fields as horticulture, dairying, cattle raising, fur farming,
9 game farming, grain production, vegetable production, and development of other agricultural
10 products;

11 (2) procure and preserve all information pertaining to the development of the
12 agricultural industry and disseminate that information to the public;

13 (3) assist prospective settlers and others desiring to engage in the agricultural
14 industry in the state with information concerning areas suitable for agriculture and other activities

1 and programs essential to the development of the agricultural industry in the state;

2 (4) review the marketing, financing, and development of agricultural products
3 inside the state including transportation, with special emphasis upon local production, and
4 negotiate for the marketing of agricultural products of the state with federal and state agencies
5 operating in the state;

6 (5) regulate and control the entry into the state and the transportation, sale, or use
7 inside the state of plants, seeds, vegetables, shell eggs, fruits and berries, nursery stock, animal
8 feeds, remedies and mineral supplements, fertilizers, and agricultural chemicals in order to
9 prevent the spread of pests, diseases, or toxic substances injurious to the public interest, and to
10 protect the agricultural industry against fraud, deception, and misrepresentation; in this connection
11 the commissioner may require registration, inspection, and testing, and establish procedures and
12 fees; and

13 (6) regulate game [THE] farming of captive game animals, other than those
14 animals acquired from the state under AS 16.40, and their progeny [ELK] in a manner
15 similar to the manner in which the commissioner regulates domestic animals and livestock, to
16 the extent that is appropriate;

17 (7) regulate game farming of captive game animals acquired from the state
18 under AS 16.40 and their progeny, with the concurrence of the commissioner of fish and
19 game, in a manner similar to the manner in which the commissioner regulates domestic
20 animals and livestock, to the extent that is appropriate.

21 * Sec. 2. AS 03.05.011(b) is amended to read:

22 (b) The commissioner of environmental conservation shall regulate game [THE] farming
23 of captive game animals, other than those acquired from the state under AS 16.40, and their
24 progeny [ELK] in a manner similar to the manner in which the commissioner regulates domestic
25 animals and livestock, to the extent that is appropriate.

26 * Sec. 3. AS 03.05.011 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

27 (c) The commissioner of environmental conservation, with the concurrence of the
28 commissioner of fish and game, shall regulate game farming of captive game animals acquired
29 from the state under AS 16.40 and their progeny in a manner similar to the manner in which the
30 commissioner regulates domestic animals and livestock, to the extent that is appropriate.

31 * Sec. 4. AS 03.25.010 is amended to read:

1 Sec. 03.25.010. COMMISSIONER AUTHORIZED TO EMPLOY VETERINARIANS.

2 The commissioner may either independently or in cooperation with the United States Department
3 of the Interior or a college or a university or like institution employ veterinarians for periods
4 found to be to the best advantage for the purpose of aid and service to the fur raising industry
5 and game farming industry, and for the purpose of aid and service to those engaged in raising
6 livestock and other domestic animals.

7 * Sec. 5. AS 03.25.020 is amended to read:

8 Sec. 03.25.020. DUTIES OF VETERINARIANS. Veterinarians shall

9 (1) visit the fur farms and game farms of the state, study problems incidental
10 to raising fur bearing animals and captive game animals and advise those engaged in the
11 industry in matters pertaining to the breeding and care of fur bearing animals and captive game
12 animals and the prevention and cure of diseases of fur bearing animals and captive game
13 animals;

14 (2) prepare, publish, and distribute such data as the veterinarian, with the advice
15 and consent of the commissioner, considers useful to those engaged in the industry;

16 (3) make reports to the commissioner when required by the commissioner for
17 transmittal to the state legislature;

18 (4) initiate and carry on experiments, on or in connection with a fur farm or game
19 farm, with relation to the care and feeding of fur bearing animals or captive game animals, the
20 improvements of the breed, or the cure or prevention of any disease to which they may be subject
21 or the extermination of the parasites by which they may be attacked, and in this connection
22 employ and pay for the necessary assistance and rent and use of necessary facilities;

23 (5) perform other duties as may be prescribed by the commissioner as are not
24 inconsistent with the duties specifically imposed by this chapter;

25 (6) study problems incidental to the raising of livestock and other domestic
26 animals, and advise those engaged therein upon matters pertaining to the breeding, care, and the
27 prevention and cure of diseases of livestock and other domestic animals.

28 * Sec. 6. AS 03.40.010 is amended to read:

29 Sec. 03.40.010. BRANDS AND MARKS. Any person owning cattle, reindeer, caribou,
30 buffalo, bison, musk ox, moose, deer, elk [MUSKOX,] sheep, horses, mules, or asses [,] may
31 adopt a brand or mark. After recording the brand or mark as provided in AS 03.40.030, the

1 person has the exclusive right to its use.

2 * Sec. 7. AS 03.40.050 is amended to read:

3 Sec. 03.40.050. USE WITHOUT CERTIFICATE PROHIBITED. A person may not
4 brand any horse, cattle, reindeer, caribou, buffalo, bison, musk ox, moose, deer, elk,
5 [MUSKOX] mulê, or ass, unless the person using the brand holds a written certificate of
6 acceptance from the commissioner.

