

SB

46

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

((9)
 Date Referred: March 15, 1993 FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: 4/20/94

The RESOURCES Committee considered: CSSB 46(FIN)

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 46(FIN) AUTHORIZE MOOSE FARMING

"An Act relating to moose farming and relating to game farming."

RECOMMENDATIONS: [] the same title
 be replaced with HCS CS SB 46 (RES) [] a new title

- [] have attached amendments(s)
- [] do pass
- [] do not pass
- [] no recommendations
- [] individual recommendations
- [] additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

[] fiscal impact DNR [] fiscal note(s) _____

[2] zero fiscal note F&G, DEC or fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING-DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>[Signature]</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>[Signature]</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>[Signature]</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

[Signature]
 CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

DRAFT VERSION I

8-LS0371N
Utermohe
3/30/94

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 46(RES)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS MILLER, Frank, Pearce, Sharp, Taylor
REPRESENTATIVE Therriault

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to moose farming and relating to game farming; and providing
2 for an effective date."

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

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

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

1 agriculture and other activities and programs essential to the development of the
2 agricultural industry in the state;

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

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

14 (6) in consultation with the commissioner of fish and game, regulate
15 the farming of game farm animals [ELK IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO THE
16 MANNER IN WHICH THE COMMISSIONER REGULATES DOMESTIC
17 ANIMALS AND LIVESTOCK, TO THE EXTENT THAT IS APPROPRIATE].

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

19 (b) The commissioner of environmental conservation, in consultation with the
20 commissioner of fish and game, shall regulate the farming of game farm animals
21 [ELK IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THE
22 COMMISSIONER REGULATES DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND LIVESTOCK, TO
23 THE EXTENT THAT IS APPROPRIATE].

24 * Sec. 3. AS 03.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

25 Sec. 03.05.075. GAME FARMING. (a) A person may not engage in game
26 farming or possess game farm animals without having first obtained an annual game
27 farming license for that species from the commissioner of natural resources. The
28 commissioner shall issue a game farming license, that indicates the species of game
29 farm animal or animals for which the license is issued, to a person who intends to
30 engage in game farming of the game farm animal or animals, and possesses facilities
31 that the commissioner determines are sufficient to maintain the game farm animals

1 under positive control and to prevent injury to game farm animals and their handlers.
2 The annual game farming license fee is \$125.

3 (b) A person who holds a game farming license under this section, shall

4 (1) permanently mark each game farm animal; newborn animals must
5 be marked within six months of birth, at time of weaning, at time of sale, or at the
6 time of transfer, whichever is earlier;

7 (2) register the game farm animals, however acquired, and the progeny
8 of those animals with the commissioner within 30 days after the animals are acquired;
9 newborn animals must be registered as soon as practical but not later than 30 days
10 after marking;

11 (3) construct and maintain a fence that is adequate to prevent the
12 escape of the game farm animals and to exclude wild game;

13 (4) notify the commissioner within 30 days of the birth, sale, slaughter,
14 or death of one or more of the animals or their progeny;

15 (5) notify the commissioner of fish and game within 24 hours after

16 (A) a game farm animal escapes; the person shall submit a plan
17 to the commissicner of fish and game for the recapture of the animal; the
18 commissioner of fish and game may coordinate and assist in the recapture of
19 the animal; or

20 (B) wild big game enters a facility where game farm animals
21 are present.

22 (c) The slaughter of game farm animals and the sale of meat resulting from
23 the slaughter of game farm animals are subject to this title, regulations adopted under
24 this title, and other applicable law.

25 (d) The commissioner of natural resources or the commissioner of
26 environmental conservation may require a person who holds a game farming license
27 under this section to provide at the person's cost for a complete necropsy by a
28 veterinarian approved by the commissioner of environmental conservation to determine
29 the cause of death of a game farm animal if the cause of death is not apparent.

30 (e) The commissioner may exempt, by regulation, the game farming of free-
31 ranging reindeer under a state or federal grazing lease from provisions of this section,

1 including provisions relating to facilities to maintain game farm animals under positive
2 control. The commissioner may not exempt a person from the requirement to obtain
3 a game farming license.

4 (f) The commissioner shall adopt regulations as necessary to implement this
5 section and AS 03.05.010(a)(6).

6 (g) In this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "commissioner"
7 means the commissioner of natural resources.

8 * Sec. 4. AS 03.05.100 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

9 (4) "game farm animal" means lawfully owned bison, elk, reindeer, and
10 musk oxen or other lawfully owned mammal species or subspecies designated by the
11 commissioner of natural resources, with the concurrence of the commissioner of fish
12 and game; in this paragraph, "elk" means an animal of a subspecies of *Cervus elaphus*
13 indigenous to North America;

14 (5) "game farming" means an agricultural enterprise engaged in raising
15 and breeding game farm animals as domestic livestock for commercial purposes;

16 (6) "lawfully owned" means ownership was obtained without violating
17 a state or federal law or regulation, or a condition of a license or permit issued with
18 respect to the acquisition of a game farm animal.

19 * Sec. 5. AS 03.25.010 is amended to read:

20 Sec. 03.25.010. COMMISSIONER AUTHORIZED TO EMPLOY
21 VETERINARIANS. The commissioner may either independently or in cooperation
22 with the United States Department of the Interior or a college or a university or like
23 institution employ veterinarians for periods found to be to the best advantage for the
24 purpose of aid and service to the fur raising industry and game farming industry, and
25 for the purpose of aid and service to those engaged in raising livestock and other
26 domestic animals.

27 * Sec. 6. AS 03.25.020 is amended to read:

28 Sec. 03.25.020. DUTIES OF VETERINARIANS. Veterinarians shall

29 (1) visit the fur farms and game farms of the state, study problems
30 incidental to raising fur bearing animals and game farm animals, and advise those
31 engaged in the industry in matters pertaining to the breeding and care of fur bearing

1 animals and game farm animals and the prevention and cure of diseases of fur
2 bearing animals and game farm animals;

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

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

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

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

16 (6) study problems incidental to the raising of livestock, [AND] other
17 domestic animals, and game farm animals, and advise those engaged therein upon
18 matters pertaining to the breeding, care, and the prevention and cure of diseases of
19 livestock, [AND] other domestic animals, and game farm animals.

20 * Sec. 7. AS 03.25.250 is amended to read:

21 Sec. 03.25.250. DEFINITIONS [DEFINITION]. In this chapter,

22 (1) "commissioner" means the commissioner of environmental
23 conservation;

24 (2) "game farm animal" has the meaning given in AS 03.05.100;

25 (3) "game farming" has the meaning given in AS 03.05.100.

26 * Sec. 8. AS 03.35.070(1) is amended to read:

27 (1) "domestic animal" includes goats, sheep, cattle, horses, [AND]
28 swine, and animals subject to a game farming license under AS 03.05.075;

29 * Sec. 9. AS 03.40.010 is amended to read:

30 Sec. 03.40.010. BRANDS AND MARKS. Any person owning cattle, game
31 farm animals [REINDEER, BISON, MUSKOX], sheep, horses, mules, or asses [,]

1 may adopt a brand or mark. After recording the brand or mark as provided in
2 AS 03.40.030, the person has the exclusive right to its use.

3 * Sec. 10. AS 03.40.050 is amended to read:

4 Sec. 03.40.050. USE WITHOUT CERTIFICATE PROHIBITED. A person
5 may not brand any horse, cattle, game farm animal [REINDEER, BISON,
6 MUSKCOX], mule, or ass, unless the person using the brand holds a written certificate
7 of acceptance from the commissioner.

8 * Sec. 11. AS 03.40.270 is amended to read:

9 Sec. 03.40.270. DEFINITIONS. In [AS USED IN] this chapter, [A]
10 (1) "brand" means an identification mark burned into the hide of a live
11 animal;
12 (2) "game farm animal" has the meaning given in AS 03.05.100.

13 * Sec. 12. AS 16.05.330(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) Except as otherwise permitted in this chapter, without having the
15 appropriate license or tag in actual possession a person may not engage in
16 (1) sport fishing, including the taking of razor clams;
17 (2) hunting, trapping, or fur dealing;
18 (3) the farming of fish, fur animals, or game reptiles; or
19 (4) taxidermy.

20 * Sec. 13. AS 16.05.340(a)(18)(A) is amended to read:

21 (A) Game [MAMMAL OR GAME] reptile farming biennial
22 license \$250

23 * Sec. 14. AS 16.05.940(10) is amended to read:

24 (10) "domestic mammals" include game farm animals, as defined in
25 AS 03.05.100 [MUSK OXEN, BISON, ELK, AND REINDEER, IF THEY ARE
26 LAWFULLY OWNED];

27 * Sec. 15. AS 16.40.010 is amended to read:

28 Sec. 16.40.010. DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS GAME ANIMALS [BUFFALO
29 AND MUSK OXEN]. Whenever it is determined by the department that a surplus of
30 bison, caribou, elk, moose, Sitka black-tailed deer, or musk oxen exists [IN THE
31 HERDS OF BUFFALO AND MUSK OXEN UNDER ITS CONTROL], the

1 department may, under regulations adopted by it, authorize a person to take
2 [GRANT] the surplus or portions of the surplus [IT TO PERSONS, GROUPS,
3 ASSOCIATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, OR CORPORATIONS] for the purpose of raising
4 and breeding the animals as domestic stock for commercial purposes, for
5 experimental animal husbandry purposes, or for scientific and educational purposes.
6 A person [, GROUP, ASSOCIATION, PARTNERSHIP, OR CORPORATION] may
7 receive animals for

8 (1) commercial purposes only after

9 (A) obtaining an appropriate game farming license under
10 AS 03.05.075: and

11 (B) paying a reasonable fee that covers the costs to the
12 department of supervising and assisting with the taking and transfer of the
13 animals:

14 (2) experimental animal husbandry purposes only after obtaining
15 a permit issued by the commissioner in consultation with the commissioner of
16 natural resources and the commissioner of environmental conservation: or

17 (3) scientific and educational purposes only after obtaining the
18 appropriate permit issued under AS 16.05 [PROVING TO THE SATISFACTION
19 OF THE DEPARTMENT

20 (1) INTENT TO RAISE AND BREED THE ANIMALS; AND

21 (2) POSSESSION OF FACILITIES FOR MAINTAINING THE
22 ANIMALS UNDER POSITIVE CONTROL].

23 * Sec. 16. AS 16.40.010 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

24 (b) After a person acquires an animal under this section for commercial
25 purposes, a license or permit from the department is not required in order to possess
26 the animal. The importation, exportation, possession, and utilization of game farm
27 animals, as defined under AS 03.05.100, are subject to the provisions of AS 03 and
28 regulations adopted under AS 03. A license or permit from the department is not
29 required in order to import, export, or possess a game farm animal for commercial
30 purposes under a game farming license.

31 (c) A person may receive a permit to possess animals for experimental animal

1 husbandry purposes if the person proves to the satisfaction of the department that the
2 person intends to raise and breed the animals and possesses facilities for maintaining
3 the animals under positive control. Animals received under an experimental animal
4 husbandry permit remain property of the state while in possession of the permit holder
5 and may not be sold or otherwise transferred out of the possession of the permit
6 holder. Subject to regulations adopted by the department, a permit holder may
7 slaughter animals possessed under the permit and may sell milk, antlers, horns, fur, and
8 other products from live animals. The department may summarily revoke a permit
9 issued under this subsection and take possession of animals held under the permit if
10 the permit holder fails to comply with the terms of the permit or a statute or regulation
11 governing the possession of the animals.

12 (d) A person who holds an experimental animal husbandry permit, has
13 possessed animals under the permit for at least five years, and intends to raise the
14 animals for commercial purposes may request title to the animals in the person's
15 possession. The department shall grant title to the animals if the person has

16 (1) obtained a game farming license under AS 03.05.075;

17 (2) demonstrated the ability to properly care for and maintain the
18 animals in the person's possession; and

19 (3) complied with the terms of the experimental animal husbandry
20 permit and with statutes and regulations governing the possession of animals for
21 experimental animal husbandry purposes.

22 (e) The department shall dispose of nonfatally injured, or live abandoned or
23 orphaned calves of, bison, caribou, elk, moose, Sitka black-tailed deer, or musk oxen
24 that cannot be returned to the wild to a person who holds an appropriate game farming
25 license under AS 03.05.075 or a permit for experimental animal husbandry purposes
26 or for scientific or educational purposes.

27 (f) A live bison, caribou, elk, moose, Sitka black-tailed deer, or musk oxen
28 may not be captured from the wild or released into the wild without a permit from the
29 department.

30 * Sec. 17. AS 16.40 is amended by adding a new section to article 1 to read:

31 Sec. 16.40.060. IMPORTATION PROHIBITED. Moose, caribou, and Sitka

1 black-tailed deer may not be imported into the state for commercial or animal
2 husbandry purposes.

3 * Sec. 18. AS 16.40.020 and 16.40.050 are repealed.

4 * Sec. 19. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HCS CS SB 46 (RES)

Revision Date: _____
Title: An Act Authorizing Moose Farming
Sponsor: Senator Miller
Requestor: House Resources Committee

Department Affected: Environmental Conservation
BRU: Environmental Health
Component: Animal & Dairy

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 647

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
PERSONAL SERVICES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND&STRUCTURES						
GRANTS,CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipt						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY94) cost: \$ _____

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

Zero fiscal impact providing number of animals is limited to 1000 or less.

Prepared by: Bob Poe, Director
Division: Information & Administrative Services Division

Phone: 465-5010
Date: 4/21/94

Approved by Commissioner: John A. Sandor
Agency: Department of Environmental Conservation

Date: 4/21/94

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FISCAL NOTE

#CS
BILL NO. CSSB46(RES)

STATE OF ALASKA

1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: 21-Apr-94 Dept Affected: Natural Resources
 Title: "An Act relating to moose farming and relating to BRU: Agricultural Development
game farming; and providing for an effective date." Component: Agricultural Development
 Sponsor: Senator Miller
 Requestor: Senator Miller Component Serial No. 455

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
CONTRACTUAL			5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	5.0	5.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	5.0	5.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	5.0	5.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

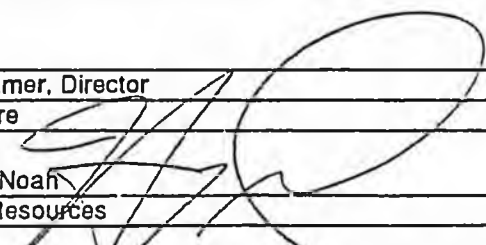
Estimate of any current year (FY94) cost: \$ None

POSITIONS

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

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Department of Fish & Game currently has authority to declare buffalo and musk oxen surplus and allow for their private use. This bill would allow moose to be declared surplus and thus allow the raising and breeding of moose as domestic stock for commercial purposes, or for scientific and educational purposes. The bill would also authorize the sale of moose meat.

Prepared by: John Cramer, Director Phone: 745-7200
 Division: Agriculture Date: 21-Apr-94
 Approved by Commissioner:  Date: 21-Apr-94
 Agency: Natural Resources

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HCS CSSB 46(RES)

Revision Date: 4/21/94
 Title: An Act relating to moose farming and relating to game farming
 Sponsor: Senator Miller
 Requestor: House Resources

Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 BRU: Wildlife Conservation
 Component: Wildlife Conservation
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0473

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of any current year (FY 94) cost: \$ 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

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Under this bill, regulatory authority for game farming will rest with DNR and DEC. The department's responsibilities for regulating experimental animal husbandry permits would be accomplished with established permitting procedures and existing staff.

Prepared By: David G. Kellehouse, Director *GB*
 Division: Wildlife Conservation
 Approved by Commissioner: *[Signature]*
 Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Phone: 465-4190
 Date: 4/21/94
 Date: 4/21/94

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Utermohle
3/17/94

*Draft of Revised Version
Proposed by Rep. Carney, Chair of
Resources Committee Sub-Committee*

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 46()

on SB46

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

*(Never adopted
by Resources
Committee)*

EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS MILLER, Frank, Pearce, Sharp, Taylor

REPRESENTATIVE Therriault

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

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2 for an effective date."

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8 developing the agricultural industry within the state including such fields as
9 horticulture, dairying, cattle raising, fur farming, game farming, grain production,
10 vegetable production, and development of other agricultural products;

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

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

1 agriculture and other activities and programs essential to the development of the
2 agricultural industry in the state;

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

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

14 (6) in consultation with the commissioner of fish and game, regulate
15 the farming of game farm animals and animals possessed under an experimental
16 animal husbandry permit under AS 03.05.075 [ELK IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO
17 THE MANNER IN WHICH THE COMMISSIONER REGULATES DOMESTIC
18 ANIMALS AND LIVESTOCK, TO THE EXTENT THAT IS APPROPRIATE].

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31 farm animal or animals for which the license is issued, to a person who intends to

1 engage in game farming of the game farm animal or animals, and possesses facilities
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3 under positive control and to prevent injury to game farm animals and their handlers.
4 The annual game farming license fee is \$125.

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14 escape of the game farm animals and to exclude wild game;

15 (4) notify the commissioner within 30 days of the birth, sale, slaughter,
16 or death of one or more game farm animals or their progeny;

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22 (B) wild big game enters a facility where game farm animals
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24 (c) The slaughter of game farm animals and the sale of meat resulting from
25 the slaughter of game farm animals are subject to this title, regulations adopted under
26 this title, and other applicable law.

27 (d) The commissioner of natural resources or the commissioner of
28 environmental conservation may require a person who holds a game farming license
29 under this section to provide at the person's cost for a complete necropsy by a
30 veterinarian approved by the commissioner of environmental conservation to determine
31 the cause of death of a game farm animal if the cause of death is not apparent.

1 (e) The commissioner may exempt, by regulation, the game farming of free-
2 ranging reindeer under a state or federal grazing lease from provisions of this section,
3 including provisions relating to facilities to maintain game farm animals under positive
4 control. The commissioner may not exempt a person from the requirement to obtain
5 a game farming license.

6 (f) The commissioner shall adopt regulations as necessary to implement this
7 section and AS 03.05.010(a)(6).

8 (g) In this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "commissioner"
9 means the commissioner of natural resources.