7 * Sec. 8. AS 16.40.010 is amended to read:

8 Sec. 16.40.010. DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS GAME ANIMALS [BUFFALO AND
9 MUSK OXEN]. Whenever it is determined by the department that a surplus [EXISTS IN THE
10 HERDS] of buffalo, bison, moose, deer, caribou, or [AND] musk oxen exists [UNDER ITS
11 CONTROL], the department may, under regulations adopted by it, grant the surplus or portions
12 of the surplus [IT] to persons, groups, associations, partnerships, or corporations for the purpose
13 of raising and breeding the animals as domestic stock for commercial purposes, or for scientific
14 and educational purposes. A person, group, association, partnership, or corporation may receive
15 animals only after proving to the satisfaction of the department

16 (1) intent to raise and breed the animals; [AND]

17 (2) possession of facilities for maintaining the animals under positive control
18 sufficient to prevent injury to animals or handlers; and

19 (3) the ability to

20 (A) manage the animals in a manner consistent with standards of good
21 animal husbandry;

22 (B) maintain the animals in good health;

23 (C) prevent and detect the spread of disease and parasites to wild
24 game;

25 (D) prevent and detect the spread of disease and parasites from
26 domestic animals to the captive game animals.

27 * Sec. 9. AS 16.40.010 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

28 (b) A person who receives animals under (a) of this section after the effective date of this
29 subsection shall

30 (1) brand or mark each animal received and the progeny of any animal received
31 with an appropriate mark, brand, or tattoo as approved by the commissioner of natural resources

1 under AS 03.40 and with a highly visible, numbered ear tag;

2 (2) register the animals received, other captive game animals however acquired,
3 and the progeny of those animals with the commissioner of fish and game, the Department of
4 Natural Resources, and the Department of Environmental Conservation within 30 days after the
5 animals are acquired;

6 (3) construct and maintain a fence that is adequate to prevent the escape of
7 captive game animals and to exclude wild game;

8 (4) establish and maintain a contractual relationship with a veterinarian to examine
9 all captive game animals semi-annually;

10 (5) notify the commissioner of fish and game of the birth, sale, slaughter, escape,
11 or death of captive game animals;

12 (6) provide at the person's cost for a complete necropsy by a veterinarian
13 approved by the commissioner of fish and game to determine the cause of death of all captive
14 game animals;

15 (7) notify the commissioner of fish and game within 24 hours after wild big game
16 enters a facility where captive game animals are present.

17 (c) A person who receives animals under (a) of this section after the effective date of this
18 subsection may not raise captive game animals and domestic livestock on the same facility.

19 * **Sec. 10.** AS 16.40.020 is amended to read:

20 **Sec. 16.40.020. SALE OF MEAT.** The sale of buffalo, bison, moose, deer, caribou,
21 or musk oxen meat resulting from the slaughter of animals obtained under AS 16.40.010, or their
22 offspring is authorized. The slaughter of animals and sale of meat authorized under this
23 section are subject to AS 03, regulations adopted under AS 03, and other applicable law.

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 216 ()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHULTZ, Frank

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act authorizing bison, moose, deer, and caribou farming and relating to game
2 farming."

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 * Section 1. AS 03.05.010(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) The commissioner of natural resources shall

6 (1) direct, administer, and supervise promotional and experimental work, extension
7 services, and agricultural projects for the purpose of promoting and developing the agricultural
8 industry within the state including such fields as horticulture, dairying, cattle raising, fur farming,
9 game farming, grain production, vegetable production, and development of other agricultural
10 products;

11 (2) procure and preserve all information pertaining to the development of the
12 agricultural industry and disseminate that information to the public;

13 (3) assist prospective settlers and others desiring to engage in the agricultural
14 industry in the state with information concerning areas suitable for agriculture and other activities

1 and programs essential to the development of the agricultural industry in the state,

2 (4) review the marketing, financing, and development of agricultural products
3 inside the state including transportation, with special emphasis upon local production, and
4 negotiate for the marketing of agricultural products of the state with federal and state agencies
5 operating in the state;

6 (5) regulate and control the entry into the state and the transportation, sale, or use
7 inside the state of plants, seeds, vegetables, shell eggs, fruits and berries, nursery stock, animal
8 feeds, remedies and mineral supplements, fertilizers, and agricultural chemicals in order to
9 prevent the spread of pests, diseases, or toxic substances injurious to the public interest, and to
10 protect the agricultural industry against fraud, deception, and misrepresentation; in this connection
11 the commissioner may require registration, inspection, and testing, and establish procedures and
12 fees; and

13 (6) regulate game [THE] farming of captive game animals, other than those
14 animals acquired from the state under AS 16.40, and their progeny [ELK] in a manner
15 similar to the manner in which the commissioner regulates domestic animals and livestock, to
16 the extent that is appropriate;

17 (7) regulate game farming of captive game animals acquired from the state
18 under AS 16.40 and their progeny, with the concurrence of the commissioner of fish and
19 game, in a manner similar to the manner in which the commissioner regulates domestic
20 animals and livestock, to the extent that is appropriate.

21 * Sec. 2. AS 03.05.011(b) is amended to read:

22 (b) The commissioner of environmental conservation shall regulate game [THE] farming
23 of captive game animals, other than those acquired from the state under AS 16.40, and their
24 progeny [ELK] in a manner similar to the manner in which the commissioner regulates domestic
25 animals and livestock, to the extent that is appropriate.

26 * Sec. 3. AS 03.05.011 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

27 (c) The commissioner of environmental conservation, with the concurrence of the
28 commissioner of fish and game, shall regulate game farming of captive game animals acquired
29 from the state under AS 16.40 and their progeny in a manner similar to the manner in which the
30 commissioner regulates domestic animals and livestock, to the extent that is appropriate.