10 Sec. 03.05.075. EXPERIMENTAL ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PERMIT. A
11 person may receive a permit to possess animals for experimental animal husbandry
12 purposes if the person proves to the satisfaction of the commissioner of natural
13 resources that the person intends to raise and breed the animals and possesses facilities
14 for maintaining the animals under positive control. Animals received under
15 AS 16.40.010 and possessed under an experimental animal husbandry permit remain
16 property of the state and may not be sold or otherwise transferred out of the possession
17 of the permit holder. Subject to regulations adopted by the commissioner of natural
18 resources, a permit holder may slaughter and sell the meat from animals possessed
19 under the permit, sell milk, antlers, horns, fur, and other products from live animals,
20 and may charge a fee to the public for viewing of the animals. The preparation and
21 sale of meat or other products under this section for human consumption are subject
22 to this title and regulations adopted under this title. Except as otherwise expressly
23 provided in this section, the possession of animals for experimental animal husbandry
24 purposes is subject to this title and regulations adopted under this title in the same
25 manner as the possession of game farm animals. The commissioner of natural
26 resources shall, at the request of the commissioner of fish and game, summarily revoke
27 a permit issued under this section and transfer possession of animals held under the
28 permit to the commissioner of fish and game, if the permit holder fails to comply with
29 the terms of the permit or a statute or regulation governing the possession of the
30 animals.

31 Sec. 03.05.078. IMPORTATION PROHIBITED. Moose or caribou may not

1 be imported into the state for commercial or animal husbandry purposes.

2 * Sec. 4. AS 03.05.100 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

3 (4) "game farm animal" means lawfully owned bison, caribou, elk,
4 moose, reindeer, and musk oxen or other lawfully owned mammal species or
5 subspecies designated by the commissioner of natural resources, with the concurrence
6 of the commissioner of fish and game; in this paragraph, "elk" means an animal of a
7 subspecies of *Cervus elaphus* indigenous to North America;

8 (5) "game farming" means an agricultural enterprise engaged in raising
9 and breeding game farm animals as domestic livestock for commercial purposes;

10 (6) "lawfully owned" means ownership was obtained without violating
11 a state or federal law or regulation, or a condition of a license or permit issued with
12 respect to the acquisition of a game farm animal.

13 * Sec. 5. AS 03.25.010 is amended to read:

14 Sec. 03.25.010. COMMISSIONER AUTHORIZED TO EMPLOY
15 VETERINARIANS. The commissioner may either independently or in cooperation
16 with the United States Department of the Interior or a college or a university or like
17 institution employ veterinarians for periods found to be to the best advantage for the
18 purpose of aid and service to the fur raising industry and game farming industry, and
19 for the purpose of aid and service to those engaged in raising livestock and other
20 domestic animals.

21 * Sec. 6. AS 03.25.020 is amended to read:

22 Sec. 03.25.020. DUTIES OF VETERINARIANS. Veterinarians shall

23 (1) visit the fur farms and game farms of the state, study problems
24 incidental to raising fur bearing animals and game farm animals, and advise those
25 engaged in the industry in matters pertaining to the breeding and care of fur bearing
26 animals and game farm animals and the prevention and cure of diseases of fur
27 bearing animals and game farm animals;

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

31 (3) make reports to the commissioner when required by the

1 commissioner for transmittal to the state legislature;

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

8 (5) perform other duties as may be prescribed by the commissioner as
9 are not inconsistent with the duties specifically imposed by this chapter,

10 (6) study problems incidental to the raising of livestock, [AND] other
11 domestic animals, and game farm animals, and advise those engaged therein upon
12 matters pertaining to the breeding, care, and the prevention and cure of diseases of
13 livestock, [AND] other domestic animals, and game farm animals.

14 * Sec. 7. AS 03.25.250 is amended to read:

15 Sec. 03.25.250. DEFINITIONS [DEFINITION]. In this chapter,

16 (1) "commissioner" means the commissioner of environmental
17 conservation;

18 (2) "game farm animal" includes animals possessed under a game
19 farming license under AS 03.05.073 or an experimental animal husbandry permit
20 under AS 03.05.075;

21 (3) "game farming" has the meaning given in AS 03.05.100.

22 * Sec. 8. AS 03.30 is amended by adding a new section to read:

23 Sec. 03.30.070. INTERFERENCE WITH GAME FARM FENCES AND
24 GATES. (a) A person may not knowingly alter or damage the fence of a game farm
25 in a manner that would allow game farm animals to escape from the game farm.

26 (b) Except with the permission of the person who lawfully possesses the game
27 farm animals, a person may not knowingly open the gate of an enclosure or fenced
28 area where game farm animals are present and

29 (1) fail to close the gate; or

30 (2) allow game farm animals to leave the enclosure or fenced area.

31 (c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

1 (d) In this section,

2 (1) "game farm animal" includes animals possessed under a game
3 farming license under AS 03.05.073 or an experimental animal husbandry permit under
4 AS 03.05.075;

5 (2) "knowingly" has the meaning given in AS 11.81.900 and shall be
6 construed in accordance with AS 11.81.610(c).

7 * Sec. 9. AS 03.35.070(1) is amended to read:

8 (1) "domestic animal" includes goats, sheep, cattle, horses, [AND]
9 swine, and animals possessed under a game farming license under AS 03.05.073
10 or an experimental animal husbandry permit under AS 03.05.075;

11 * Sec. 10. AS 03.40.010 is amended to read:

12 Sec. 03.40.010. BRANDS AND MARKS. Any person owning cattle, game
13 farm animals [REINDEER, BISON, MUSKOX], sheep, horses, mules, or asses [,]
14 may adopt a brand or mark. After recording the brand or mark as provided in
15 AS 03.40.030, the person has the exclusive right to its use.

16 * Sec. 11. AS 03.40.050 is amended to read:

17 Sec. 03.40.050. USE WITHOUT CERTIFICATE PROHIBITED. A person
18 may not brand any horse, cattle, game farm animal, [REINDEER, BISON,
19 MUSKOX] mule, or ass, unless the person using the brand holds a written certificate
20 of acceptance from the commissioner.

21 * Sec. 12. AS 03.40.270 is amended to read:

22 Sec. 03.40.270. DEFINITIONS. In [AS USED IN] this chapter, [A]

23 (1) "brand" means an identification mark burned into the hide of a live
24 animal;

25 (2) "game farm animal" has the meaning given in AS 03.05.100.

26 * Sec. 13. AS 16.05.330(a) is amended to read:

27 (a) Except as otherwise permitted in this chapter, without having the
28 appropriate license or tag in actual possession a person may not engage in

29 (1) sport fishing, including the taking of razor clams;

30 (2) hunting, trapping, or fur dealing;

31 (3) the farming of fish, fur animals, or game reptiles; or

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(4) taxidermy.

* Sec. 14. AS 16.05.340(a)(18)(A) is amended to read:

(A) Game [MAMMAL OR GAME] reptile farming biennial
license \$250

* Sec. 15. AS 16.05.940(10) is amended to read:

(10) "domestic mammals" include game farm animals, as defined in AS 03.05.100 [MUSK OXEN, BISON, ELK, AND REINDEER, IF THEY ARE LAWFULLY OWNED];

* Sec. 16. AS 16.40.010 is amended to read:

Sec. 16.40.010. DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS GAME ANIMALS [BUFFALO AND MUSK OXEN]. Whenever it is determined by the department that a surplus of bison, caribou, elk, moose, or musk oxen exists [IN THE HERDS OF BUFFALO AND MUSK OXEN UNDER ITS CONTROL], the department may, under regulations adopted by it, authorize a person to take [GRANT] the surplus or portions of the surplus to a person [IT TO PERSONS, GROUPS, ASSOCIATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, OR CORPORATIONS] for the purpose of raising and breeding the animals as domestic stock for commercial purposes, for experimental animal husbandry purposes, or for scientific and educational purposes. A person [, GROUP, ASSOCIATION, PARTNERSHIP, OR CORPORATION] may receive animals for

(1) commercial purposes only after

(A) obtaining an appropriate game farming license under AS 03.05.073; and

(B) paying a reasonable fee that covers the costs to the department of supervising and assisting with the taking and transfer of the animals;

(2) experimental animal husbandry purposes only after obtaining a permit issued under AS 03.05.075; or

(3) scientific and educational purposes only after obtaining the appropriate permit issued under AS 16.05 [PROVING TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE DEPARTMENT

(1) INTENT TO RAISE AND BREED THE ANIMALS; AND

1 (2) POSSESSION OF FACILITIES FOR MAINTAINING THE
2 ANIMALS UNDER POSITIVE CONTROL].

3 * Sec. 17. AS 16.40.010 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

4 (b) After a person acquires an animal under this section for commercial
5 purposes, a license or permit from the department is not required in order to possess
6 the animal. The possession and utilization of animals acquired under this section for
7 commercial purposes or for experimental animal husbandry purposes and the
8 importation, exportation, possession, and utilization of game farm animals, as defined
9 under AS 03.05.100, are subject to the provisions of AS 03 and regulations adopted
10 under AS 03. A license or permit from the department is not required in order to
11 import, export, or possess a game farm animal for commercial purposes under a game
12 farming license.

13 (c) A person who received animals under this section and possesses the
14 animals under an experimental animal husbandry permit under AS 03.05.075, has
15 possessed animals under the permit for at least two years, and intends to raise the
16 animals for commercial purposes may request title to the animals and their progeny
17 that are in the person's possession. The department shall grant title to the animals and
18 their progeny if the person has

19 (1) obtained a game farming license under AS 03.05.073;

20 (2) demonstrated the ability to properly care for and maintain the
21 animals in the person's possession; and

22 (3) complied with the terms of the experimental animal husbandry
23 permit and with statutes and regulations governing the possession of animals for
24 experimental animal husbandry purposes.

25 (d) The department shall dispose of nonfatally injured, or live abandoned or
26 orphaned calves of, bison, caribou, elk, moose, or musk oxen that cannot be returned
27 to the wild to a person who holds an appropriate game farming license under
28 AS 03.05.073, a permit for experimental animal husbandry purposes under
29 AS 03.05.075, or a permit for scientific or educational purposes.

30 (e) A live bison, caribou, elk, moose, or musk oxen may not be captured from
31 the wild or released into the wild without a permit from the department.

- 1 (f) In this section, surplus animals include those animals that are
2 (1) unnecessary to the sustained yield management of a game
3 population;
4 (2) members of a game population that currently exceed the carrying
5 capacity of its habitat;
6 (3) members of a game population for which there is no closed season
7 on the take of animals from the game population; or
8 (4) problem animals that are a danger to persons, property, or
9 themselves, by their proximity to a highway, a railroad, or an urban area.
10 * Sec. 18. AS 16.40.020 and 16.40.050 are repealed.
11 * Sec. 19. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

8-LS0371X
Utermohle
3/8/94

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 46()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS MILLER, Frank, Pearce, Sharp, Taylor

REPRESENTATIVE Therriault

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to moose farming and relating to game farming; and providing
2 for an effective date."

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

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

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

1 agriculture and other activities and programs essential to the development of the
2 agricultural industry in the state;

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

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

14 (6) in consultation with the commissioner of fish and game, regulate
15 the farming of game farm animals and animals subject to an experimental animal
16 husbandry permit under AS 16.40.010 [ELK IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO THE
17 MANNER IN WHICH THE COMMISSIONER REGULATES DOMESTIC
18 ANIMALS AND LIVESTOCK, TO THE EXTENT THAT IS APPROPRIATE].

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

20 (b) The commissioner of environmental conservation, in consultation with the
21 commissioner of fish and game, shall regulate the farming of game farm animals
22 and animals subject to an experimental animal husbandry permit under
23 AS 16.40.010 [ELK IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THE
24 COMMISSIONER REGULATES DOMESTIC ANIMALS AND LIVESTOCK, TO
25 THE EXTENT THAT IS APPROPRIATE].

26 * Sec. 3. AS 03.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

27 Sec. 03.05.075. GAME FARMING. (a) A person may not engage in game
28 farming or possess game farm animals without having first obtained an annual game
29 farming license for that species from the commissioner of natural resources. The
30 commissioner shall issue a game farming license, that indicates the species of game
31 farm animal or animals for which the license is issued, to a person who intends to

1 engage in game farming of the game farm animal or animals, and possesses facilities
2 that the commissioner determines are sufficient to maintain the game farm animals
3 under positive control and to prevent injury to game farm animals and their handlers.
4 The annual game farming license fee is \$125.

5 (b) A person who holds a game farming license under this section, shall

6 (1) permanently mark each game farm animal; newborn animals must
7 be marked within six months of birth, at time of weaning, at time of sale, or at the
8 time of transfer, whichever is earlier;

9 (2) register the game farm animals, however acquired, and the progeny
10 of those animals with the commissioner within 30 days after the animals are acquired;
11 newborn animals must be registered as soon as practical but not later than 30 days
12 after marking;

13 (3) construct and maintain a fence that is adequate to prevent the
14 escape of the game farm animals and to exclude wild game;

15 (4) notify the commissioner within 30 days of the birth, sale, slaughter,
16 or death of one or more of the animals or their progeny;

17 (5) notify the commissioner of fish and game within 24 hours after

18 (A) a game farm animal escapes; the person shall submit a plan
19 to the commissioner of fish and game for the recapture of the animal; the
20 commissioner of fish and game may coordinate and assist in the recapture of
21 the animal; or

22 (B) wild big game enters a facility where game farm animals
23 are present.

24 (c) The slaughter of game farm animals and the sale of meat resulting from
25 the slaughter of game farm animals are subject to this title, regulations adopted under
26 this title, and other applicable law.

27 (d) The commissioner of natural resources or the commissioner of
28 environmental conservation may require a person who holds a game farming license
29 under this section to provide at the person's cost for a complete necropsy by a
30 veterinarian approved by the commissioner of environmental conservation to determine
31 the cause of death of a game farm animal if the cause of death is not apparent.

1 (e) The commissioner may exempt, by regulation, the game farming of free-
2 ranging reindeer under a state or federal grazing lease from provisions of this section,
3 including provisions relating to facilities to maintain game farm animals under positive
4 control. The commissioner may not exempt a person from the requirement to obtain
5 a game farming license.

6 (f) The commissioner shall adopt regulations as necessary to implement this
7 section and AS 03.05.010(a)(6).

8 (g) In this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "commissioner"
9 means the commissioner of natural resources.

10 * Sec. 4. AS 03.05.100 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

11 (4) "game farm animal" means lawfully owned bison, caribou, elk,
12 moose, Sitka black-tailed deer, reindeer, and musk oxen or other lawfully owned
13 mammal species or subspecies designated by the commissioner of natural resources,
14 with the concurrence of the commissioner of fish and game; in this paragraph, "elk"
15 means an animal of a subspecies of *Cervus elaphus* indigenous to North America;

16 (5) "game farming" means an agricultural enterprise engaged in raising
17 and breeding game farm animals as domestic livestock for commercial purposes;

18 (6) "lawfully owned" means ownership was obtained without violating
19 a state or federal law or regulation, or a condition of a license or permit issued with
20 respect to the acquisition of a game farm animal.

21 * Sec. 5. AS 03.25.010 is amended to read:

22 Sec. 03.25.010. COMMISSIONER AUTHORIZED TO EMPLOY
23 VETERINARIANS. The commissioner may either independently or in cooperation
24 with the United States Department of the Interior or a college or a university or like
25 institution employ veterinarians for periods found to be to the best advantage for the
26 purpose of aid and service to the fur raising industry and game farming industry, and
27 for the purpose of aid and service to those engaged in raising livestock and other
28 domestic animals.

29 * Sec. 6. AS 03.25.020 is amended to read:

30 Sec. 03.25.020. DUTIES OF VETERINARIANS. Veterinarians shall

31 (1) visit the fur farms and game farms of the state, study problems

1 incidental to raising fur bearing animals and game farm animals, and advise those
2 engaged in the industry in matters pertaining to the breeding and care of fur bearing
3 animals and game farm animals and the prevention and cure of diseases of fur
4 bearing animals and game farm animals;

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

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

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

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

18 (6) study problems incidental to the raising of livestock, [AND] other
19 domestic animals, and game farm animals, and advise those engaged therein upon
20 matters pertaining to the breeding, care, and the prevention and cure of diseases of
21 livestock, [AND] other domestic animals, and game farm animals.

22 * Sec. 7. AS 03.25.250 is amended to read:

23 Sec. 03.25.250. DEFINITIONS [DEFINITION]. In this chapter,

24 (1) "commissioner" means the commissioner of environmental
25 conservation;

26 (2) "game farm animal" has the meaning given in AS 03.05.100:

27 (3) "game farming" has the meaning given in AS 03.05.100.

28 * Sec. 8. AS 03.35.070(1) is amended to read:

29 (1) "domestic animal" includes goats, sheep, cattle, horses, [AND]
30 swine, and animals subject to a game farming license under AS 03.05.075 or to an
31 experimental animal husbandry permit under AS 16.40.010:

1 * Sec. 9. AS 03.40.010 is amended to read:

2 Sec. 03.40.010. BRANDS AND MARKS. Any person owning cattle, reindeer,
3 game farm animals [BISON, MUSKOX], sheep, horses, mules, or asses [,] may adopt
4 a brand or mark. After recording the brand or mark as provided in AS 03.40.030, the
5 person has the exclusive right to its use.

6 * Sec. 10. AS 03.40.050 is amended to read:

7 Sec. 03.40.050. USE WITHOUT CERTIFICATE PROHIBITED. A person
8 may not brand any horse, cattle, reindeer, game farm animal. [BISON, MUSKOX]
9 mule, or ass, unless the person using the brand holds a written certificate of acceptance
10 from the commissioner.

11 * Sec. 11. AS 03.40.270 is amended to read:

12 Sec. 03.40.270. DEFINITIONS. In [AS USED IN] this chapter, [A]
13 (1) "brand" means an identification mark burned into the hide of a live
14 animal;
15 (2) "game farm animal" has the meaning given in AS 03.05.100.

16 * Sec. 12. AS 16.05.330(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) Except as otherwise permitted in this chapter, without having the
18 appropriate license or tag in actual possession a person may not engage in
19 (1) sport fishing, including the taking of razor clams;
20 (2) hunting, trapping, or fur dealing;
21 (3) the farming of fish, fur animals, or game reptiles; or
22 (4) taxidermy.