31 * Sec. 4. AS 03.25.010 is amended to read:

1 Sec. 03.25.010. COMMISSIONER AUTHORIZED TO EMPLOY VETERINARIANS.

2 The commissioner may either independently or in cooperation with the United States Department
3 of the Interior or a college or a university or like institution employ veterinarians for periods
4 found to be to the best advantage for the purpose of aid and service to the fur raising industry
5 and game farming industry, and for the purpose of aid and service to those engaged in raising
6 livestock and other domestic animals.

7 * Sec. 5. AS 03.25.020 is amended to read:

8 Sec. 03.25.020. DUTIES OF VETERINARIANS. Veterinarians shall

9 (1) visit the fur farms and game farms of the state, study problems incidental
10 to raising fur bearing animals and captive game animals and advise those engaged in the
11 industry in matters pertaining to the breeding and care of fur bearing animals and captive game
12 animals and the prevention and cure of diseases of fur bearing animals and captive game
13 animals;

14 (2) prepare, publish, and distribute such data as the veterinarian, with the advice
15 and consent of the commissioner, considers useful to those engaged in the industry;

16 (3) make reports to the commissioner when required by the commissioner for
17 transmittal to the state legislature;

18 (4) initiate and carry on experiments, on or in connection with a fur farm or game
19 farm, with relation to the care and feeding of fur bearing animals or captive game animals, the
20 improvements of the breed, or the cure or prevention of any disease to which they may be subject
21 or the extermination of the parasites by which they may be attacked, and in this connection
22 employ and pay for the necessary assistance and rent and use of necessary facilities;

23 (5) perform other duties as may be prescribed by the commissioner as are not
24 inconsistent with the duties specifically imposed by this chapter;

25 (6) study problems incidental to the raising of livestock and other domestic
26 animals, and advise those engaged therein upon matters pertaining to the breeding, care, and the
27 prevention and cure of diseases of livestock and other domestic animals.

28 * Sec. 6. AS 03.40.010 is amended to read:

29 Sec. 03.40.010. BRANDS AND MARKS. Any person owning cattle, reindeer, caribou,
30 buffalo, bison, musk ox, moose, deer, elk [MUSKOX,] sheep, horses, mules, or asses [,] may
31 adopt a brand or mark. After recording the brand or mark as provided in AS 03.40.030, the

1 person has the exclusive right to its use.

2 * Sec. 7. AS 03.40.050 is amended to read:

3 Sec. 03.40.050. USE WITHOUT CERTIFICATE PROHIBITED. A person may not
4 brand any horse, cattle, reindeer, caribou, buffalo, bison, musk ox, moose, deer, elk,
5 [MUSKOX] mule, or ass, unless the person using the brand holds a written certificate of
6 acceptance from the commissioner.

7 * Sec. 8. AS 16.40.010 is amended to read:

8 Sec. 16.40.010. DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS GAME ANIMALS [BUFFALO AND
9 MUSK OXEN]. Whenever it is determined by the department that a surplus [EXISTS IN THE
10 HERDS] of buffalo, bison, moose, deer, caribou, or [AND] musk oxen exists [UNDER ITS
11 CONTROL], the department may, under regulations adopted by it, grant the surplus or portions
12 of the surplus [IT] to persons, groups, associations, partnerships, or corporations for the purpose
13 of raising and breeding the animals as domestic stock for commercial purposes, or for scientific
14 and educational purposes. A person, group, association, partnership, or corporation may receive
15 animals only after proving to the satisfaction of the department

16 (1) intent to raise and breed the animals; [AND]

17 (2) possession of facilities for maintaining the animals under positive control
18 sufficient to prevent injury to animals or handlers; and

19 (3) the ability to

20 (A) manage the animals in a manner consistent with standards of good
21 animal husbandry;

22 (B) maintain the animals in good health;

23 (C) prevent and detect the spread of disease and parasites to wild
24 game;

25 (D) prevent and detect the spread of disease and parasites from
26 domestic animals to the captive game animals.

27 * Sec. 9. AS 16.40.010 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

28 (b) A person who receives animals under (a) of this section after the effective date of this
29 subsection shall

30 (1) brand or mark each animal received and the progeny of any animal received
31 with an appropriate mark, brand, or tattoo is approved by the commissioner of natural resources

1 under AS 03.40 and with a highly visible, numbered ear tag;

2 (2) register the animals received, other captive game animals however acquired,
3 and the progeny of those animals with the commissioner of fish and game, the Department of
4 Natural Resources, and the Department of Environmental Conservation within 30 days after the
5 animals are acquired;

6 (3) construct and maintain a fence that is adequate to prevent the escape of
7 captive game animals and to exclude wild game;

8 (4) establish and maintain a contractual relationship with a veterinarian to examine
9 all captive game animals semi-annually;

10 (5) notify the commissioner of fish and game of the birth, sale, slaughter, escape,
11 or death of captive game animals;

12 (6) provide at the person's cost for a complete necropsy by a veterinarian
13 approved by the commissioner of fish and game to determine the cause of death of all captive
14 game animals;

15 (7) notify the commissioner of fish and game within 24 hours after wild big game
16 enters a facility where captive game animals are present.

17 (c) A person who receives animals under (a) of this section after the effective date of this
18 subsection may not raise captive game animals and domestic livestock on the same facility.