23 * Sec. 13. AS 16.05.340(a)(18)(A) is amended to read:

24 (A) Game [MAMMAL OR GAME] reptile farming biennial
25 license \$250

26 * Sec. 14. AS 16.05.940(10) is amended to read:

27 (10) "domestic mammals" include game farm animals, as defined in
28 AS 03.05.100 [MUSK OXEN, BISON, ELK,] and reindeer, if they are lawfully owned;

29 * Sec. 15. AS 16.40.010 is amended to read:

30 Sec. 16.40.010. DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS GAME ANIMALS [BUFFALO
31 AND MUSK OXEN]. Whenever it is determined by the department that a surplus of

1 bison, caribou, elk, moose, Sitka black-tailed deer, or musk oxen exists [IN THE
 2 HERDS OF BUFFALO AND MUSK OXEN UNDER ITS CONTROL], the
 3 department may, under regulations adopted by it, authorize a person to take
 4 [GRANT] the surplus or portions of the surplus to a person [IT TO PERSONS,
 5 GROUPS, ASSOCIATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, OR CORPORATIONS] for the
 6 purpose of raising and breeding the animals as domestic stock for commercial
 7 purposes, for experimental animal husbandry purposes, or for scientific and
 8 educational purposes. A person [, GROUP, ASSOCIATION, PARTNERSHIP, OR
 9 CORPORATION] may receive animals for

10 (1) commercial purposes only after

11 (A) obtaining an appropriate game farming license under
 12 AS 03.05.075; and

13 (B) paving a reasonable fee that covers the costs to the
 14 department of supervising and assisting with the taking and transfer of the
 15 animals;

16 (2) experimental animal husbandry purposes only after obtaining
 17 a permit issued by the commissioner in consultation with the commissioner of
 18 natural resources and the commissioner of environmental conservation; or

19 (3) scientific and educational purposes only after obtaining the
 20 appropriate permit issued under AS 16.05 [PROVING TO THE SATISFACTION
 21 OF THE DEPARTMENT

22 (1) INTENT TO RAISE AND BREED THE ANIMALS; AND

23 (2) POSSESSION OF FACILITIES FOR MAINTAINING THE
 24 ANIMALS UNDER POSITIVE CONTROL].

25 * Sec. 16. AS 16.40.010 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

26 (b) After a person acquires an animal under this section for commercial
 27 purposes, a license or permit from the department is not required in order to possess
 28 the animal. The possession and utilization of animals acquired under this section for
 29 commercial purposes and the importation, exportation, possession, and utilization of
 30 game farm animals, as defined under AS 03.05.100, are subject to the provisions of
 31 AS 03 and regulations adopted under AS 03. A license or permit from the department

1 is not required in order to import, export, or possess a game farm animal for
2 commercial purposes under a game farming license.

3 (c) A person may receive a permit to possess animals for experimental animal
4 husbandry purposes if the person proves to the satisfaction of the department that the
5 person intends to raise and breed the animals and possesses facilities for maintaining
6 the animals under positive control. Animals received under an experimental animal
7 husbandry permit remain property of the state while in possession of the permit holder
8 and may not be sold or otherwise transferred out of the possession of the permit
9 holder. Subject to regulations adopted by the department, a permit holder may
10 slaughter and sell the meat from animals possessed under the permit, sell milk, antlers,
11 horns, fur, and other products from live animals, and may charge a fee to the public
12 for viewing of the animals. The preparation and sale of meat or other products under
13 this subsection for human consumption are subject to AS 03 and regulations adopted
14 under AS 03. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this subsection, the
15 possession of animals for experimental animal husbandry purposes is subject to AS 03
16 and regulations adopted under AS 03 in the same manner as the possession of game
17 farm animals. The department may summarily revoke a permit issued under this
18 subsection and take possession of animals held under the permit if the permit holder
19 fails to comply with the terms of the permit or a statute or regulation governing the
20 possession of the animals.

21 (d) A person who holds an experimental animal husbandry permit, has
22 possessed animals under the permit for at least five years, and intends to raise the
23 animals for commercial purposes may request title to the animals in the person's
24 possession. The department shall grant title to the animals if the person has

25 (1) obtained a game farming license under AS 03.05.075;

26 (2) demonstrated the ability to properly care for and maintain the
27 animals in the person's possession; and

28 (3) complied with the terms of the experimental animal husbandry
29 permit and with statutes and regulations governing the possession of animals for
30 experimental animal husbandry purposes.

31 (e) The department shall dispose of nonfatally injured, or live abandoned or

1 orphaned calves of, bison, caribou, elk, moose, Sitka black-tailed deer, or musk oxen
2 that cannot be returned to the wild to a person who holds an appropriate game farming
3 license under AS 03.05.075 or a permit for experimental animal husbandry purposes
4 or for scientific or educational purposes.

5 (f) A live bison, caribou, elk, moose, Sitka black-tailed deer, or musk oxen
6 may not be captured from the wild or released into the wild without a permit from the
7 department.

8 (g) In this section, surplus animals include those animals that are

9 (1) unnecessary to the sustained yield management of a game
10 population;

11 (2) members of a game population that currently exceed the carrying
12 capacity of its habitat;

13 (3) members of a game population for which there is no closed season
14 on the take of animals from the game population; or

15 (4) problem animals that are a danger to persons, property, or
16 themselves, by their proximity to a highway, a railroad, or an urban area.

17 * Sec. 17. AS 16.40 is amended by adding a new section to article 1 to read:

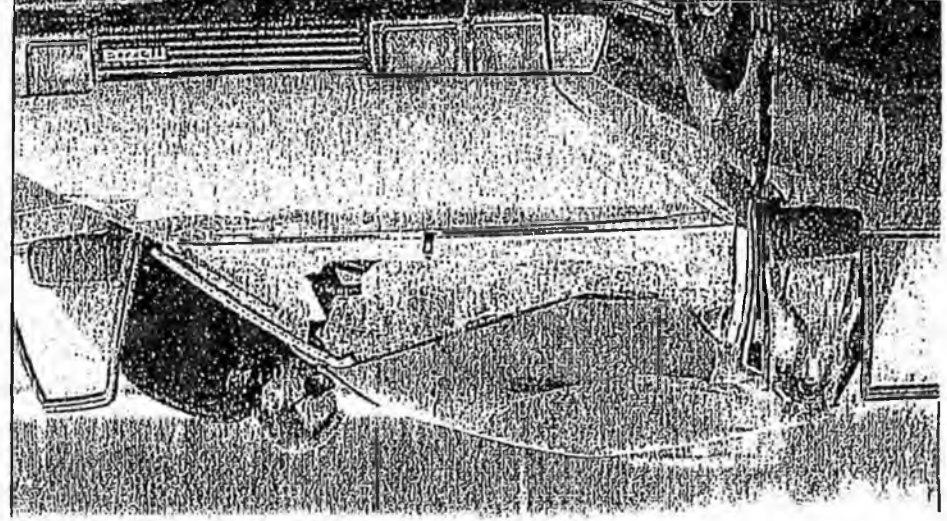
18 Sec. 16.40.060. IMPORTATION PROHIBITED. Moose, caribou, and Sitka
19 black-tailed deer may not be imported into the state for commercial or animal
20 husbandry purposes.

21 * Sec. 18. AS 16.40.020 and 16.40.050 are repealed.

22 * Sec. 19. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).



AGAINST THE ODDS



Go figure. When winters are harsh and the snowfall is deep, there are record numbers of moose killed on Alaska's roads. But when the winter is mild and the snowfall is minimal, the same amount of moose get smacked by cars and die.

Consider this winter — one of the tamest in recent memory, with only 29 inches of snow fallen in Anchorage. And yet, there have been 100 moose killed on Anchorage roads alone this winter, according to Alaska Department of Fish and Game statistics. That's 10 more than were killed last winter, 10 more than the winter of 1991-92 and only eight less than the record of 108 moose killed in 1989-90, when the winter was particularly harsh.

And with two months of winter remaining, area biologists are concerned the tally might surpass 108.

It's happening up and down the highway in the Interior and in southcentral Alaska — from Fairbanks, through the Matanuska Valley and southward to Kenai — there's an unexpectedly

**THIS YEAR'S
MILD WINTER
HASN'T
DONE MUCH
TO KEEP
MOOSE
ROADKILLS
DOWN**

BY JAY BLUCHER

high number of moose being killed on roads. And the biologists whose job it is to explain why are left scratching their heads, groping for explanations, and offering several theories.

Palmer has registered 137 moose roadkills so far; Fairbanks, 86 and the Kenai region, which is averaging eight to 10 moose roadkills a week now, 199. And all locations are still counting.

Considering the warm weather and good driving conditions over most areas of the state this winter, it is surprised area biologists to see moose deaths so high, and so early.

"That's the thing. The numbers are up and everyone sort of expects that given the nice weather we've had that the numbers would be way down — but they're not working out that way," said Fish and Game area biologist Ted Spraker in Kenai.

Kenai has an estimated moose population of more than 8,000, eight times that of Anchorage. And despite the fact that there are a lot fewer drivers in Kenai than Anchorage, the Kenai averages two times more moose killed on its roads than Anchorage, about 250 every winter

Please see Page F-2, ROADKILL

Moose roadkills

1989 through 1994*

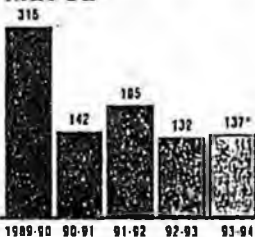
Anchorage



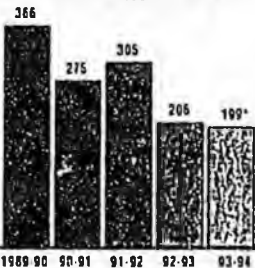
Fairbanks



Mat-Su



Kenai Peninsula



* Through February 1994

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game data as compiled by State biologists

KEVIN POWELL / Anchorage Daily News

ROADKILL: Mild winter hasn't done much to keep deaths low

Continued from Page F-1

since 1983-84, according to Spraker, with the exception of 1989-90, when 366 moose were killed.

"And here we are at 200 already, with a lot of winter still to go, so I expect we'll hit 250 easy," he said.

In a convoluted bit of logic, clear road conditions this winter and a healthy moose population on the Kenai may actually have contributed to the roadside carnage this year.

"When the roads are good, the bottom line is folks just drive too fast," said Spraker.

But even 200 is an unacceptably high number to Spraker, because he estimated the actual numbers of moose killed by cars are probably 20 percent higher than reported totals. Many more animals are unaccounted for because they don't die on the road. Many are hit, seriously injured and fall prey to predators.

All moose killed on the roads are put to good use. The state Fish and Wildlife Protection Office in Kenai maintains a list of more than 600 names of people willing to accept road-killed moose meat. Similar programs in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Palmer distribute the meat to various charitable organizations for distribution to needy people.

In the Mat-Su valleys, where both moose density and traffic volume is high, car-moose collisions are increasing, too. Yet assistant Fish and Game area biologist Mark Masteller is as much at a loss for ready explanations for the numbers as Kenai's Spraker.

"Perhaps it's because the weather's been so good this winter that

HOW TO AVOID MOOSE

- Reduce your driving speed to no more than 45 mph when visibility is reduced at night.
- Keep windshield and headlights clean at all times.
- Be sure your headlights are working. Promptly replace them when they burn out.
- Watch the sides of the highway and anticipate that a moose may step on the highway at any time.
- If one moose crosses in front of you, be ready for the second moose. Calves often trail behind the cow and panic when vehicles threaten to get between them and their mother.
- Think moose and be ready to give them a brake.

Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

more people have been out driving than if the conditions were bad, so maybe that's got something to do with it, too," he said.

There's even a sign posted on the Glenn Highway near Palmer as part of a public awareness program known as "Give Moose A Brake" to educate drivers to the hazards of driving with no regard to moose. This running tally sheet of road-killed moose offers a grim daily reminder to commuters that 137 area moose have been hit by cars so far this year.

"Signs get ingrained after a while and pretty soon, drivers don't pay them any attention. They may slow down just after the sign perhaps, but then it's back to driving as fast as usual," said Masteller.

Another Fish and Game biolo-

gist, Rick Sinnott, in Anchorage, sounds a similar refrain. For the last five years an average of 95 moose have been killed by cars annually in the area between the Knik and Portage rivers.

"I'm really not sure why it's so high except that there's more moose, more people driving all the time and more of them seem to be driving faster," he said.

"We can't blame the weather this year, can we? Well, maybe we can, sort of, in a backhanded way, I mean."

Toby Boudreau, assistant area biologist with Fish and Game in Fairbanks, admits he's completely stumped for an explanation.

"The snow isn't deep here this year, so there's nothing driving the moose down from their winter ranges to the highway like in previous years, and their food supply is not limited. I just don't know why so many are getting hit," he said.

There also is a huge property and injury cost involved whenever car and driver collide with a moose. No one in either the automobile insurance industry or the state Department of Transportation can peg exact costs, but moose collisions have caused an estimated \$1 million in property damage alone every year for the last five years in the state, according to state transportation officials. Personal injury figures are anyone's guess.

While moose are often killed by the collision, more cars are totaled — the cost of repairs exceeds the vehicle's value.

According to Don Hunter, property claims superintendent for State Farm Insurance, a typical collision with a 600- to 800-pound

moose results in car repair bills that easily can exceed \$5,000. Repair bills of \$10,000 or more are common.

"It usually involves a total paint job as a minimum, and that will cost you \$2,000 right there," he said.

"The windshield is smashed, nearly always, and it either takes out the entire roof or pushes it back — and sometimes you'll even see an almost perfect impression of the moose's body left on the windshield of the wrecked car where it passes over the hood, but in general, it's terrible — a real mess. I recommend avoiding them."

Neither State Farm nor any other automobile insurance company in Alaska said it keeps specific statistics on the numbers of moose collisions annually.

But Tony Barter, chief of the traffic and safety division at the state Department of Transportation, said when fencing was installed on both sides of the Glenn Highway near Fort Richardson in 1989, moose collisions along this stretch of highway were reduced by 80 percent in the first year.

Miles of fencing in areas with a large number of side streets is not always a feasible or cost-effective option either, said Barter. Better lighting and wider cleared paths — 150 feet from the center line on both sides of the highway — are other possible options that have been successfully used in other areas to reduce moose roadkill.

"But ultimately, the responsibility still rests with drivers to slow down and to be alert in areas where moose are present in high numbers, which is just about anywhere you drive up here," he said.

We Alaskans

THE ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS MAGAZINE

MAY 20, 1988

Moose vs. Man

TOUGH YEAR

FOR

ANCHORAGE

UNGULATES

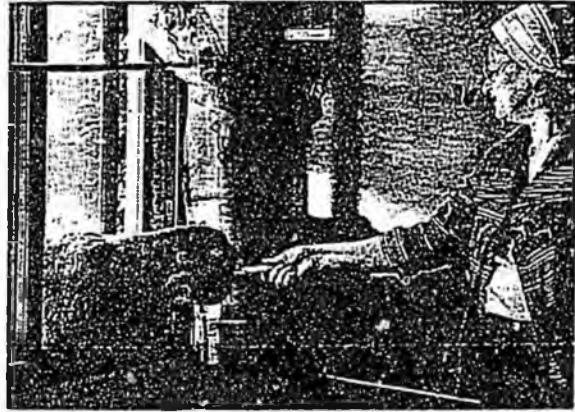


This Week

COMING TO GRIPS: Mary Kay Blakely watched her son grow from boy to man as he wrestled for four years in high school. Now she must grapple with his power. Page 6

MOOSE UNDER SIEGE: Too many moose roam Anchorage during the winter because there is not enough habitat left in the wild. And the moose are sure losers in confrontations with humans. Page 8

COVER: A young moose chews on a willow in an Anchorage back yard. Photo by Bob Hallinen



JIM LAVRAKAS / Anchorage Daily News file

"Oscar" gets a handout.



in Schmid-Royall feeds a bull moose on his front steps in Midtown Anchorage in mid-January.



in Schmid-Royall feeds a bull moose on his front steps in Midtown Anchorage in mid-January.

OUR MISERABLE MOOSE

You love the tree: exotic, delicate, beautiful when in bloom. It's the most amazing — and expensive — plant in your yard. A moose stands nearby. Its horsey snout extends, its incisors protrude. It bites. It tears. It chews. Crunch, crunch, crunch.



JIM LAVRAKAS / Anchorage Daily News

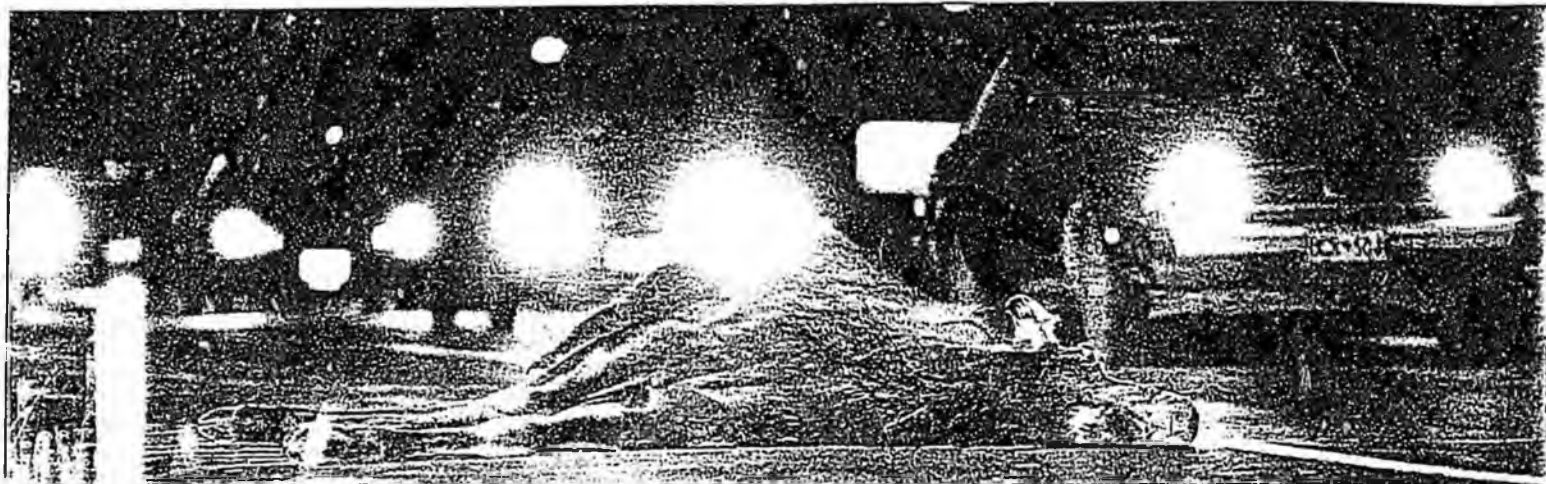
Doug Tryck battled two moose this spring but lost this mountain ash that was imported from China to the browsing animals.

By
Doug
O'Harra

The latest tale of Anchorage's wintertime encounter with hundreds of hungry moose begins with a single biological fact: When too much snow cloaks the ground anymore, the moose here simply can't find enough natural willow and birch to eat.

Some 1,250 moose range across the Anchorage Bowl between McHugh Creek and Ship Creek. Include the entire municipality — Portage to the Knik River — and the number goes up to more than 2,000 animals in an area that once held 1,000 or fewer only a few decades ago.

As the population of moose has risen, its range has steadily gotten smaller. "We're losing habitat all around the



JIM LAVRAKAS / Anchorage Daily News (10/10/91)

A dead moose lies along the Glenn Highway. This winter, officials estimate, 120 moose were killed by vehicles in Anchorage.

Continued from previous page
city here to development," says biologist Mike McDonald.

And the land that is available to provide winter mouse food apparently has less and less of it with each passing year. Why? Because too many moose have eaten so much, so often that the trees and brush haven't had enough time to grow back.

"The fact is that there are more moose in the Anchorage area than the habitat can support," concludes Dave Harkness, the state's area biologist.

(Anchorage's moose simply don't have enough predators to keep their numbers down, biologists says. Sure, cars kill some, and animals are taken in hunts on Fort Richardson and up Ship Creek. But almost no predation occurs by wolves or bears. According to Harkness and McDonald, a traditional game-management solution would be to hold a hunt aimed at the moose living in the Anchorage Bowl. Yet the last urban hunt, nearly 10 years ago, was a public relations disaster for the state.)

In the meantime, what do the moose do during a winter of deep snow? They stumble out of the hills, emerge from the greenbelts, march into the subdivisions, forage off the sidewalks. Often they eat ornamental trees. And why not?

"They're not dumb" McDonald says. "They'll use the easiest way (to feed themselves) they can find. Once they get to a spot with food, they don't like to move away."

Think of it like an equation: Too many moose competing for diminished browse plus deep snow equals confrontations with humans and collisions with cars.

Some 120 moose died in Anchorage this winter after being hit by cars and trucks — the second highest number in the city's history. Hundreds of people called state officials and police with complaints: The moose are eating my trees.

To some extent, that sort of

thing happens every winter. But this year, events took a bizarre turn. To the dismay of biologists and wildlife officers and people who understand wildlife ecology, large numbers of Anchorage residents were found feeding moose fresh groceries. Things like apples, carrots, cabbage, iceberg lettuce.

Feeding them caused scores of moose to associate people with dinner, creating some of the most ludicrous moose problems biologists here have ever seen. Calves trotted up to terrified strangers (all humans look alike) only to nudge or kick them for a serving. Young bulls belligerently charged people who — from the moose's point of view — rudely failed to bring the salad.

All over town, conflicts between humans and moose became as common as fender benders after an ice storm. Moose charged people, haunted school playgrounds, blocked access to doorways. Six people were kicked, and hundreds more experienced close encounters. Biologists and wildlife protection officers say they've never received so many calls about moose before.

"I can't remember a worse year," says McDonald. And others agree.

The Moose That Came To Dinner

The pink-fruited mountain ash from western China had flourished over 13 Alaska winters inside Doug Tryck's yard in South Anchorage. Carefully grafted to cold-climate roots, the rare ash was part of Tryck's collection of 3,000 trees and plants — Mongolian lindens, Russian rock birches, rare apple and pear trees among them. Like many of the other species in his collection, the mountain ash was just the sort of plant moose love to eat. "Moose candy," Tryck

calls them.

But the Anchorage school teacher also knows how to protect his trees. Operating a small commercial nursery out of his home on Rabbit Creek Road each summer, Tryck has made it his business to instruct his customers on how to keep expensive ornamentals from becoming moose entrees.

He knows from experience. Once, eight years ago, a moose got inside his yard and permanently damaged several valuable trees. He beefed up his security, bought a case of Roman candles and erected a large gate to augment a 7-foot-high chain-link fence. Tryck then believed his trees were safe.

"I thought I had covered every base," he says now. "In eight years, no moose has been in here." But Tryck didn't count on the second heaviest snow in 35 years creating new avenues into his compound — all-but burying his fence in some places, knocking a tree through it in another. Not even Tryck, who had gone to a lot of trouble to avoid feeding moose, was immune.

Which brings us to a young bull moose: Healthy, ornery, determined — and hungry.

Tryck had spent nearly every day during a two-week period in March chasing this young bull and a young cow from his yard. The animals would leave for a while, and Tryck would block what he thought was their access. But almost every day, they found a new place to leap the fence and dine on Tryck's trees.

They kept coming back because, as Tryck puts it, "this was a really tasty place."

After chasing the moose with Roman candle fireworks (a method used by state biologists and officers to scare off the animals) and surviving one moose charge at close quarters, Tryck thought he had prevailed. One day, the bull and cow didn't show. Dozens of trees already had been ravaged, but the nurseryman in Tryck thought he could prune them back to life. He wouldn't harvest any

apples this year, but at least nothing was dead. And he'd seen the last of the moose.

But the young bull returned.

In the cold morning air of mid-April, it ambled through Tryck's collection once again, sniffing this plant, biting that bud. Eating tree after tree.

Finally the moose arrived at the mountain ash, Tryck's prize tree.

It commenced eating. After it consumed all the buds within reach, the bull tore several limbs to the ground — so it could eat those hard-to-get-at tips. Soon twigs and branches littered the snow, and the tree, representing more than a decade of dedicated horticulture, had a sort of bony, barren look. But the plate wasn't quite clean.

The moose snuffled the trunk, then began peeling it sliver by sliver. By the time a neighbor called Tryck to tell him that, hey, there's another moose in your yard, the young bull had scalloped the trunk clear around. It looked as though a team of cub scouts armed with pocket knives had spent the morning whittling.

Tryck dashed outside his house armed with a Roman candle and a box of strike-anywhere kitchen matches. He was furious. He reached a hill above the moose and started trying to ignite the fireworks. Man glared at moose; moose eyeballed man. The young bull flattened its ears, sluffed its ruff and began striding purposefully toward Tryck through the beds of nursery plants.

The Roman candle burst aflame and Tryck trained it on the moose. The first sparkling blast stopped the animal. The second made it rear. The third caused it to dash off into the woods. The Roman candle blazing, Tryck chased the moose around his 2½ acres and out the gate.

The young bull came back only one more time, chased Tryck onto his deck, then dashed through an opening in the fence — again under fire by Roman candles. For his own part, Tryck once again blocked the opening with chicken

wire. Then he called the state Department of Fish and Game and pleaded with area biologist Dave Harkness to do something about this moose.

Harkness brought Tryck some more Roman candles and urged him to build a higher fence. But it is a longstanding policy that the state does not move moose and only shoots them in extraordinary circumstances — when the moose is injured or a direct threat to human safety. There was nothing the state could do for Tryck.

A lifelong Anchorage resident, Tryck says he understands the state's policy. But he has spent more than a decade raising plants in an enclosed yard. He's taken some pretty expensive precautions to protect them from moose. He isn't some displaced Texan planting crab apples at the curb.

Tryck believes the state should have done something.

"I am a conservationist," he says. "But I don't feel I have to have moose and bear living inside my backyard.

"It's frustrating, because I've been led to believe there's nothing we can do. I should not have to go through that, it should not be that way. They need to be managed like all the rest of the wildlife."

Bulls Will Be Bulls

In the neighborhoods of South Anchorage, scores of moose breed, give birth, live out their lives.

People come to recognize individual animals as they grow up. In the Ocean Park subdivision near Klatt and Johns roads, a young bull was born in the spring of 1991, remained with its mother throughout summer and fall — then branched off on its own during late winter of this year.

State wildlife protection officer Brian Larson lives in the same neighborhood. Over the winter, Larson watched and heard stories of how the cute young bull transformed itself from the neighborhood darling into a macho and cantankerous adolescent that had staked out subdivision streets as its personal dining room.

The moose would stand in driveways and charge residents who had the gall to step outside. He once kicked the side of a house — simply because someone looked out the window. Gradually, as the bull lay siege to the neighborhood, Larson's office received dozens of complaints.

"He has probably generated more calls than any other moose in town," he says.

An enforcement officer for three years, Larson was no stranger to this moose. When it was younger, he'd once stopped traffic on a busy street so the bull calf and its mother could cross. But Larson also knew how dangerous a

rambunctious moose can become:

Last fall, while trying to drive a different young bull from a child-pedestrian path into the school grounds at Baxter Elementary, he found himself dodging repeated charges. His foot caught in a root and he went down. The moose tromped him in the shoulder before dashing away.

Such a kick could kill a child. So after the Ocean Park moose actually trapped a neighborhood kid on a porch for 30 minutes one morning, Larson decided the animal had become too dangerous. He found the bull and killed it with a shotgun slug.

What made the moose get so aggressive?

To Larson, it was obvious. "People feed the moose, and he becomes habituated to people. Probably half the people in the neighborhood were feeding that moose."

Moose that are fed quickly come to expect food from every human they see. They're no longer shy. Some even become demanding.

Larson investigated another incident this year where a moose bit and kicked a woman in the head outside her West Anchorage condo. It turned out that the woman had been feeding the moose all winter. For carrots, the moose was affable and pleasant. Then one day the woman made the mistake of offering the moose an outstretched mitten of snow. . . .

Larson decided not to kill that moose. By the time he tracked it down, it had moved away from human dwellings and was feeding in a greenbelt. But human-fed moose often suffer a different fate.

"When you start feeding a wild animal, you start the process of its death," he says. "You speed it up."

After such incidents became more and more common, Larson and other officers scoured state law, searching for some regulation prohibiting the feeding of moose. "It would have given us something we could work with, something to stop the feeding," he said.

Here's what they found: It's illegal to feed bears, wolves and other predators. It's illegal to corral a moose and try to tame it. But nothing in state or municipal law prevents someone from feeding a wild moose. Even if it jeopardizes the moose's life.

"Maybe that's the point people are just missing," Larson says. "Humans become the cause of death."

Love and Death In Mountain View

Sometime in the cold, dark days of January, a cow and her bull calf ambled out of the wilderness along Ship Creek onto the streets of northern Mountain View.

Dinner was served.

As with most Anchorage neighborhoods, the streets of Mountain View offered a small amount of natural browse and ornamental trees. Along with another cow and calf — who eventually left the area on their own — the two moose would have swept through the neighborhood in a week or two, pruning back the browse, consuming the buds. Then they would have moved on.

But these moose did not move on. They stayed.

"I would say it's safe to say that half the people who live there were feeding the moose," says Larson.

Singling out an individual doesn't even make sense. According to Larson and other officers and residents, scores of people threw down grocery food — apples, carrots, cabbage, lettuce — for the moose to eat.

After Anchorage police and state wildlife officers started receiving calls once or twice a day, Larson started to tail the pair in his truck. With growing amazement, he watched them meander from one yard to the next, stopping to sniff and forage open areas of the snow.

"It was obvious they were going to places where they expected to be fed," Larson says.

He responded to the first complaint on Feb. 9: There was a cow and calf bothering children in a backyard. But, in what became a common pattern, the animals were browsing peacefully in someone else's yard by the time Larson arrived. They ignored him.

Nearly every day for the next two months, someone called to complain about the cow and her offspring. Larson and other wildlife protection officers responded 16 times, Anchorage police even more often. People began to behave stranger and stranger toward the moose.

Small boys of the neighborhood took to pelting the pair with snowballs, trying to get the animals to chase them. One boy was caught standing before the cow like a matador, his coat turned inside-out so the red lining showed.

Most of the time, Larson says, the cow stared with a moosey disdain at such antics. But on Feb. 27, she finally charged two boys who were throwing snowballs, knocking one down and stepping on him. The child, a 6-year-old, was bruised but not seriously injured when examined by paramedics. When officers arrived, the moose had bedded down in a yard nearby.

As long as people stayed clear, she seemed content to leave humans alone. The officers decided she wasn't unnaturally aggressive. "This cow was familiar with people," Larson says. "This cow did not get upset about people just being close."

During one call, Larson escorted two children past the mother and calf. Both moose scarcely glanced

in the direction of the humans. Obviously, they had adapted well to life in town. Too well.

On the afternoon of March 10, a woman who police say was intoxicated went up to the cow in an alley outside some Mountain View apartment buildings — a place where people had been feeding the moose. She grabbed the moose by the ears and pulled her head down to give her a kiss, according to Larson. The cow jerked back, but did nothing else. Then the woman threw her loving arms around the calf's neck.

"And the cow unloaded on her," Larson says.

The moose bit the woman, knocked her down and stepped on her.

By the time Larson arrived at the scene, more than 25 people had crowded into the alley and the moose and her calf were hemmed in. The woman had gone into a friend's house and was refusing medical help. Using a vehicle and a Roman candle, Larson and Anchorage police Sgt. Gary Apperson chased the moose out of the alley and across the street. But it was difficult to get people out of the way.

"They wanted to see the show," Larson says.

Over the next few weeks, confrontations became more and more common: the cow and calf would stake out someone's yard and refuse to leave, they would stand at a school bus stop, they would be reported "bothering children." On March 18, the cow chased one boy up a tree after he pelted her with snowballs. Over and over, Larson says, he or other officers would respond to calls and conclude that the moose and her calf had been trying to mind their own business but had been bothered by people. Larson and other officials at the state division of wildlife protection began urging the state Department of Fish and Game to move this particular pair. But Anchorage wildlife managers held firm to their policy of never moving "nuisance" moose.

Anchorage police and wildlife officials continued to warn people that if they kept feeding the cow and calf, the moose would eventually get into trouble and die.

"It's a good chance that something is going to happen," Anchorage police Lt. Bill Gaither told a reporter on March 22. "It's the people that created the hazardous situation, and the moose that will have to pay the consequences."

Two days later, it happened. Toward the end of the day, the Mountain View cow and calf had staked out a courtyard among a group of apartment buildings. They would not budge, and children coming home from school could not get into their homes. Larson and officer Bob Beasley arrived and decided they would

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page
try to drive the moose through the yards, down an alley, across a street and onto a path leading to Ship Creek and the woods.

With Beasley blocking an escape route with his car, Larson squared off and drove the cow and calf out between the apartment buildings. As he strode over the spot that the moose had staked out, he looked down: fresh carrots littered the snow. Once again, someone had been feeding the moose.

Gradually, a few hundred feet at a time, Larson and Beasley got

the moose out into the street near the animal trail to Ship Creek. With their vehicles blocking the street, effectively putting a barrier between the moose and the neighborhood, the two men tried over and over to force the them to flee into the woods. They fired salvos of Roman candles and cracker shells. They shouted. They waved their arms. But the moose balked.

"They'd look at the trail and try to jump over the bumpers of the vehicles," Larson says. "They absolutely refused to go."

Finally the cow leapt past the men. The calf followed. The two moose dashed back toward the neighborhood. Destination? Carrot city.

Larson was disgusted and frustrated. But who could blame the moose? "They didn't want to eat willow browse," he says. "They wanted nice fresh grocery food. Stuff from Carrs is fresher than old, frozen willow twigs."

With Larson on its trail, the cow strode off through the neighborhood, calf following, and walked up into someone's yard.

charge him, he pulled out a canister of cayenne-pepper-based "Counter Assault" — a strong irritant used to discourage attacks by animals — and sprayed her.

The cow's eyes swelled shut and she stood for a few moments without moving. Then she moved 10 or 15 feet and bedded down. Larson and Beasley shot off a cracker shell, hoping to herd the animal back toward the woods. But now she wouldn't budge.

"At that point, we decided we weren't going to win the battle, and we backed off," Larson says.

The two men coaxed the calf away from the driveway toward its mother. The two animals moved further east — deeper into the neighborhood — and bedded down away from houses and people in the back of a vacant lot. "She was about as far away from people as you can get in Mountain View," Larson says.

When he left the neighborhood, it was about 5:30 p.m.

Larson decided he would make one more effort to ask Harkness and McDonald if they wouldn't consider moving the moose. If not, it seemed inevitable that the animal would have to be killed. The mother was simply getting too fearless, too bold, too stubborn. It was only a matter of time before she or the calf seriously injured a child.

Sometime in the next few hours, perhaps about 7:30 p.m., Anchorage police received a report of two gunshots in the area. Investigating officers found nothing.

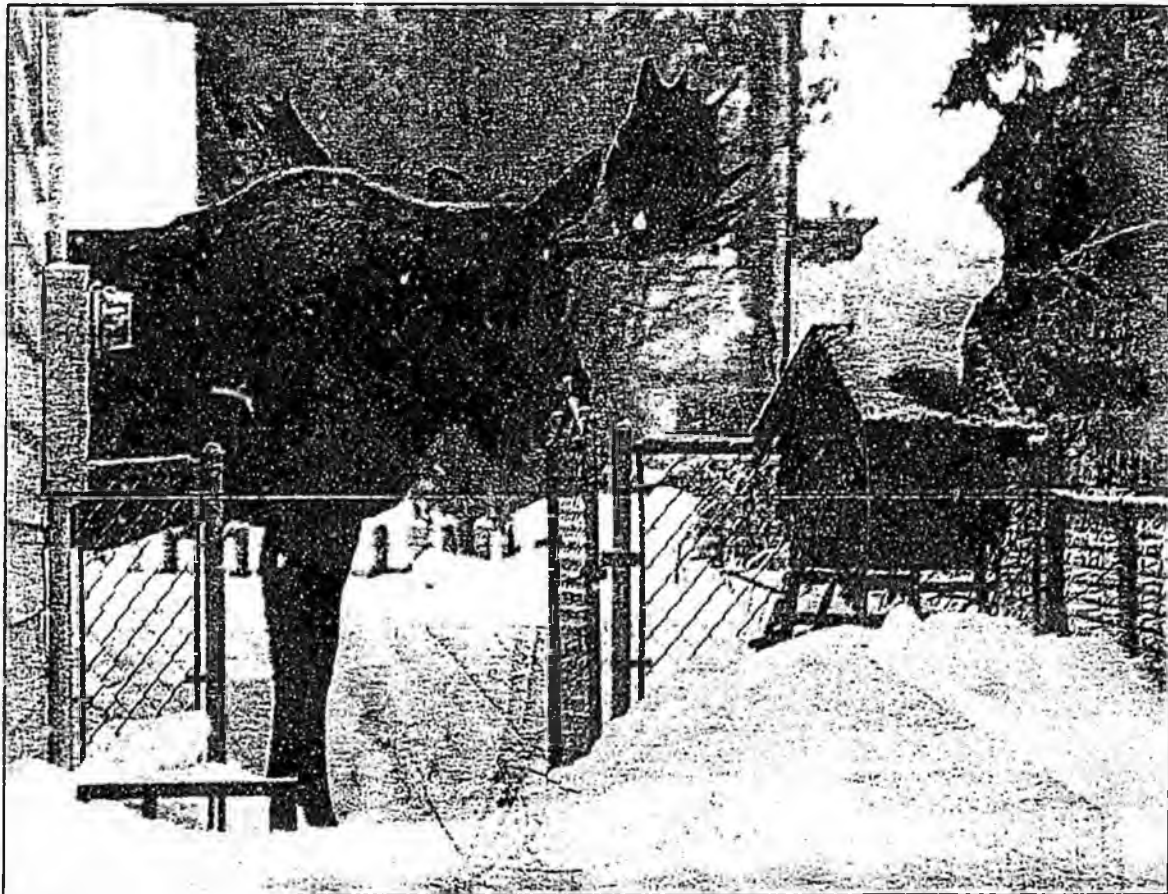
In the morning, Larson drove straight to Fish and Game headquarters in mid-town. But before he could present state biologists with his plea to move the Mountain View moose, he received a call from his office: The cow had been found shot.