19 * Sec. 10. AS 16.40.020 is amended to read:

20 Sec. 16.40.020. SALE OF MEAT. The sale of buffalo, bison, moose, deer, caribou,
21 or musk oxen meat resulting from the slaughter of animals obtained under AS 16.40.010, or their
22 offspring is authorized. The slaughter of animals and sale of meat authorized under this
23 section are subject to AS 03, regulations adopted under AS 03, and other applicable law.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
REVISED POSITION PAPER

Bill No: CSSB 216(Res) (4/27/92)

Sponsor: Senator Shultz

Division: Wildlife Conservation

Bill Title: An Act authorizing bison, moose, deer, and caribou farming and relating to game farming.

Department Position: Opposed

Background/Legislative Intent: This bill would amend AS 16.40.010-.020 and sections of Title 3; allow for the private ownership of a variety of native big game species to be raised as domestic animals for commercial purposes; and legalize the sale of the meat of those species. The department, in consultation with the Board of Game, would be responsible for determining when a surplus of these species existed that could be made available for disposition to private ownership. Regulation would be the responsibility of the commissioners of the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources.

Analysis of Bill/Program Effects: Public ownership of wildlife and prohibiting sale of game meat are foundations of wildlife management in North America. We believe the passage of legislation legalizing these activities would be a major error and detrimental to successful wildlife management in Alaska. The department has concerns about the potential for genetic contamination of native game populations by escaped farmed game animals, the likelihood that game farming will introduce or spread diseases and parasites to Alaska's native wild game populations; displacement and wildlife conflicts that will result from appropriating existing wildlife habitat for game farming/ranching purposes; and enforcement problems that will result from increased opportunities to poach and market live game, big game trophies, and wild game meat. We have the following additional concerns about how game farming would be regulated under this bill:

- (1) This bill provides for the regulation of game farming by the commissioners of natural resources (page 2, lines 13-15) and environmental conservation (page 2, lines 17-20) "with concurrence of the commissioner of fish and game" in much the same way that elk farming is currently regulated. In fact, since elk farming was authorized by the legislature in 1987, neither the Department of Natural Resources nor the Department of Environmental Conservation has adopted or proposed a single regulation directed toward elk farming. The first elk farm established in the state, located on the Kenai Peninsula, was derived from a farmed herd in Montana that has since proven to be infected with bovine tuberculosis (thus far, the elk in Alaska have tested negative for the disease, but tests for game animals have not been perfected). In Alberta, at least 36 people have contracted bovine Tb from elk; over 2,000 animals have been destroyed in an effort to halt the spread of the disease; the province has spent over \$10 million dollars on that effort; Tb in Alberta is still out of control. All

species included in this bill would also be susceptible to Tb, other diseases, and parasites potentially injurious to native Alaskan wildlife.

If no regulations are adopted, concurrence by the commissioner of fish and game is meaningless. If the DNR and DEC make the same effort to regulate game farming as has been made for elk farming, there essentially will be no regulation, and this section of the bill will be meaningless.

- (2) This bill provides for the inspection of game farms by the state veterinarian in much the same manner as fur farms must be inspected (page 2, lines 30-31; page 3, lines 1-3). In fact, due to a shortage of personnel, financial resources or other reasons, DEC no longer issues permits or inspects fur farms and has been under orders from the commissioner of environmental conservation since March 1985 not to do so unless so requested by a particular fur farmer or "unless there is a compelling reason to do so, such as an outbreak of rabies." With the cessation of DEC's involvement, all regulation of the fur farm industry has ceased; fur farm permits are no longer issued and few fur farmers apply for or possess small business licenses; minimum facility standards for adequate caging, humane treatment, and fenced perimeters have been discarded; the interagency general concurrence agreement of the Alaska Coastal Management Program on furfarming was aborted; and no state agency or other entity has any record of how many fur farms are in the state or where they are located.

An example of the impacts of this lack of responsible regulation was demonstrated at a Wasilla fur farm shortly after DEC's disengagement. In 1987 a fur farm containing hundreds of foxes was abandoned; the animals were starving and reportedly diseased; facilities were vandalized and an estimated 70 animals were illegally released to the wild; in spite of ADF&G's objections, DNR (Division of Agriculture), in order to recover outstanding debts from a \$320,000 agricultural loan, auctioned the remaining animals to many persons who were not legitimate fur farmers and therefore legally could not possess foxes. Since then, on at least two occasions arctic foxes have been reported running free in the Kenai/Soldotna area where they have bitten local residents.

If the compulsory inspections of fur farms' under AS 03.25.020 are indicative of the type of inspections that can be expected for game farms, then this section of the bill is meaningless.

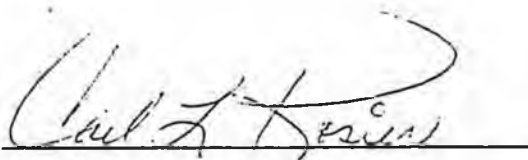
- (3) This bill provides for branding and marking of game farm animals (page 3, lines 19-27). Because the marking is voluntary, however, the provision is meaningless as a way of keeping track of these animals. For example, a herd of "domestic" bison escaped confinement in Delta last year. The majority of the animals mixed with the wild Delta Junction bison herd, and it has not been possible to distinguish which animals escaped captivity.
- (4) This bill requires that game farmers who receive surplus game animals from the state must have the ability to detect and prevent the spread of disease and parasites from captive game animals to wild game and from domestic animals to captive game animals (page 4, lines 13-16). The experience of other states and provinces has been that escapes of game farm animals are a given. In Alberta an estimated minimum 1% of farmed

animals escape captivity. Preventing contact between captive animals and wild animals when game farms are located in prime wildlife habitat is a virtual impossibility.