When Larson joined wildlife protection Sgt. Art Paul in Mountain View about 9:30 a.m., the moose was lying in an alley, about 50 feet from where Larson had left her the night before. Her head was down, and she wouldn't react when the officers tried to rouse her.

"She was nonresponsive," Larson says. "She was sick."

For an hour, the two men watched over the moose, hoping she would rouse up. But it became obvious the moose was dying. So Paul killed her with a shotgun slug to the head. An examination found two previous bullet holes to the torso — one back of the right shoulder, the other just forward of the pelvis. Gut shot.

Larson believes the shots came from a .22 caliber weapon that fired a hard, low-velocity bullet. The sort of cheap, rim-fire ammunition commonly used for target practice. Though no bullets were ever found, Larson believes the projectiles probably punctured the moose's internal organs.



BOB HALLINEN / Anchorage Daily News

When the snow gets deep, moose are a common sight in city neighborhoods.

'It's a good chance that something is going to happen. It's the people that created the hazardous situation, and the moose that will have to pay the consequences.'

— Anchorage police Lt. Bill Gaitner talking to reporter March 22



BOB HALLINEN / Anchorage Daily News

A moose feeds in a vacant lot in

Suddenly a man stepped out of his house and threw down two carrots.

Larson was amazed — and angry. He told the man that he and another officer were trying to move the animals. Right that minute. He told him that feeding the moose made moving them harder. He told him that feeding the moose, in fact, would probably get the animals killed. It was hard, Larson would say later, to remain polite.

He says the man replied: "Oh, I didn't realize."

Larson drove the cow back into a yard, but the moose finally decided it had had enough pestering by the officer. "We wanted her to turn and go 180 degrees from where she was heading," Larson says.

The cow flattened her ears. Her hair stood up. As Larson realized



PAUL SOUDERS / Anchorage Daily News

A cow and its calf, that made their home in Mountain View, take a break in the snow. Both animals were killed before the snow disappeared.

Continued from previous page

flooding the moose's body cavity with toxins, leading toward a slow and agonizing death.

"It would have been very painful," he says. Similar to what a human being would feel after experiencing a burst appendix.

The moose flesh was salvaged by a charity, and the calf wandered off into the neighborhood. Larson and Paul went back to their office. Two suspects were later interviewed, but a lack of evidence eventually led Larson to drop the case.

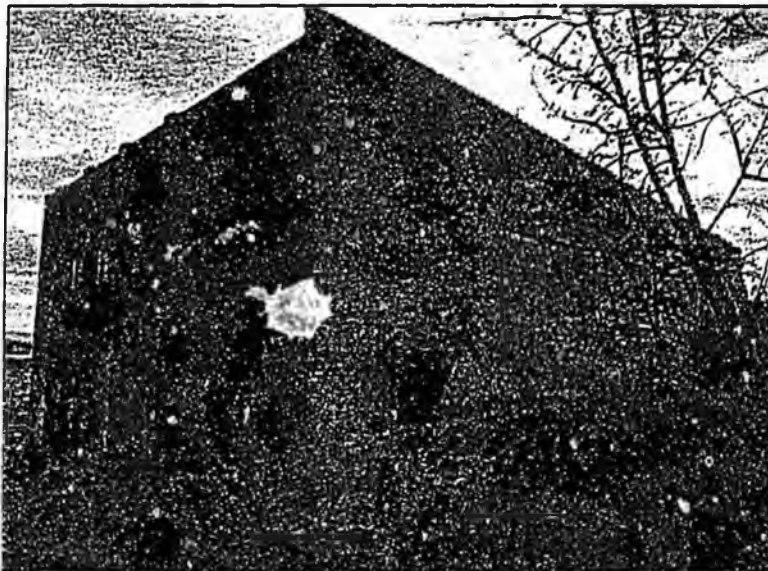
Why would someone gut-shoot a neighborhood moose?

Perhaps it was someone who was cornered or got kicked. Perhaps it was someone who came upon the moose at random and simply shot it for thrills. But Larson believes the person who gut-shot the moose simply wanted to make the neighborhood safe again.

"Someone who thought, 'Enough is enough — since they (the state) can't do their job, I will assist them,'" the officer says, with some disgust.

The final chapter in the story of the Mountain View moose came one week later, on April 1. The day of fools.

The orphaned calf wandered onto Mountain View Elementary school grounds during recess,



BOB HALLINEN / Anchorage Daily News

A moose pauses in its wandering and feeding near a building this spring.

chasing children, charging the school principal. In the ensuing uproar the calf was driven into the street. From there someone tried to herd it away from the school with a vehicle. The calf stumbled on the ice, fell down, and the vehicle slammed into the animal's shoulder and broke it.

Larson and state biologist Mike McDonald showed up about 1 p.m. The calf was down and could not

rise. Like horses, moose with broken shoulders or legs rarely heal. A moose in Anchorage with a broken limb would likely starve or be harassed to death by dogs. So the calf was shot and killed.

During his investigation of the calf's death, Larson tracked down the driver of the vehicle involved — but concluded no crime had been committed. The person had been trying to protect the children and

was only driving 15 mph. "It was someone trying to help out."

People Deserve The Blame

In a town where too many moose compete for too little natural food, the Mountain View moose found a cornucopia of fabulous and juicy eats. Who can blame them for staying in Mountain View? No moose alive would choose sinewy willow twigs over Carrs carrots.

The people who fed them undoubtedly had good intentions. After all, weren't they just feeding hungry animals during a tough winter? Was that, in itself, such a bad thing to do?

But however innocent and well-meaning the impulse, feeding wild, 800-pound animals in a neighborhood full of children can only lead toward one end.

Left alone, those moose might have starved, though probably they would have struggled through the winter alive. People were repeatedly warned that the moose would end up dead if people didn't stop feeding them. If there's a lesson, it must be this: people will behave like people, and moose will behave like moose. The feeding didn't stop. And the moose died as a result.

8-LS0371NR
Utermohle
4/16/93

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 46()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS MILLER, Frank, Pearce, Sharp, Taylor
REPRESENTATIVE Therriault

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to moose farming and relating to game farming."

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

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

4 (a) The commissioner of natural resources shall

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

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

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

1 agricultural industry in the state;

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

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

13 (6) regulate the farming of domesticated game animals [ELK] in a
14 manner similar to the manner in which the commissioner regulates domestic animals
15 and livestock, to the extent that is appropriate.

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

17 (b) The commissioner of environmental conservation shall regulate the farming
18 of domesticated game animals [ELK] in a manner similar to the manner in which the
19 commissioner regulates domestic animals and livestock, to the extent that is
20 appropriate.

21 * Sec. 3. AS 03.05 is amended by adding a new section to read:

22 Sec. 03.05.075. GAME FARMING. (a) A person may not engage in game
23 farming or possess domesticated game animals without having first obtained an annual
24 game farming license for that species from the commissioner of natural resources. The
25 commissioner shall issue a game farming license, that indicates the species of
26 domesticated game animal or animals for which the license is issued, to a person who
27 intends to engage in game farming of the domesticated game animal or animals,
28 obtains a certificate under AS 03.25.020, and possesses facilities that the commissioner
29 determines are sufficient to maintain the domesticated game animals under positive
30 control and to prevent injury to domesticated game animals and their handlers. The
31 annual game farming license fee is \$125.

1 (b) A person who holds a game farming license under this section, shall

2 (1) brand or mark each domesticated game animal received and the
3 progeny of any animal received with an appropriate mark, brand, or tattoo as approved
4 by the commissioner under AS 03.40 and with a highly visible, numbered ear tag;

5 (2) register the domesticated game animals, however acquired, and the
6 progeny of those animals with the commissioner within 30 days after the animals are
7 acquired;

8 (3) construct and maintain a fence that is adequate to prevent the
9 escape of the domesticated game animals and to exclude wild game;

10 (4) establish and maintain a contractual relationship with a veterinarian
11 to monitor a comprehensive herd health program;

12 (5) notify the commissioner within 30 days of the birth, sale, slaughter,
13 or death of one or more of the animals or their progeny;

14 (6) notify the commissioner of fish and game, the commissioner of
15 environmental conservation, and the commissioner of natural resources within 24 hours
16 after

17 (A) a domesticated game animal escapes; or

18 (B) wild big game enters a facility where domesticated game
19 animals are present.

20 (c) The slaughter of domesticated game animals and the sale of meat resulting
21 from the slaughter of domesticated game animals are subject to this title, regulations
22 adopted under this title, and other applicable law.

23 (d) A person who receives animals under AS 16.40.010 may not raise the
24 animals and domestic livestock in the same fenced area.

25 (e) The commissioner of natural resources or the commissioner of
26 environmental conservation may require a person who holds a game farming license
27 under this section to provide at the person's cost for a complete necropsy by a
28 veterinarian approved by the commissioner of environmental conservation to determine
29 the cause of death of a domesticated game animal if the cause of death is not apparent.

30 (f) The commissioner may adopt regulations as necessary to implement this
31 section and AS 03.05.010(a)(6).

1 (g) In this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "commissioner"
2 means the commissioner of natural resources.

3 * Sec. 4. AS 03.05.100 is amended by adding new paragraphs to read:

4 (4) "domesticated game animal" means lawfully owned bison, caribou,
5 elk, moose, and musk oxen;

6 (5) "game farming" means an agricultural enterprise engaged in raising
7 and breeding domesticated game animals as domestic livestock for commercial,
8 scientific, or educational purposes;

9 (6) "lawfully owned" means ownership was obtained without violating
10 a state or federal law or regulation, or a condition of a license or permit issued with
11 respect to the acquisition of a domesticated game animal.

12 * Sec. 5. AS 03.25.010 is amended to read:

13 Sec. 03.25.010. COMMISSIONER AUTHORIZED TO EMPLOY
14 VETERINARIANS. The commissioner may either independently or in cooperation
15 with the United States Department of the Interior or a college or a university or like
16 institution employ veterinarians for periods found to be to the best advantage for the
17 purpose of aid and service to the fur raising industry and game farming industry, and
18 for the purpose of aid and service to those engaged in raising livestock and other
19 domestic animals.

20 * Sec. 6. AS 03.25.020 is amended to read:

21 Sec. 03.25.020. DUTIES OF VETERINARIANS. Veterinarians shall

22 (1) visit the fur farms and game farms of the state, study problems
23 incidental to raising fur bearing animals and domesticated game animals and advise
24 those engaged in the industry in matters pertaining to the breeding and care of fur
25 bearing animals and domesticated game animals and the prevention and cure of
26 diseases of fur bearing animals and domesticated game animals;

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

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

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

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

9 (6) study problems incidental to the raising of livestock, [AND] other
10 domestic animals, and domesticated game animals, and advise those engaged therein
11 upon matters pertaining to the breeding, care, and the prevention and cure of diseases
12 of livestock, [AND] other domestic animals, and domesticated game animals;

13 (7) issue a certificate to a person who has applied to the
14 commissioner of natural resources to receive a game farming license under
15 AS 03.05.075 if the applicant has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the
16 veterinarian that the applicant has the ability to prevent and detect the spread of
17 disease and parasites from

18 (A) domesticated game animals to wild game;

19 (B) domestic animals to domesticated game animals; and

20 (C) domesticated game animals to domestic animals.

21 * Sec. 7. AS 03.25.250 is amended to read:

22 Sec. 03.25.250. DEFINITIONS [DEFINITION]. In this chapter,

23 (1) "commissioner" means the commissioner of environmental
24 conservation;

25 (2) "domesticated game animal" has the meaning given in
26 AS 03.05.100;

27 (3) "game farming" has the meaning given in AS 03.05.100.

28 * Sec. 8. AS 03.40.010 is amended to read:

29 Sec. 03.40.010. BRANDS AND MARKS. Any person owning cattle, reindeer,
30 domesticated game animals [BISON, MUSKOX], sheep, horses, mules, or asses [,]
31 may adopt a brand or mark. After recording the brand or mark as provided in

1 AS 03.40.030, the person has the exclusive right to its use.

2 * Sec. 9. AS 03.40.050 is amended to read:

3 Sec. 03.40.050. USE WITHOUT CERTIFICATE PROHIBITED. A person
4 may not brand any horse, cattle, reindeer, domesticated game animal, [BISON,
5 MUSK OX] mule, or ass, unless the person using the brand holds a written certificate
6 of acceptance from the commissioner.

7 * Sec. 10. AS 03.40.270 is amended to read:

8 Sec. 03.40.270. DEFINITIONS. In [AS USED IN] this chapter, [A]

9 (1) "brand" means an identification mark burned into the hide of a live
10 animal;

11 (2) "domesticated game animal" has the meaning given in
12 AS 03.05.100.

13 * Sec. 11. AS 16.05.330(a) is amended to read:

14 (a) Except as otherwise permitted in this chapter, without having the
15 appropriate license or tag in actual possession a person may not engage in

- 16 (1) sport fishing, including the taking of razor clams;
- 17 (2) hunting, trapping, or fur dealing;
- 18 (3) the farming of fish, fur animals, or game reptiles; or
- 19 (4) taxidermy.

20 * Sec. 12. AS 16.05.340(a)(18)(A) is amended to read:

21 (A) Game [MAMMAL OR GAME] reptile farming biennial
22 license \$250

23 * Sec. 13. AS 16.05.940(10) is amended to read:

24 (10) "domestic mammals" include domesticated game animals, as
25 defined in AS 03.05.100 [MUSK OXEN, BISON, ELK,] and reindeer, if they are
26 lawfully owned;

27 * Sec. 14. AS 16.40.010 is amended to read:

28 Sec. 16.40.010. DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS GAME ANIMALS [BUFFALO
29 AND MUSK OXEN]. Whenever it is determined by the department that a surplus of
30 bison, caribou, elk, moose, or musk oxen exists [IN THE HERDS OF BUFFALO
31 AND MUSK OXEN UNDER ITS CONTROL], the department may, under regulations

1 adopted by it, issue a permit to take [GRANT] the surplus or portions of the surplus
2 to a person [IT TO PERSONS, GROUPS, ASSOCIATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS, OR
3 CORPORATIONS] for the purpose of raising and breeding the animals as domestic
4 stock for commercial purposes, or for scientific and educational purposes. A person
5 [, GROUP, ASSOCIATION, PARTNERSHIP, OR CORPORATION] may receive a permit
6 [ANIMALS] only after

7 (1) obtaining an appropriate game farming license under
8 AS 03.05.075; and

9 (2) paving a reasonable permit fee that covers the costs of
10 reviewing the application for the permit and, if the application is approved, the
11 costs of supervising the taking of the animals [PROVING TO THE
12 SATISFACTION OF THE DEPARTMENT

13 (1) INTENT TO RAISE AND BREED THE ANIMALS; AND

14 (2) POSSESSION OF FACILITIES FOR MAINTAINING THE
15 ANIMALS UNDER POSITIVE CONTROL].

16 * Sec. 15. AS 16.40.010 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

17 (b) The department shall consider disposing of nonfatally injured, or live
18 abandoned calves of, bison, caribou, elk, moose, or musk oxen that cannot be returned
19 to the wild to a person who holds an appropriate game farming license under
20 AS 03.05.075.

21 (c) After a person acquires an animal under this section, a license or permit
22 from the department is not required in order to possess the animal for the purpose of
23 game farming. The possession and utilization of animals acquired under this section
24 for the purpose of game farming are subject to the provisions of AS 03 and regulations
25 adopted under AS 03.

26 (d) A live bison, caribou, elk, moose, or musk oxen may not be captured from
27 the wild or released into the wild without a permit from the department. A license or
28 permit from the department is not required in order to import, export, or possess bison,
29 caribou, elk, moose, or musk oxen for the purpose of game farming. Bison, caribou,
30 elk, moose, or musk oxen imported, exported, or possessed for the purpose of game
31 farming are subject to the provisions of AS 03 and regulations adopted under AS 03.

1 * Sec. 16. AS 16.40.020 and 16.40.050 are repealed.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CSSB 46 (Fin) (version "J")
and new WORK DRAFT (version "R")**

In summary, the work draft before you of Senate Bill 46 differs from the Senate Finance Committee Substitute in the following ways:

1) It adds caribou to the list of game animals that may be farmed; the Senate Finance CS added only moose.

2) It transfers some regulatory authority from ADF&G to DNR so that ADF&G only has to deal with disposing of wild game animals to game farmers. Once the animals become privately owned, game farming would be regulated by DNR (and DEC to some extent); in the Senate Finance CS much game farming authority was given to ADF&G.

3) It gives DNR authority to issue game farming licenses, formerly a function of ADF&G.

4) It gives ADF&G authority to issue permits to qualified game farmers to obtain big game animals from the wild.

5) It revises all language in the bill so that game farming laws apply to all species (this was not the case under current law).

6) It adds definitions of new terms including "domesticated game animal," "game farming," and "lawfully owned."

**FOLLOWING IS A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE CHANGES IN
THE WORK DRAFT OF SB 46**

Throughout the work draft, certain sections of existing law that refer to specific farmed species of game (e.g. elk, musk oxen, bison, etc.) have been expanded to simply say "domesticated game animals" so that game farming laws and regulations apply uniformly to all legal species, and will apply in the future if new species are added to the list.

Also, throughout the work draft, the term "captive game animals" has been changed to "domesticated game animals."

Section 1.

No changes.

Section 2.

No changes (except technical: "captive" changed to "domesticated").

Section 3.

Subsection (a)

Provides DNR with the authority to issue game farming licenses and specifies the requirements that must be met by the applicant in order to qualify.

(In the Senate Finance CS, licensing authority was under the Dept. of Fish & Game. In the work draft, that authority was shifted to DNR since DNR is already responsible for the majority of game farming oversight and since it seems appropriate to relieve the Dept. of Fish & Game of such duties since their responsibility is to manage wild stocks rather than domestic animals.

Subsection (b)

Transfers the authority of the ADF&G to require certain functions of game farmers to DNR.

SB46 WORK DRAFT

Page 2

(Again, this change was made in order to place game farming regulatory authority with the proper agency.)

Those requirements in the work draft were revised as follows:

(1) No changes.

(2) The work draft requires a game farmer to register their animals with one agency - DNR. This information will be available to all other agencies who request it.

(The Senate Finance CS required registration with 3 agencies - DNR, DEC and ADF&G - which was overburdensome and unnecessary.)

(3) No changes.

(4) The work draft requires that a vet is to ensure the health of the animals by whatever means are appropriate.

(The Senate Finance CS required an examination of every farmed game animal twice a year. Such intense scrutiny may be unnecessary and could be very costly to the game farmer as well as time consuming to the vet.)

(5) The work draft requires notification to DNR within 30 days of birth, sale, slaughter or death of animals.

(In the Senate Finance CS, no time frame was in place and notification was given to ADF&G.)

(6) The work draft requires notification within 24 hours to all three agencies (DNR, DEC, ADF&G) of escapement and of entry of a wild big game animal on to a game farm.

(The Senate Finance CS only required 24 hour notification of entry of a big game animal.)

The necropsy requirement (*Subsection (b)(6) of the Senate Finance CS*) was moved to Subsection (e) in the work draft and was rewritten so that the exams are conducted at the discretion of DNR or DEC and only if the cause of death is not already apparent.

Section 4.

SB46 WORK DRAFT

Page 3

Adds definitions of "domesticated game animal," "game farming" and "lawfully owned."

Section 5.

No changes.

Section 6.

Technical: "captive" changed to "domesticated."

Also, in the work draft the facilities-adequate-to-prevent-injury requirement was transferred from DEC to DNR since DNR currently regulates fencing.

Section 7.

Refers back to definitions of "domesticated game animal" and "game farming" that appear in AS 03.05.100.

Section 8.

No changes (except technical: "musk ox, moose" changed to "domesticated game animals").

Section 9.

No changes (except technical: "musk ox, moose" changed to "domesticated game animals").

Section 10.

Refers back to definition of "domesticated game animal" that appears in AS 03.05.100.

Sections 11 and 12.

Removes ADF&G's authority to require and charge for a game farming license.

SB46 WORK DRAFT

Page 4

Section 13.

Changes definition of "domestic mammals" in AS 16.05.940 to say "domesticated game animals" rather than "musk oxen, bison, etc."

Section 14.

Adds caribou to list of game that may be transferred to private ownership for game farming. (*The Senate Finance CS added only moose.*)

Transfers ADF&G authority to DNR to require an applicant to prove intent to raise and breed and to show proof of possession of adequate facilities.

Gives ADF&G authority to issue and charge for permits for persons to obtain surplus game animals for game farming purposes.

Section 15.

Subsection (b) is new language which requires ADF&G to consider giving orphaned, abandoned, or other "problem" calves to game farmers.

Currently the department, in certain cases, gives these animals to zoos and/or wildlife parks in and outside Alaska at no charge.

Subsection (c) states that once an animal has been legally obtained, a game farming license or permit is not required from Fish & Game in order to possess the animal.

Subsection (d) states that wild animals may not be captured from the wild without a permit from ADF&G. It also states that a license or permit is not required from ADF&G in order to import, export or possess animals for game farming.

Section 16.

Repealers.

SB46 WORK DRAFT

Page 5

16.40.020, which legalizes the sale of farmed game meat, is transferred from the Fish & Game statute (AS 16) to the Agriculture statute (AS 03).

16.40.050, the elk farming statute, has been weaved into the game farming statutes that would become law if SB 46 passes. Essentially, in the work draft, nothing from the elk farming statute would be diminished or deleted from law, only transferred to places in the statutes.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB 46(FIN)

Revision Date: 12/17/93
 Title: An Act relating to moose farming and relating to game farming
 Sponsor: Senator Miller
 Requestor: House Resources

Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 BRU: Wildlife Conservation
 Component: Wildlife Conservation
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0473

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of any current year (FY 94) cost: \$ 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

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

ADF&G has no regulatory authority for game farming under CSSB 46(FIN), and therefore we anticipate a zero fiscal note. See attached page for extraordinary costs that cannot be predicted or estimated in advance.

Prepared By: David G. Kelleyhouse, Director *DK*
 Division: Wildlife Conservation
 Approved by Commissioner: *[Signature]*
 Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Phone: 465-4190
 Date: 12/17/93
 Date: _____

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Under this bill, regulatory authority for moose farming and game farming is under the Departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. The ADF&G is limited to one-time approval of fencing and recording information received by recipients of moose. Consequently, we do not anticipate additional ordinary operating costs. In the department's view, however, a regulatory effort sufficient to adequately protect Alaska's wildlife resources in the event this bill becomes law would have significant fiscal impacts that should be evident on Fiscal Notes provided by DNR, DEC, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection of DPS.

Under any moose/game farming bill, we anticipate extraordinary but unpredictable costs to the department and state. For example, (1) control of disease: Alberta has spent over \$10 million and destroyed over 2,000 game farm animals in an unsuccessful attempt to control an outbreak of Tb; (2) capturing escaped animals: an unsuccessful effort to prevent escaped game farmed bison in Delta Junction from mixing with the Delta Bison Herd cost the department approximately \$3500 in 1991; (3) predator/prey conflicts: the department periodically has had to respond to demands from livestock ranchers (cattle and bison) on Kodiak Island for control of brown bears.

If this moose/game farming bill were amended to incorporate "recommendations" from the ADF&G *Revised Position Paper*, we would prepare a fiscal note that includes a 12-month, full-time Wildlife Biologist III (58.2/annum beginning in FY95) and associated operating expenditures. This employee would be responsible for coordinating with the state veterinarian, making personal annual inspections of all facilities housing captive moose/game farm animals, issuing and renewing permits, collating and recording reported information from moose/game farmers, keeping abreast of genetic and disease problems identified in other jurisdictions, coordinating and directing all efforts to recover escaped animals and control outbreaks of diseases or parasites in wild game populations.

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED CHANGES FOR
AMENDMENT

TO: HCS FOR CSSB 46()
(Utermohle WORK DRAFT 3/8/94)

Page 2, lines 15-16:

Delete "and animals subject to an experimental animal husbandry permit under AS 16.40.010"

Animals held under Title 16 permits should be regulated by the commissioner of fish and game--not by DNR; DNR should be responsible for game farming and domestic animals, ADF&G should retain responsibility for animal husbandry permits and game animals.

Page 4, lines 11-12:

Delete "caribou, moose, Sitka black-tailed deer"

Caribou, moose and Sitka black-tailed deer should not be defined as "game farm animals until they have been successfully bred under experimental animal husbandry permits.

Page 5, lines 30-31:

Delete "or to an experimental animal husbandry permit under AS 16.40.010"

Animals held under a Title 16, experimental animal husbandry permit should not be defined as "domestic" (and removed from department and fish and game oversight) until they are actually held under a game farming license.

Page 7, lines 28-29, following "The":

Delete "possession and utilization of animals acquired under this section for commercial purposes and"

Title 3 statutes and regulations adopted under Title 3 should apply only to game farm animals--not to animals held under Title 16 permits or used for commercial purposes other than game farming.

Page 8, line 10:

Delete "and sell the meat from"

Sale of meat from animals held under Title 16 experimental animal husbandry permits is inappropriate and could compromise wildlife enforcement regulations adopted by the Board of Game. At such time as ownership of animals held under these permits is transferred to the permittee under Title 3 game farming licenses, sale will become legal.

Page 8, lines 11-17, following "animals":

Delete ", and may charge a fee to the public for viewing of the animals. The preparation and sale of meat or other products under this subsection for human consumption are subject to AS 03 and regulations adopted under AS 03. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this subsection, the possession of animals for experimental animal husbandry purposes is subject to AS 03 and regulations adopted under AS 03 in the same manner as the possession of game farm animals"

POSITION PAPER

Farming of Big Game Animals in Alaska

Department of Environmental Conservation
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Natural Resources

February 1994

INTRODUCTION

Interest in farming big game animals as alternative livestock is increasing in Alaska. Recent legislation authorized farming of North American elk and a bill currently before the legislature would authorize farming of moose. Alaska needs a comprehensive review of game farming to:

1. formulate a state policy on this issue;
2. recommend legislation to authorize and regulate game farming, and;
3. develop fair and effective regulations that will protect the domestic and game farm industries, Alaska's wildlife resources and provide a climate for game farming to grow and prosper.

Representatives from the Departments of Environmental Conservation, Fish and Game and Natural Resources held a series of meetings to discuss game farming. These discussions resulted in this position

paper that outlines the state's policies on game farming. All three departments endorse these recommendations. A representative of the game farm industry in Alaska has also reviewed and endorsed this position paper.

STATUS OF GAME FARMING IN ALASKA

Current laws in Alaska allow four species of big game to be farmed. They are elk, reindeer, bison and muskoxen. Reindeer, bison and muskoxen are defined as domestic animals when privately owned. No permits or licenses are required to farm these animals. North American elk may be privately owned for the purposes of farming under a game mammal farming license issued by the Department of Fish and Game. Private ownership of all other big game species is prohibited by Fish and Game regulations adopted by the Board of Game. The only exception to this is for animals held by zoological parks. Zoological parks own some animals in their possession and retain others owned by the state under educational permits.

There is one muskoxen farm in Alaska. This farm is located near Palmer and has about 50 animals. The animals are owned by "OOMINGMAK", a muskox producers co-operative. This co-operative provides wool to about 200 knitters in many villages in Alaska for production of woolen products.

There are about 45,000 reindeer in Alaska, most are located on the Seward Peninsula in Western Alaska, Nunivak Island and Umnak Island. The federal "Reindeer Act" of 1937 limits ownership of reindeer in Alaska to Alaska Natives. This Act defines reindeer as "reindeer and such caribou as have been introduced into animal husbandry..." Reindeer herding is a growing industry in Alaska. Products include antlers, meat and breeding stock.

There are several small herds of privately owned plains bison in Alaska. The largest farms are near Kodiak, Nenana and Delta. The total number of farmed plains bison in Alaska is about 200, the largest herd has 70 animals.

Alaska has two licensed elk (also called wapiti) farms. The largest, near Soldotna, has been raising elk since 1989 and has about 70 animals. One other farmer near Homer has three elk. Several other people have expressed interest in elk farming and hope to enter into the business in the future. Products from elk farms are antlers, meat and breeding stock.

Current laws and policies allow only the four subspecies of North American elk to be farmed in Alaska. There is interest by some farmers to import red deer for farming. Red deer are a European subspecies of elk. They readily hybridize with the North American subspecies.

Individuals have expressed interest in owning moose for farming. Native and non-Native Alaskans have expressed an interest in owning caribou although the ownership of reindeer and caribou (by definition) is restricted to Native Alaskans by federal law. At this time, no one has expressed interest to the Division of Agriculture or Wildlife Conservation in farming any other species of big game in Alaska.

FUTURE OF BIG GAME FARMING IN ALASKA

Needs of Game Farm Industry

Game farming in Alaska is in its infancy. There is great potential for game farming to grow into a viable, substantial industry in the future. For growth to occur the industry requires consistent state policies across departments, stability in state laws and fair and effective regulations.

Raising game animals successfully under domestic conditions requires knowledgeable and experienced herdsman. There is a need for game farm research provided by the University of Alaska to facilitate effective methods for raising game species as agricultural livestock and provide education and program delivery by the Cooperative Extension Service to promote the game farming industry.

Role of State Government

State agencies must formulate state policies and regulations that provide opportunities for the game farming industry to expand while protecting the domestic livestock industry and the wildlife resources from undue risk. Potential risks to public health and to our wildlife resources can be avoided or minimized by effective regulations.

RECOMMENDED POLICIES

- Big game species that may be farmed in Alaska are:
 - Muskoxen, Ovibos moschatus
 - Plains bison, Bison bison bison
 - Wood bison, Bison bison athabasca
 - Reindeer, Rangifer tarandus tarandus
 - Rocky Mountain elk, Cervus elaphus nelsoni
 - Roosevelt elk, Cervus elaphus roosevelti
 - Tule elk, Cervus elaphus nannodes
 - Manitoba Elk, Cervus elaphus manitobensis

Other species of big game animals can be added to this list under regulations that will be adopted by the Department of Natural Resources. These regulations will provide a procedure

and criteria for review of proposed inclusions to the list of game species that may be farmed. Concurrence of the Commissioners of Natural Resources and Fish and Game will be required before a species can be added or deleted from the list.

Farming of moose as a commercial enterprise has not been shown to be economically feasible. While it is possible to maintain moose in captivity with special feed and proper fencing the behavior of moose is not conducive to a farming operation. Therefore, they should not be included as a species that may be farmed in Alaska. Some individuals desire to own moose for a variety of purposes other than farming. We suggest the legislature create a new permit called an experimental animal husbandry permit. Under regulations promulgated by the Department of Fish and Game individuals would be allowed to hold moose and caribou in captivity. The state would retain ownership of these animals. Roadside attractions that exploit moose will not be allowed. Moose may not be used as pets under current laws.

The Department of Environmental Conservation will be the agency with responsibility and authority for animal health issues. Regulations dealing with import, export and quarantine requirements and disease testing, will be promulgated by the Commissioner of the Department of

Environmental Conservation with advice from the Departments of Fish and Game and Natural Resources.

The Department of Natural Resources will be the agency with responsibility and authority to promulgate regulations related to all other aspects of game farming. These regulations will include permanent identification of animals, records of transfer of ownership, fencing requirements and adding species to the list of game animals that may be farmed. The Departments of Fish and Game and Environmental Conservation will provide advice on these regulations.

The Departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Conservation and Fish and Game will develop a Memorandum of Agreement concerning regulation of the game farming industry. The MOA will delineate areas of responsibility and an enforcement policy.

RECOMMENDED LEGISLATION

SB 46 should be amended to authorize game farming of reindeer, plains and wood bison, muskoxen and elk under regulation of Department of Natural Resources. The legislation should authorize the Department of Natural Resources to develop regulations that establish a procedure for new species to be added to the list of species that may be farmed in Alaska.

During the 1995 legislative session, legislation should be passed clarifying when wildlife can be surplused for use as game farm animals. This legislation should authorize the Department of Fish and Game to develop regulations which establish a process for surplusing wildlife for use as game farm animals. The issue of adding moose, caribou and other species to the list of game species that may be farmed should be addressed after DNR and DFG have such regulations in place.

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REGULATION OF GAME FARMING IN STATES AND PROVINCES

Prepared by Department of Fish and Game
February 1994

Most states and provinces allow farming of game species. The species allowed to be farmed and the regulations governing the industry vary from state to state. Authority to regulate game farming usually resides in either the Department of Fish and Game or the Department of Agriculture. In some jurisdictions (i.e., Colorado, Idaho, Alberta and Louisiana) these agencies share authority for regulations.

During the past 5 years several states, especially western states, have revised their statutes and/or regulations related to game farming. The reasons for these revisions are:

1. interest in game farming, especially elk farming, has increased greatly and more people are entering the industry;
2. importation of red deer from New Zealand created concerns about hybridization with elk; and
3. occurrence of tuberculosis in elk in Alberta increased concern about game farm animals spreading disease to domestic livestock.

New regulations in most states follow recommendations made at a Game Farming Symposium attended by state, provincial and federal veterinarians; and agriculture and wildlife officials. The symposium was held in Idaho in 1991. These regulations require disease testing, permanent animal identification and records to track animal movements.

Status of game farming regulations from several jurisdictions are summarized below. We do not have information from other states.

California: currently has a moratorium on importation of any new non-domestic stock pending development of new disease testing protocols.

Colorado: new regulations written in 1993. Allow farming of Rocky Mountain elk, fallow deer and mule deer. Require disease testing, permanent animal marking, and have fencing standards--red deer and moose are prohibited.

Idaho: currently revising regulations to follow symposium recommendations. Restrict species to Rocky Mountain elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer, fallow deer and reindeer--red deer and moose are prohibited.

- Louisiana:** new statutes passed in 1992, in process of developing regulations to require disease testing, permanent identification through implanted microchip, fencing standards. Allows farming of elk, exotic deer and antelope.
- Montana:** adopted more restrictive regulations in 1992. Allow elk, but prohibit red deer and moose farming.
- Nevada:** new state law (1993) restricts game farming to elk, fallow deer, and reindeer--red deer and moose are prohibited. Regulations following guidelines from Idaho symposium are being drafted.
- New York:** allow farming of several deer species, only elk and fallow deer farmed commercially. A case of TB in a fallow deer resulted in the loss of New York state's certified TB-free status in 1993.
- Oregon:** currently revising all regulations concerning farming of deer species.
- Utah:** new law in 1992 prohibits private ownership of all native and nonnative wildlife species except bison and fallow deer. Game farming is prohibited by statute.
- Washington:** In 1992 passed regulations prohibiting importation and propagation of native deer, elk, moose and caribou--currently in litigation.
- Alberta:** In 1991 passed new law called Comprehensive Livestock Industry Diversification Act. Law licenses game farms, allows farming of elk, deer and moose, prohibits all exotics, including red deer, requires permanent marking and registration. Dr. Terry Church, Director of the Alberta Animal Industry Division wrote to the Alaska Division of Agriculture (October 5, 1993) about game farming. He said, "Moose are raised mostly out of curiosity. They are difficult to manage. They require a browse diet and farmers have not been able to justify the costs of fences for the amount of moose a given pasture will produce. Elk consume the same species of forage a moose does plus a lot more. With elk on a farm, there is really little reason to keep moose. I can't imagine a situation where they will ever be economical."
- Yukon Territory:** Passed new regulations in 1992 allowing farming of elk and prohibiting red deer and moose.