The detection and prevention of disease is no more certain. The presence of bovine Tb, for example, may not be detectable until two years following infection, and animals that test negative for Tb may still carry and spread the disease. Carriers of the meningeal worm parasite cannot be consistently identified. *Spongiform encephalopathy* is a fatal, incurable brain degeneration that can only be identified post mortem. Even if these and/or other diseases could be diagnosed and controlled by persons who receive surplus game animals from the state, the legislation makes no requirement for farmers who subsequently acquire the offspring of surplus game animals from breeders or other sources to also demonstrate competence in disease control to the department.

(Please refer to the department briefing paper on moose farming for additional information.)

Commissioner's Signature



Date

5/4/92

5/4/92

SENATE BILL 216

(work draft)

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RESOURCES CS AND FINANCE CS

The Senate Resources CS for SB 216 incorrectly lumped two groups of game farm animals together. One group is typically obtained through normal importation of animals from other game farms. The other group would come from wild stocks within the state.

It is the intent of the sponsor to allow DNR and DEC to regulate both groups of animals the same way they regulate all other agricultural animals. However it is also the intent of the sponsor to provide additional oversight by Fish and Game if the animals originate from wild state stocks.

This CS accomplishes these two goals along with exempting Elk which is already in statute and was never intended to be in this legislation. Elk on game farms are currently regulated by DNR and DEC under present statute.

(SEE Page 2, lines 13 through 24)

The effective date changes in Section 9 simply clarify that stipulations in Section 9 do not apply retroactively to those persons now game farming.

- by Dave Stancliff
- Sen Skultz

WILD GAME ENHANCEMENT/GAME RANCHING/GAME FARMING

By
ALAN
EPPS
UOFA

INTRODUCTION.

Alaska has a diversity of fish and wildlife, much of which is found in relatively low densities, generally in remote situations and/or seasonally.- One of the attractions for non-Alaskans, as well as many Alaskans, is the opportunity to view, photograph, catch and shoot one or many individuals from within this renewable resource group. The above provides an economic opportunity which to date has only received limited attention through guiding operations for both consumptive and non-consumptive purposes, and the limited fur industry which includes wild harvest and some fur farming.

The economic opportunities for rural Alaska, particularly with the establishment of large parcels of private land, warrant consideration by private enterprise as well as state government. It is probable that existing state policies will require modification before Alaska will realize the benefits enjoyed by other areas of the world.

To date, Alaska has primarily managed hunters, trappers and fisherman as they practiced wild harvest of fish and game populations. Limited attempts have occurred in the areas of habitat modifications, transplanting and stocking. World-wide experience suggests that habitat enhancement and intensive management of the animals themselves results in increased populations of fish and wildlife. These efforts can range from relatively simple habitat manipulations, through game ranching and aquaculture to intensive game, fish or fur farming. Such efforts in Alaska are likely to benefit Alaskans and a wider diversity of society than is currently enjoyed.

At present, enjoyment and use of much of Alaska's wildlife resource is limited by poor access and undeveloped marketing schemes. In many areas, wildlife is the only renewable resource present. Timber production is marginal or non-existent in most of the state, and farming of agronomic crops is feasible only in selected areas of favorable climate and soils. However, wildlife is present in most of the state in forms which can potentially be used on a sustained basis to provide meat, hunting and viewing pleasure, hides, fiber and other materials for crafts. Considering the renewable nature of this resource in the absence of other such resources, it becomes apparent that ways of more

INFO
From
DR. Wood



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Assembly

809 Pioneer Road

P.O. Box 71267

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267

907 459-1401

Sen. Dick Svultz

TO: The Members of the Interior Delegation
FROM: Harold Gillam
Assemblymember
DATE: April 28, 1992
SUBJ: Moose Farming Resolution

The Borough Assembly passed a resolution last Thursday night urging that the legislature pass legislation this session that would allow for "Moose Ranching."

This is not a new concept for it has been done with success in Russia. Wild animal ranching is done in several states of the union. It is also done in Canada. Reindeer ranching is done on a very limited basis today and is restricted to only Alaska natives. Prior to the restriction (1939) it was done on a large scale in Western Alaska and was considered one of the greatest resources, next to mining, in Northwestern Alaska. There has been considerable study by the University of Alaska concerning the Musk Ox.

It is a viable concept that will not cost the State any money to implement, for with a simple change of the law there are people that are willing to invest their own money, time and effort to make it a success.

I would urge you to allow these people the chance to make a success of this endeavor and to show that the State of Alaska is willing to encourage individual initiative.

Sincerely,

Harold Gillam



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

Department of Plant and Animal Sciences
School of Agriculture and Land Resources Management

Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-0080
Phone (907) 474-7188 • FAX (907) 474-7439

January 10, 1992

Senator Dick Shultz
Interior Senate
Government of State of Alaska
Tok, AK

Handwritten:
D
M
R

Dear Senator Shultz:

Mr. Doug Welton has asked me to write you and address the issue of commercial game production. This communique offers a very brief understanding of what has happened in other parts of the world, is happening here, and will continue to happen.

Commercial game production is not new to Alaska. Only the time scale and present needs of the industry are current. The important aspect is that goals can be accomplished more completely and efficiently when all parties involved compromise and work together. From my past experience, all parties involved with this industry, as with others, usually have the same concerns and interests. The difference is perhaps a slight change in the angle of approach. This is why open minds among all user groups, some regulation but not over-regulation, and a value of importance can potentially lead to continual development of this new industry of game farming/production.