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
MIKE MILLER
P.O. Box 55094
North Pole, Alaska 99705
(907) 488-0862

Senate District 0



Senate

White in Juneau
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1182
(907) 465-4976

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSSB 46 (FIN) "Moose farming and game farming"

CS Senate Bill 46 (Fin) provides for the development of moose farming in Alaska and is intended to expand Alaska's economic development opportunities.

Surplus moose, if an actual surplus exists at any given time, can be provided by the state to an individual or group to raise and breed in captivity. The bill also legalizes the sale of farm raised moose meat.

Under SB 46, DEC, DNR and Fish & Game are given regulatory authority to ensure the safety and health of animals and handlers, and to provide for adequate start-up and monitoring of moose farming activities. Safeguards have been added to help prevent disease, a major concern of the Department of Fish and Game, and to implement the proper regulatory controls to ensure a healthy, viable game farming industry in Alaska.

Animal husbandry is a priority recommendation of the Agriculture Task Force and was recommended during the Joint House/Senate Economic Task Force Mini-Summit public hearings. CSSB 46(Fin) is also supported by DEC, DNR and the Department of Commerce and Economic Development.

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SUMMARY OF AGENCY AUTHORITY UNDER CSSB 46 (FIN)

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES:

- 1) conduct promotional work for the game farming industry;
- 2) regulate game farming as it does other livestock (including branding & marking, and the regulation of fencing and facilities)
- 3) require registration of the animals.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION:

- 1) regulate game farming as it does other livestock (including meat inspections and disease prevention & control);
- 2) visit and inspect game farms and to provide advice on breeding and care;
- 3) certify an applicant's ability to prevent disease transmission to other animals, both wild and domestic;
- 4) certify than an applicant has facilities adequate to prevent injury to animals or handlers; and
- 5) require registration of the animals.

DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME:

- 1) require disease prevention and safety certification from DEC;
- 2) require tattooing and ear tags for identification;
- 3) require escape proof and entry proof fencing;
- 4) require notification of the birth, death, sale, slaughter or escape;
- 5) require payment for a necropsy after death to determine cause;
- 6) require notification when a wild animal enters a farming facility;
and
- 7) require registration of the animals.

FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. CSSB 46(FIN)

STATE OF ALASKA
1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: 3/26/93

Department Affected: Fish and Game

Title: An Act relating to moose farming and relating to game farming.

BRU: Wildlife Conservation

Component: Wildlife Conservation

Sponsor: Senator Miller

Requestor: House Resources

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0473

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING:

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
1003 GF Match	0	0	0	0	0	0
1004 GF	0	0	0	0	0	0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0	0	0	0	0	0
1006 GF/MHTIA	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	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 (FY93) impact: \$ 0

ANALYSIS: ADF&G has no regulatory authority for game farming under CSSB 46(FIN) and therefore we anticipate a zero fiscal note. See attached page for extraordinary costs that cannot be predicted or estimated in advance.

Prepared By: David G. Kelleyhouse

Phone: 465-4190

Division: Wildlife Conservation

Date: March 26, 1993

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]

Agency: Department of Fish and Game

Date: 3/31/93

PREPARER TO

TIVE OFFICE

Under this bill, regulatory authority for moose farming and game farming is under the Departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. The ADF&G is limited to one-time approval of fencing and recording information received by recipients of moose. Consequently, we do not anticipate additional ordinary operating costs. In the department's view, however, a regulatory effort sufficient to adequately protect Alaska's wildlife resources in the event this bill becomes law would have significant fiscal impacts that should be evident on Fiscal Notes provided by DNR, DEC, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection of DPS.

Under any moose/game farming bill, we anticipate extraordinary but unpredictable costs to the department and state. For example, (1) control of disease: Alberta has spent over \$10 million and destroyed over 2,000 game farm animals in an unsuccessful attempt to control an outbreak of Tb; (2) capturing escaped animals: an unsuccessful effort to prevent escaped game farmed bison in Delta Junction from mixing with the Delta Bison Herd cost the department approximately \$3500 in 1991; (3) predator/prey conflicts: the department periodically has had to respond to demands from livestock ranchers (cattle and bison) on Kodiak Island for control of brown bears.

If this moose/game farming bill were amended to incorporate "recommendations" from the ADF&G *Revised Position Paper*, we would prepare a fiscal note that includes a 12-month, full-time Wildlife Biologist III and associated operating expenditures. This employee would be responsible for coordinating with the state veterinarian, making personal annual inspections of all facilities housing captive moose/game farm animals, issuing and renewing permits, collating and recording reported information from moose/game farmers, keeping abreast of genetic and disease problems identified in other jurisdictions, coordinating and directing all efforts to recover escaped animals and control outbreaks of diseases or parasites in wild game populations.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA 1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BELL NO. SB46

Revision Date Original Department Affected: Natural Resources

Title: "An act authorizing moose farming" BRU: Agricultural Development

Components: Agricultural Development

Sponsor: Senators Miller, Frank, Pearce

Requestor: Senators Miller, Frank, Pearce Component Serial No. 455

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL	0.0	1.0	2.0	5.0	10.0	10.0
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND&STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	1.0	2.0	5.0	10.0	10.0

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE fund source:						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	0.0	1.0	2.0	5.0	10.0	10.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	1.0	2.0	5.0	10.0	10.0

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 (FY93) impact: \$ No fiscal impact anticipated

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)
 The Department of Fish & Game currently has authority to declare buffalo and musk oxen surplus and allow for their private use. This bill would allow moose to be declared surplus and thus allow the raising and breeding of moose as domestic stock for commercial purposes, or for scientific and educational purposes. The bill will also authorize the sale of moose meat.

Prepared by: John Cramer, Director Phone: 745-7200
 Division: Agricultural Development Date: 17-Feb-93
 Approved by Commissioner: Glenn A. Olds *Clare McCord* Date: 17-Feb-93
 Agency: Department of Natural Resources

PREPARER TO PROVIDE ALL DISTRIBUTION COPIES TO GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

For further information, contact _____

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1993 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB46 (FIN)

Revision Date: March 3, 1993
 Title: An Act Authorizing Moose Farming
 Sponsor: Senator Miller
 Requestor: Senate Finance

Department Affected: Environmental Conservation
 BRU: Environmental Health
 Component: Animal & Dairy

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 647

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99
PERSONAL SERVICES	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*
TRAVEL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CONTRACTUAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUPPLIES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LAND&STRUCTURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GRANTS,CLAIMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*	0.0*

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:						
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FUNDING:

1002 FEDERAL RECEIPTS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF MATCH	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/PROGRAM RECPT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1006 GF/MHTIA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OTHER	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS: NONE

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year (FY93) impact: \$ NONE

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.)
 *Zero fiscal impact providing number of animals farmed is limited to 1000 or less.

Prepared by: Kit Ballentine
 Division: Environmental Health

Phone: 465-5280
 Date: 3/1/93

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]
 Agency: Department of Environmental Conservation

Date: 3/1/93

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

Under this bill, regulatory authority for moose farming and game farming is under the Departments of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. The ADF&G is limited to one-time approval of fencing and recording information received by recipients of moose. Consequently, we do not anticipate additional ordinary operating costs. In the department's view, however, a regulatory effort sufficient to adequately protect Alaska's wildlife resources in the event this bill becomes law would have significant fiscal impacts that should be evident on Fiscal Notes provided by DNR, DEC, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection of DPS.

Under any game farming bill, we anticipate extraordinary but unpredictable costs to the department and state. For example, (1) control of disease: Alberta has spent over \$10 million and destroyed over 2,000 game farm animals in an unsuccessful attempt to control an outbreak of Tb; (2) capturing escaped animals: an unsuccessful effort to prevent escaped game farmed bison in Delta Junction from mixing with the Delta Bison Herd cost the department approximately \$3500 in 1991; (3) predator/prey conflicts: the department periodically has had to respond to demands from livestock ranchers (cattle and bison) on Kodiak Island for control of brown bears.

If the game farming bill were amended to incorporate "recommendations" from the ADF&G *Revised Position Paper*, we would prepare a fiscal note that includes a 12-month, full-time Wildlife Biologist III and associated operating expenditures. This employee would be responsible for coordinating with the state veterinarian, making personal annual inspections of all facilities housing captive game animals (including moose, elk, bison, muskoxen and fur farm animals), issuing and renewing permits, collating and recording reported information from game farmers, keeping abreast of genetic and disease problems identified in other jurisdictions, coordinating and directing all efforts to recover escaped animals and control outbreaks of diseases or parasites in wild game populations.

DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

130 Seward Street, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

MEMORANDUM

March 17, 1994

SUBJECT: Draft HCS CSSB 46(); Moose farming and game farming

TO: Representative Pat Carney

FROM: George Utermohle *GU*
Legislative Counsel

This memorandum accompanies the latest draft of HCS CSSB 46() that was requested by Caroline Lombard of your staff. The draft HCS CSSB 46() was drafted in accordance with the instructions provided by your staff.

This memorandum describes those additional technical changes that were made to the bill during the course of preparing the draft HCS CSSB 46().

In section 8 of the bill, the provision relating to opening of a gate of an enclosure where game animals are present (AS 03.30.070(b)) was amended to more accurately describe the person who can give permission to leave open a gate. This provision formerly required that the permission be granted by the owner of the game farm animals. However, since the provision is equally applicable to gates of an enclosure containing animals possessed under an experimental animal husbandry permit (such animals cannot be privately owned), the language of the provision was changed to provide that the permission must be given by the "person who lawfully possesses" the animals. This language would include all situations where the game farm animals are either owned or merely possessed under an experimental animal husbandry permit.

In sections 10, 11, and 15 of the bill, the term "reindeer" is included in the language to be deleted from existing law because reindeer are included in the definition of "game farm animals" under AS 03.05.100. This change removes an unnecessarily redundant reference to "reindeer".

In accordance with the drafting instructions provided by your office, responsibility for the experimental animal husbandry permit is transferred from the Department of Fish and Game to the Department of Natural Resources. The appropriate language is contained in section 4 of the bill as Sec. 03.05.075. This provision was amended to clarify that the animals possessed under the experimental animal husbandry permit

Representative Pat Carney

March 17, 1994

Page 2

remain property of the state. Language contained in the prior version of the bill stated that animals received under the permit remain property of the state while in the possession of the permit holder. This language was amended to delete "while in the possession of the permit holder." This change was made to clarify that the animals remain property of the state, even if they should escape from the possession of the permit holder.

The provision of the bill that prohibits the importation of moose or caribou for commercial or animal husbandry purposes was moved from Title 16 (Fish and Game) to Title 3 (Agriculture and Animals) where most provisions of this bill will be located in the Alaska Statutes. This change seems appropriate given its relationship to the use of game animals for commercial purposes. This provision is now included in sec. 4 of the bill as Sec. 03.05.078.

In sec. 17 of the bill, the provision (subsection (c)) regarding the transfer of animals possessed under an experimental animal husbandry permit to private ownership, has been amended by adding language to specify that the progeny of the animals shall also be transferred to private ownership. This change has been made to address an ambiguity that had been noted in the prior language of this provision.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

GU:mi

94-063.mai

Enclosure

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR

MIKE MILLER

P.O. Box 55094

North Pole, Alaska 99705

(907) 488-0862

Write in Juneau

State Capitol

Juneau, Alaska

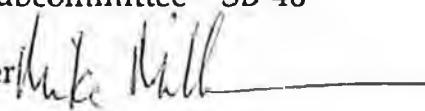
99801-1182

(907) 465-4976

Senate District Q

Senate

To: Representative Pat Carney, Chair
House Resources Subcommittee - SB 46

From: Senator Mike Miller 

Re: SB 46 revisions

Date: March 13, 1994

I would like to make the following recommendations regarding the draft CS for CSSB 46(Fin) version "X."

First, I recommend placing the regulatory authority over the *experimental animal husbandry permit* with the Department of Natural Resources. The three agencies affected by SB 46 (DNR, DEC and ADF&G) have also recommended this approach.

Second, I recommend shortening the duration of the *experimental animal husbandry permit* to two years. The five year provision in version "X" was an arbitrary number chosen by the drafting attorney because a specific time period had not been provided at the time of drafting.

Third, I recommend removing "Sitka black-tailed deer" from the entire bill.

Fourth, I recommend inserting a penalty clause for tampering with game farm fences in a manner that would allow animals to escape or be stolen. Appropriate language is attached that has been reviewed by Bill Ward.

Fifth, I strongly recommend retaining the definition of "surplus" in the bill. The Department of Fish & Game maintains that the existence of surplus animals should be determined by the Game Board. I am wholeheartedly in agreement; however, the Board has yet to deal with the issue, even with respect to the species currently allowed in statute. The Board's opposition is highlighted in its 1993 resolution unanimously rejecting the legalization of moose farming. Even with a statutory definition of "surplus," under version "X" the state still retains discretionary authority over disposal of the animals, maintaining agency flexibility.

Representative Pat Carney
March 13, 1994
Page 2

Sixth, a concern was expressed during the hearing by ADF&G regarding a private individual selling meat from animals owned by the state, i.e. selling state property. Interestingly, the administration has proposed that animals slaughtered while held under the experimental permit would become the private property of the permittee. I would point out that the sale of meat cannot occur until an animal is slaughtered, at which point the animal would become private property (according to the administration's proposal), in which case the owner would not be selling state property.

Inconsistencies of policy aside, if the subcommittee determines that the sale of meat under an experimental permit should not be allowed, then a parallel provision should be included which expressly forbids demonstration of commercial viability as a permit requirement. In other words, one should not have to prove that commercial production of moose is economically viable if one is not allowed to sell the meat.

Finally, I would note that the version "X" work draft of SB 46 is a combination of two proposals, 1) the draft that was placed before the House Resources Committee for consideration last session, and 2) a draft prepared by DNR, ADF&G and DEC. It is based on an Administration Position on Game Farming, which was formulated during the 1993 interim.

I wish to clarify that my office was not notified of the development of this paper until after a consensus was reached and a final document issued. While I appreciate the agencies' efforts to formally address the issue of game farming, I find it unusual that I, and to my knowledge the co-sponsors of SB 46, were not invited to observe or at least notified, to say nothing of being asked to comment or participate. This is not to infer in any way that the agencies' should have developed the consensus based on my direction, but it would seem that making my office aware of the Paper at some time prior to its completion would have been appropriate.

Nonetheless, I believe it was a good faith effort to recommend ways to enhance game farming opportunities. However, the Paper suggests the creation, *through regulation*, of an experimental animal husbandry permit wherein the state would retain legal ownership of the animals provided. Species such as moose, caribou, etc. could potentially be added to an "allowable list" via a petition from the permit holder. The state (DNR and ADF&G) would give the final "yes" or "no" at its discretion. Even if eventually allowed for farming via this process, moose, caribou, etc. would

Representative Pat Carney
March 13, 1994
Page 3

not be placed in statute, only regulation. I agreed to support the experimental permit; however, considering the opposition to moose and caribou farming expressed by ADF&G over approximately the past eight years of legislative attempts to legalize it, I am skeptical of their willingness to move forward with allowing private ownership of game animals through regulation, regardless of the success of permit holders.

What is proposed in HCS CSSB 46 version "X" is a fair compromise that satisfies the wishes of prospective moose and caribou farmers as well as the concerns of the administration. Version "X" contains the following key points:

- 1) a section, *in statute*, outlining the general provisions of the experimental animal husbandry permit;
- 2) retention in state ownership of the animals under the permit, including authority to revoke the permit and take the animals back if the permit terms are not adhered to;
- 3) provisions for a permit holder to request private ownership of the experimental animals, which must be granted by the state, but only if the permittee has complied with the permit;
- 4) prohibition of importation of moose and caribou so as not to allow a person who already holds a general game farming license to bypass the experimental permit process for moose and caribou.

I appreciate the subcommittee's consideration of these comments and recommendations on Senate Bill 46.

PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENT

SENATE BILL 46

SB 46 An Act authorizing Moose Farming

The bill is intended to increase Alaskans' options to provide red meat for personal and commercial use.

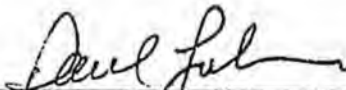
As rural cash sources deplete under declining state budget scenarios, it will become more important that tools exist for citizens to provide or acquire food supplies for their families. Personal use species will acquire more significance in the non-urban economy. The animals envisioned as breeder stock for this use are indigenous Alaskan animals which bear no risk of importing disease or contamination from other geographic areas.

The animals which are determined to be "surplus" would generally be from two sources: orphaned calves which would not be expected to survive on their own; and animals which would have elevated mortality due to natural conditions leading to diminished carrying capacity of the animal's natural habitat.

Over a 4 1/2 year period, an average of 200 animals was killed or mortally wounded along the Alaska Railroad corridor. This statistic omits the extreme winter of 1989-90 when 722 moose were killed between October and April. This condition of natural risk-taking was the result of high snows and limited food supplies as well as limited food supplies except in the rail corridor where young hardwoods had grown. The net impact was a decrease in local animal populations, as well as local hunting opportunities.

We support this legislation in order to give greater opportunity to Alaskans to provide for their families and have the option of selling meat to others. We support the development of appropriate regulations which would put domesticated animals under the supervision of the DNR/Division of Agriculture. This would allow technical assistance and economic monitoring of the moose projects in a similar manner to other private agricultural projects.

The DCED/Division of Tourism is standing by to offer technical assistance to moose farm owners to add a tourism/educational component to their operations. As many visitors are unable to observe these unique animals in the wild, we support the additional economic opportunity that observation facilities will provide to the moose farm operations.



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
POSITION PAPER

Bill No: SB 46 (1/14/93)

Sponsor: Senator Miller

Division: Wildlife Conservation

Bill Title: An Act authorizing moose farming.

Department Position: Speculative benefits of this bill are greatly outweighed by serious concerns described below.

Background/Legislative Intent: This bill would amend AS 16.40.010-.020 to allow moose to be raised as domestic animals for commercial purposes and legalize the sale of moose meat. The department would be responsible for determining when a surplus of moose existed that could be made available for disposition to private ownership.