I have attached the brief described above and several other documents that may be of interest. If I can be of assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lyle A. Renecker".

Lyle A. Renecker
Assistant Professor
Head of Reindeer Research Program

Proposed State Policy in Support of Alaskan Agriculture

- * Provide greater consumer availability of Alaskan grown products in the marketplace through inspection, certification, labeling, promotional and informational programs.
- * Continue to make agriculture land available in a range of parcel sizes throughout the state.
- * Make state land available for agriculture under a variety of provisions including fee-simple title with fair market value purchase or homestead credits.
- * Preserve the long-term availability of agriculture land by the creation of a 500,000 acre agricultural land bank to be managed and administered by the Division of Agriculture.
- * Support unrestricted domestic breeding and raising of all animals, including game species.
- * Make grazing leases available for up to a 30 year term with contraction at least every 10 years to the area developed and utilized.
- * Support the movement of agricultural materials and products through a farm-to-market road priority and an agricultural discount on the state ferry system.
- * Assure the availability of a financing source for farm operating loans (i.e., seed, fertilizer).
- * Facilitate the development and use of agriculture in conjunction with other Alaskan resource uses and needs (i.e., fishmeal, forestry).
- * Focus the state's agricultural technology investment on protecting and enhancing the quality of Alaskan ^{soils} seed, plants, produce, and agricultural products.
- * Facilitate the formation and operation of co-operative ownership of major agricultural facilities and the development of farmer's markets.

WARD FARMS
P.O. BOX 290
SOLDOTNA, AK. 99669
262-6159

To: Senate Finance Committee

Re: CS Senate Bill 216b

I would like to provide testimony on two aspects of this bill.

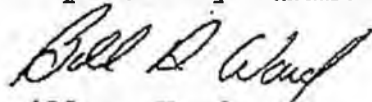
1) This bill originally was intended to allow the private ownership of surplus Alaska indigenous wild game animals, specifically moose & caribou. The rewrite of this bill will affect the existing legal farming of Elk. The farming of Elk is legislatively authorized under AS 03.05.010 para. 6, AS03.05.011(b) & AS 16.05.331. SB 216 would alter the AS 03.05 statutes to delete the reference to Elk as a farmed animal and replace with the generic term of "game farming". This may impose Elk farming to the restrictive language of the balance of the bill. The intent of this bill as it pertains to the farming of surplus Alaska game animals does not apply to Elk and Elk should be specifically excluded from reference in this bill. Elk are being raised as a domestic farm animal and should remain under the authority of Div. of Agriculture and the State Veterinarian.

RECOMMENDATION: Do not alter AS 03.05.010 para (6) or AS 03.05.011b Insert a new paragraph to deal specifically with the management of surplus Alaska game animals.

2) The manner in which this bill was rewritten will seriously affect the ability for an individual to raise animals. It was rewritten without any input from industry, it is very restrictive, it requires the combined regulation of three departments to administer statutes (an impossible task), and will unfairly restrict private enterprise. There are points to the bill I agree with but there are aspects that are based on false information intended to restrict or eliminate game farming.

RECOMMENDATION: Table this bill until there is adequate input from industry, the State, and the scientific community to insure that the statutes properly address the concerns and needs of private business and the Alaska.

Respectfully Submitted:



Bill D. Ward

FACSIMILE COVER PAGE

WARD FARMS
P.O. BOX 290 - SOLDOTNA, ALASKA 99669
PH. 907-262-6159 FAX 907-262-7278

DATE: 5/2/92 CONSISTS OF 4 PAGES INCL. COVER

PLEASE DELIVER THIS TRANSMISSION TO:

NAME: Guzzo Burnett

COMPANY: Senate Paschot's Office

FAX NO.: 465 - 2069

TRANSMITTED BY: Bill Ward

HARD COPY OF THIS TRANSMISSION WILL FOLLOW VIA MAIL YES NO

I am also sending a copy to
Dore Sandcliff @ Senator Shalby's office.
Would you please ~~also~~ make sure all
members of the Finance Committee receive
copies of this as well.

Thank you for your help.
If you have any questions, please call or
leave a message @ 262-5135 recorder.

Bill Ward

WARD FARMS
P.O. BOX 290
SOLDOTNA, AK. 99669
262-6159

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THE COMMITTEE
REGARDING GAME FARMING IN ALASKA

I have owned and raised elk in Alaska since 1990. I am on the Board of Directors for the North American Elk Breeders Association which represents the elk industry throughout the United States and Canada. There are approximately 1000 game farms in North America with 20,000 privately owned Elk. I have attended and participated in numerous meetings regarding animal health, disease control, and government regulation. I have testified before the USDA and assisted with legislation placed before Congress to identify Elk as a farmed livestock. I was asked to testify before the National Research Council regarding Bovine Tuberculosis. I am a member of the United States Animal Health Assn. I am aware of the status of elk farming in other states & provinces. I believe that I am legitimately qualified to provide accurate information on behalf of private elk farmers. When any issue is brought forth that affects my business I should have the right to provide input and testimony on behalf of the private sector.

The Department of Fish & Game is categorically opposed to any form of private ownership of game and game farming. Any input they will provide will be influenced by that philosophy & bias. Their testimony is tainted in that regard and should not be accepted without authenticating it from other sources. When any animal is raised in private ownership under agriculture conditions, the F&G should not have regulatory control. They are not trained in the agriculture management of animals, they have no experience, they are not supportive, and they are not interested in managing animals for agriculture purposes. In my discussions with F&G I concur that they have a legitimate interest in insuring that 1) there is no risk of disease to wild stocks, (animal health & disease testing is controlled by the State Veterinarian with the proper authority), 2) animals should be marked to maintain positive ownership identification in case of escape or question of ownership.

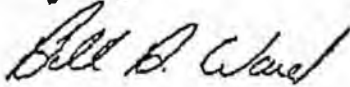
The issue of disease is a used by opponents of game farming to create doubt and cause hysteria. All animals domestic and wild are at risk for disease. Wild game have disease that is endemic and controlled by natural means. Domestic animals including private game animals are subject to strict testing requirements to detect and prevent disease while wild animals aren't tested. The State Veterinarian, Dr. Bert Gore is satisfied that current import testing regulations will prevent the import of disease into Alaska. Do not allow the hysteria of the disease issue to cloud your judgement unless there is honest scientific rational to substantiate it. As long as rational people agree on accurate testing standards to detect and prevent disease then the safety of all animals is assured. The owners of these domestic animals have a much greater financial stake at risk and don't want unhealthy animals either.

Elk, Bison, Reindeer, & some of the other game animals can provide a significant contribution to the agriculture industry. Alaska has many positive features for game farming that other states don't have. Elk and game animals will prosper in the Alaska environment, markets for animals raised in Alaska are good due to the clean and healthy environment, and producers can make a profit.

In my personal experience in raising Elk I can state that:

- 1) My animals are well cared for and prospering on our farm.
- 2) I do not have any disease in my herd and I have the test results to prove it.
- 3) The public reaction to my Elk Farm has been very positive and supportive.
- 4) Interest is high and agriculture has gained a new level of respect.
- 5) I have good markets for my elk products and established buyers are willing to purchase at a good price.
- 6) I enjoy and respect the animals that I am raising and I expect to be raising elk full time as my sole business within 5 years.

Signed:



Bill D. Ward

Game Ranching in Western Canada

Lyle A. Renecker and Henry M. Kozak

Trends in the world meat markets have been towards leaner meats as people become more conscious of fat, cholesterol, and energy values. As a result, beef markets have become depressed. Venison is naturally a lean meat with a low percentage of intramuscular fat but high levels of protein. Thus, the sale of meat from wild ungulates raised on commercial game ranches could serve as an alternative to meet the demands for leaner meats.

Recently, Geist (1985) presented a view that game ranching is a threat to conservation of wild ungulates. Earlier, Odum (1971) showed the need to diversify wildlife management, such that a mixture of protective (parks and reserves), productive, and multiple-use systems are practiced. In this article, we will attempt to clarify many of the misconceptions about game ranching and outline the benefits of this new promising industry.

Historical Perspective

Wild indigenous herbivores have been closely associated with human occupation of North America for thousands of years. Paleolithic man exploited large numbers of herbivores in North America more than 100,000 years ago (Martin 1973). In recent times, wild game has been used as subsistence food. As settlements in North America expanded, there was uncontrolled decimation of wild herbivores. Present management concepts are designed to place controls on removal rates of wildlife and guarantee a supply of wild stock for sport hunting. However, with this view of wildlife management, there is a lack of diversity as outlined by Odum (1971) to service the variable needs of the public. In Alberta, resources are generally managed as multiple-use or compromise systems which attempt to satisfy the conflicting demands of several users. Parks are few and the area reserved for resource protection within their boundaries is relatively small. Game ranching is a means of providing this missing dimension to wildlife management. It adds the concept of conservation to lands allocated to agriculture by reversing the transformation of natural habitat to cultivation. As a result, the many rare and threatened species in the highly productive prairie and aspen parkland will be perpetuated.

Interest in game ranching as a commercial enterprise has grown during recent years in western Canada. Initially, Elk Island National Park, Alberta, Canada, served as the model for large-scale management of a mixed-species assemblage of native ungulates (Telfer and Scotter 1975). The herbivore guild, most suited for extensive game ranching in habitats of prairie parkland and aspen-dominated boreal forest zones of western Canada, is a combination of bison, wapiti, and moose, of which bison is the largest contributor in biomass

and productivity (Renecker et al. 1987).

Game Ranching or Farming

Game ranching is a production strategy whereby high fencing costs are diluted by increasing size of the land base and management inputs are minimized. Here, carrying capacity is maximized through a mixed-species grazing system. Because of this need for a large contiguous land base (>25 km²) (Hudson and Blyth 1986) there are few opportunities for private landowners to establish extensive ranches.

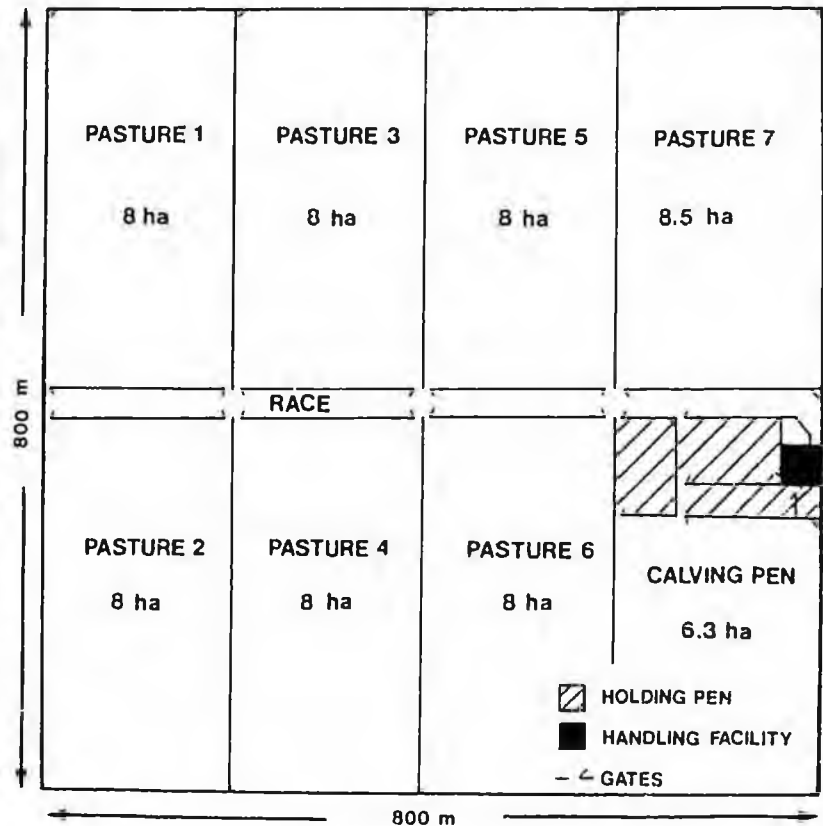


A mixture of open grassland, and forested areas and wetlands, such as found in Elk Island National Park, are necessary to exploit a mixed-species grazing strategy on extensive ranches.

Indian and Metis settlements are the best candidates for this strategy since they are associated with large tracts of communally owned land necessary for the mixed-species approach (Hudson 1981). Additionally, game ranching is an opportunity for native people to acquire a feeling of self-importance and income in a manner which is compatible with their traditional concepts. For example, the opportunities produced by this new wildlife industry, which are similar to the traditional lifestyle of native peoples, have been realized by the Oglala Sioux in South Dakota for many years (Cole 1975). The first commercial large scale or extensive game ranch in Canada was established in 1980 on land of the Kikino Metis Settlement in north-central Alberta.

With large properties, it becomes more difficult to control animal movements for calving, velvet antler removal, autumn rut and round-ups, and to take advantage of all economic opportunities. For example, the initial direction of the Kikino Metis Settlement venture was towards a large scale management system with a low labour requirement. However, experience revealed a greater need for control of animal populations (Renecker and Biewald 1985). The trend of this operation has been to intensify with the addition of subdivisional fences to gain fall control over animal movement. In New Zealand, early game farmers first raised red deer on extensive properties in the harsh environments of mountain hillsides. The trend was soon changed towards an intensive style of pastoral management on lowland ranges with sheep replacing the deer on hillsides. This shift in range use and

Authors are research assistants, Department of Animal Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2P5.



Intensive wapiti farms are smaller properties with internal fences which adopt full control over animal movements and permit supplementary feeding programs.

harvesting of wild stocks is already at least equal to the regulated harvest for some ungulates (Renecker et al. 1986). By legalizing the sale of meat and other by-products from farmed native ungulates, pressure is removed from wild populations as world markets become saturated. Illegal ventures would become less profitable as prices are controlled thereby reducing the motivation to poach and the entry of illicit products into the marketplace.

Velvet antlers and venison are wildlife tissues stimulating the most concern because of their commercial value. Arguments state that velvet antlers can easily be taken at any point in time during their development. However, velvet antlers are only of commercial value to Korean buyers as a folk medicine for about one week each year. Decimation of wild stock for velvet antlers is not a real problem because of the low opportunity for encounter of wild stock in boreal and montane habitats. Super A Grade velvet antlers occur in early June prior to the last bifurcation of the growing antler. Complete sedation and restraint of the animal are required to ensure that the animal and its antlers can be handled with the necessary care. Damage to the velvet immediately dictates a lower grade and eliminates a profit margin and the motivation for illegal entry of this product into the marketplace. It would be impossible for persons without experience in techniques of animal immobilization, animal behavior and velvet antler removal to remove a product of any value. Also, world supplies have been high, markets extremely volatile and few buyers will deal with quantities of less than one tonne.

Because supply now meets demand, there are more constraints on quality of Super A grade velvet which leads to lower overall prices. As a result, most commercial operations in New Zealand are not orientated specifically for velvet antler production. In order to sell antler velvet in Alberta, an individual must be in possession of a valid big game farm permit. The permit holder is obligated to submit monthly records of animal inventory to the Government. The sale of products must match the animal inventory thereby eliminating the entry of illegal products to the marketplace.

Illicit sales of meat from wild stock has been foreseen as a potential problem of the sale of meat from commercially raised animals. Currently, the federal meat regulations require ante-mortem inspection which ensures observation before slaughter. The marketplace will also stipulate conformity in carcass quality such that the cosmetic characteristics and moisture content of the carcass will be standardized by grain feeding animals for 30-60 days prior to slaughter. This will assure foreign and domestic buyers of a consistent and high quality product for the marketplace. European markets have rigorous standards for slaughter facilities in countries which export venison into the European economic community. Initially, only one such facility will be available in Canada. Finally, all saleable cut meats can be vacuum packaged with a distinctive government seal, thus policing "street peddling" and illegal marketing of venison. Ultimately, the fact remains that commercial buyers of this specialty product will not trade with illicit sources and jeopardize their