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. These and other concerns, listed below, are currently causing most other western states and provinces to tighten their laws governing private ownership of big game animals.

- (1) Moose are the most highly sought after big game species by hunters, wildlife viewers, and photographers. Approximately 50,000 hunters pursue moose each year, harvesting from 7,000 to 8,000 animals. Thirty-six drawing permit applications are received for each permit available. The demand for moose greatly exceeds supply; surpluses do not exist. *Opinion: Moose*
- (2) Moose farming/ranching will require large acreages. Some proponents of this bill have expressed interest in leasing state agricultural lands. Highly productive state-owned wildlife habitat, currently used by the general public, could be removed from production of wildlife. Conflicts between big game farms and large predators are certain to occur. Populations of wolves, black bears, and grizzly bears will be impacted over a large area surrounding any big game farm.
- (3) Ensuring the general welfare and humane treatment of big game on farms will become a responsibility of the department. Moose are not herd animals and do not tolerate crowding. High densities of animals in confinement will cause behavioral and disease problems with the potential for spreading diseases to wildlife and domestic animals outside the farms.
- (4) Some individuals will use the opportunities provided by this bill to own a few moose as pets, for a hobby, or to promote their tourist businesses. Allowing wildlife to be exploited by roadside attractions diminishes the

value of all wildlife and may lead to legal liability for the state if animals are abused or someone is injured by a moose.

- (5) Allowing sale of moose meat will create serious law enforcement problems. Poachers will have an added economic incentive that they presently lack. Current and proposed levels of wildlife law enforcement are inadequate to cope with this added burden.
- (6) Moose are expensive to maintain in captivity. The high stocking levels proposed for moose farming would require high levels of supplemental feeding. Moose require a special diet and cannot survive on diets that sustain domestic livestock. Moose farming has proven to be uneconomical in Canada where game farms are more common. The Yukon Territory has prohibited the use of moose on game farms. Attempts to domesticate moose in Alberta have been economic failures due to the biology of the animal (moose are unsuitable as beasts of burden, produce small volumes of milk under labor intensive conditions, and are very expensive to feed). To expect moose farming to succeed in Alaska where no infrastructure exists and no market has been established is unrealistic. The state has promoted agricultural projects in the past that resulted in continuing subsidies. The department considers the transfer of publicly owned wildlife to private ownership to be a subsidy.
- (7) Alaska's wildlife resources generate hundreds of millions of dollars annually through tourism, guiding, hunting, and subsistence. Tourists list wildlife viewing as their primary reason for visiting Alaska. This experience will be diminished if tourists observe wildlife at roadside attractions and game farms.

(Please refer to the department briefing paper, *Farming of Big Game Animals*, for additional information.)

Commissioner's Signature Pan Samuella by G.B. Date 1/28/93

Alaska State Legislature

MIKE MILLER

66094

Palmer, Alaska 99718

907-633-1234

State Capitol



Senate

February 19, 1993

Berton Gore, DVM
State Veterinarian
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Health
Meat/Poultry Inspection Section
500 S. Alaska, Suite A
Palmer, AK 99645-6399

Dear Dr. Gore:

I have sponsored legislation (Senate Bill 46) that would provide the Department of Fish & Game with the statutory authority to grant surplus moose to individuals or groups for domestication for either commercial purposes or for scientific and educational purposes. The bill would also legalize the sale of moose meat from farmed moose.

Some concerns have been raised over the possible effects of moose farming. I would like to request your opinion on two of these issues based on your personal research, experience, and professional knowledge as the state veterinarian.

1)"High densities of animals in confinement will cause behavioral and disease problems with the potential for spreading diseases to wildlife and domestic animals outside the farms.

Importation and transportation of wildlife species poses the risk of spreading disease to free-ranging populations. Major diseases of concern include bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) and bovine brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*) in elk, rangiferine brucellosis (*Brucella suis* type 4) in reindeer, and bluetongue in elk. Bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis are transmissible to humans as well as native wildlife. In Alberta, over \$10 million has been spent in an unsuccessful attempt to control tuberculosis, and at least 30 people have contracted the disease from game farming situations.

Other diseases and parasites potentially present in translocated wildlife include anaplasmosis (*Anaplasma marginale*), meningeal worm

Berton Gore, DVM
February 19, 1993
Page 2

(*Parelaphostrongylus tenuis*), carotid artery worm (*Elaeophora schneideri*), and giant liver flukes (*Fascioloides magna*). Quarantine and inoculation of ranched game can reduce the risk of disease transmission to native wildlife, but these measures will fail when animals escape quarantine, when tests for disease are not foolproof, or when an unethical game farmer attempts to circumvent proper procedures. Introduced parasites and diseases could seriously diminish Alaska's wildlife populations and reduce opportunities for consumptive and nonconsumptive users of these species."

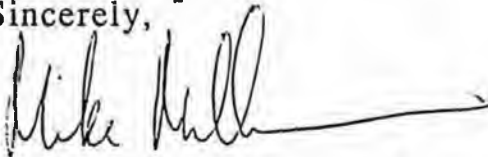
2) "Individuals or groups of animals that are farmed or herded will eventually escape captivity through accidents or inadequate fencing. For example, bison and reindeer have escaped captivity in Alaska, and elk in Alberta and Colorado. In 1992, at least 5 elk with ear tags were killed during the hunting season in Colorado. Overall, a total of 155 exotic free-ranging animals have been killed in Colorado; all escapees from game farms.

Wildlife that escapes captivity poses the risk of contaminating the genetic integrity and fitness of Alaska's wildlife species through hybridization. Native wildlife populations exhibit particular genetic adaptations to their environment, which have caused them to be successful through time. Some domesticated stocks, especially exotic species, may be able to out-compete wild populations. Colorado has spent over \$750,000 in a 3 year program to eliminate genetic contamination from red deer for elk farms in the state."

Please provide any additional information you have that would assist the Legislature in making an informed decision regarding the domestication of moose in Alaska. Feel free to comment on caribou and deer, as well as farmed species in Alaska with which you have experience or knowledge.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Miller", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senator Mike Miller, Chair
Senate Resources Committee

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE STATE VETERINARIAN

500 S. Alaska Street
Palmer, AK 99645
907-745-3236

February 26, 1993

Senator Mike Miller
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Senator Miller:

The first statement "High densities of animals will cause behavioral and disease problems with the potential for spreading diseases to wildlife and domestic animals outside the farms" interests me. Does this mean the Department of Fish and Game would favor low densities of domestic animals under open range conditions??

Confined animals have difficulty transmitting disease to wildlife or other animals if there is no contact. Disease could only be transmitted from confined animals to others using a vector or intermediate host. To date I am not aware of any vectors, i.e. flies, ticks, or snails, in Alaska which have been incriminated in disease transmission in livestock. To be correct one must add that canines and felines do get tapeworms from shrews, rabbits and some fleas.

Therefore the chance of disease transmission without contact or vectors appears remote.

To address the specific diseases I would like to start with Mycobacterium bovis or Tuberculosis (TB) Canada introduced TB into their elk farms when they (Agriculture Canada and USDA) used the caudal fold intra dermal test. To find the infected elk they switched to the single cervical intra dermal test. The reactors were condemned, killed, and an indemnity was paid based on breeding value as opposed to slaughter value. Hence the high indemnity cost.

To prevent the introduction of TB, Alaska has taken the position that all imported elk shall have a negative TB test using the single cervical test and originate from a herd which has had a negative herd test within the last twelve months using the single cervical method.

Bovine brucellosis (Brucella abortus) can occur in elk. To prevent the introduction of this disease, elk for importation must test negative for brucellosis and originate from a herd which has had a negative herd test within the last twelve months.

Rangiferine brucellosis (Brucella suis type 4) is a problem because it currently exists throughout the state of Alaska in numerous species of animals.

Senator Miller
February 25, 1993
Page 2

Everyone knows it occurs in reindeer but, according to Dr. Zarnke of Alaska Fish & Game in his research report, "Serologic Survey of Alaska Wildlife for Microbial Pathogens," the disease is found in many species in many areas of Alaska. For example:

1. Grizzly Bear - Admiralty I, Kodiak I, Becharof, Noatak, Units 13, 26C, 26A, and 20.
2. Wolves - Denali Park and ANWAR.
3. Moose - Unit 13.
4. Musk Ox - Nunivak Island.
5. Caribou - Nelchina, Porcupine, Central Arctic and western Arctic herds.

My experience has demonstrated with the William's herd that total confinement combined with test and slaughter procedures can eliminate brucellosis from herds.

Research completed but not yet published by UAF and Agriculture Canada, has shown that healthy, pregnant cows and bison infected with B. suis 4 ran a transient temperature and titer, but did not abort. Since it doesn't cause pathology in cattle or bison; can be eradicated with confinement using test and slaughter procedures; and appears to be endemic in the state in several species; is it really the dread disease of the North???

Blue tongue in elk can be fatal as with other domestic species. The Blue tongue virus is transmitted by a biting gnat. The gnat is found in the lower 48 states and occasionally as far north as the Okanagan Valley in Southern British Columbia. Without that gnat there is no natural transmission. Additionally, all livestock and elk must have a negative blue tongue test prior to entering Alaska. Once again, in Dr. Zarnke's publication, he states he has found serologic evidence of Blue tongue (BT) or Enzootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) already in Alaska, i.e.:

- a. Elk - EHD - Kodiak
- b. Dall Sheep - BT - Unit 20A
- c. Caribou - BT - Mulchatna, Porcupine Herds
- d. Caribou - EHD - Western Arctic Herd

Regarding Anaplasmosis, the textbook "Veterinary Medicine", by Blood, Radostits & Henderson, 6th ed., states:

"Deer can become infected and act as reservoirs of infection for cattle. There is little point in establishing anaplasmosis-free herds when cattle share pasture with roaming deer. American bison (Bison bison) appear to be naturally resistant to infection."

Anaplasmosis is spread by ticks primarily, and occasionally by biting flies and eye gnats.

Senator Miller
February 25, 1993
Page 3

The referenced textbook also states that, "Introduction of the disease into areas by carrier animals can be prevented by use of the C-F or the capillary tube agglutination test."

There is a vaccine available and the disease responds to treatment with tetracyclines.

One must consider that Canada is recognized by USDA as being free of anaplasmosis. Could it be that the vectors do not survive in the cold?

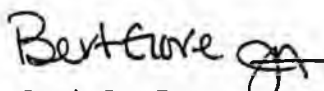
The meningeal worm is primarily a parasite of white tail deer causing little or no pathology in them. It can be fatal for elk and moose however. The worm requires an intermediate host (a snail) before it can infect another animal. Since the white tail and moose share common territory in Maine, Quebec, and Ontario, is it possible that the snail cannot survive in Northern latitudes?

The carotid artery worm is a normal parasite of deer in the mountains of southwest U.S. and the western states. It's primary pathology is to domestic sheep where it causes chronic debilitating skin lesions.

In the true hosts (deer, wapiti and moose) the giant liver fluke is well tolerated. Very little pathology is present. In cattle, however, it causes large granulomatous lesions in the liver. The fluke has an interesting life cycle and requires a snail as an intermediate host. The fluke egg leaves the host in the feces. It must hatch in water at 70° - 86°F in 21-30 days and within 24 hours the larva must penetrate a snail. Does our summer water temperature reach 70° - 86°F for 21-30 consecutive days? Is this a disease threat?

One can argue the pros and cons of importing game animals into Alaska and the potential for disease transmission escapement and hybridization. There is however, an alternative which I would propose and strongly support...the game farming of indigenous species such as Caribou, Musk Ox, Dall sheep, Moose, Sitka deer and Mountain Goats. The research and work already completed by UAF in Reindeer and Musk Ox; Fish and Game's Moose Research Station; and, my experience with eliminating brucellosis in William's Reindeer; would provide a solid foundation for the farming of indigenous species.

Sincerely,



Bert A. Gore
State Veterinarian

BG/da

BILL NO: CSSB 46(FIN)

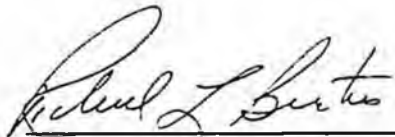
DATE: March 4, 1993

TITLE: "An Act relating to moose farming and relating to game farming"

CONTACT: C.E. Swackhammer
Deputy Commissioner
465-4322

Passage of CSSB 46(FIN) would amend AS 16.40.010 and AS 16.40.020 to allow moose to be raised and bred as domestic stock by private individuals, groups, associations, partnerships, or corporations for commercial purposes or for scientific and educational purposes. Passage of the bill would also allow the meat of these animals, or their offspring, to be sold.

To authorize moose farming and the commercial sale of moose meat would complicate the Department's ability to enforce laws prohibiting the illegal sale, or black marketing, of moose meat from animals taken in the field. The Department would have no way of monitoring the moose meat that is being offered for sale to ascertain if it had entered the market from a moose farm or had been taken as a big game animal in the field. The state's enforcement of the laws and regulations designed to manage and protect its moose population would be jeopardized.



Richard L. Burton
Commissioner



Future of Agriculture Task Force

We submit the Future of Agriculture Task Force's final report in order that this basic resource, enjoyed by every Alaskan every day, can be developed in the best interests of all.

In the past six months, the task force has held thirteen public meetings statewide. Input was sought from every sector of the agricultural community. Members of the task force included men from a broad spectrum: Co-Chairmen Lt. Governor Jack Coghill, DNR Commissioner Harold Heinze; Bob Baer and Mark Kulstad, both in Real Estate in Anchorage; Jim Carter, homesteader from Willow; Jim Drew, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Land Resource Management, University of Alaska Fairbanks; Herb Eckman, owner of Alaska Sausage, Anchorage; Bob Havemeister, second generation Colony dairyman, Palmer; Paul Huppert, owner, Palmer Produce, Palmer; Mike Schultz, grain, hay and grass seed producer, Delta Junction; Ron Sexton, owner, Trinity Greenhouses from Soldotna; and David Wright, an organic grower of vegetables, Harmony Acres of Palmer.

Meetings were held in Palmer, Anchorage, Glennallen, Trapper Creek, Kenny Lake, Kodiak, Ninilchik, Delta Junction, Fairbanks and Juneau.

Governor Hickel asked the task force to examine Alaska's agricultural successes and make realistic recommendations for future state involvement. The following eleven points are submitted to Governor Hickel for implementation into a healthy state agricultural policy.

We thank Governor Hickel for the opportunity to study and serve and hope this plan of action will keep the government from repeating the mistakes of prior administrations and build on the successes for the Future of Alaskan Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Coghill
Mark Kulstad
Herb Eckman
Mike Schultz

Commissioner Heinze
Jim Carter
Bob Havemeister
Ron Sexton

Bob Baer
Jim Drew
Paul Huppert
David Wright

SUMMARY

"Let us never forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man. When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of civilization." -Daniel Webster.

The State of Alaska shall establish a positive, solid, forward thinking agricultural policy by establishing a long-term environment suitable for the development of a stable, sustainable agriculture community for Alaskans.

A stable agricultural system includes the people who produce food and fiber, provide financing, carry out processing, transportation, and marketing, and conduct applied research and technology transfer for agriculture. Each of these links must be strong for Alaska's agriculture to provide opportunities that contribute to the economy of the State. The success in developing a quality state policy for agriculture lies in establishing the essential element of continuity. To this end, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, will prepare an eight-year plan to strengthen and develop these important links.

The State of Alaska's agricultural policy should:

1. Provide greater consumer availability of quality Alaskan grown products in the marketplace through inspection, certification, labeling, marketing, and education programs.
- * 2. Support unrestricted domestic breeding and raising of all animals, including game species.
3. Support the movement of agricultural materials and products through a farm-to-market road priority and an agricultural discount on the state ferry system.
4. Continue the state's investment in agricultural science and technology to protect and enhance the quality of Alaskan soils, seeds, plants, produce, animals, and other agricultural products; and the necessary knowledge transfer.
5. Facilitate the development and use of agriculture in conjunction with other Alaskan resource uses and needs (i.e., fish meal, forestry).
6. Assure the availability of financing sources for agricultural operations that are financially viable.
7. Make state land available for agriculture under a variety of provisions including fee-simple title with fair market value purchase or homestead credits.
8. Continue to make agricultural land available in a range of parcel sizes throughout the state.

9. Make grazing leases available through the Division of Agriculture for up to a 30 year term with contraction at least every ten years to the area developed and utilized.
10. 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.
11. Facilitate the formation and operation of cooperative ownership of major agricultural facilities and the development of farmer's markets.

FINANCING

Financing is critical in the development of successful agriculture. In the past, the State of Alaska has provided direct loans to the agricultural community and has experienced a high number of delinquencies and defaults. The State of Alaska should encourage the privatization of the agricultural loan function by encouraging the commercial banking industry to assist in financing short term capital requirements of the individual farmers and ranchers.

As in the development of other resources in underdeveloped regions, the development stages of agriculture involve more financial risk than in established agricultural regions where the needed infrastructure is in place. The state should assist banks in setting up controlled loan programs which could be guaranteed through the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority.

In addition, the state should consider divesting the Agricultural Loan Fund of the existing portfolio of performing agricultural loans, freeing up between \$6 to \$9 million in capital through selling these loans to individual private financial institutions. This would save the State of Alaska from the expensive role of servicing the loan portfolio.

LAND

Successful agriculture requires a suitable land base. Consequently, agricultural land must be made available for sale or lease throughout the state. Fee simple land should be made available with an agriculture covenant when special price and conditions are offered under agriculture uses. The Division of Agriculture will administer an agricultural land bank of 500,000 acres to ensure the future availability of agricultural land for transfer to farmers. Agricultural land will be made available under a variety of provisions including fee simple title. Land sales will be based on fair market value and carried out through direct sale or a system involving homestead credits.

* GRAZING

Alaska's agriculture should include the unrestricted domestic breeding and raising of all animals, including game species. Grazing leases administered by the Division of Agriculture will be made available for up to thirty years with provisions for review of grazing use every ten years. Leases not actively maintained for this purpose will be made available for lease to other livestock producers.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is an essential link in an agricultural system, and includes coordination of several levels of transport. Favorable rates throughout the transportation systems are necessary for Alaskan agricultural products to compete in the marketplace. This involves a rate preference for Alaskan agricultural products carried on state-owned railroad and ferry systems, provisions for favorable trucking rates, licensing, and the construction and maintenance of farm-to-market roads.

PROCESSING

Processing is essential to market agricultural commodities and to provide value-added products for consumers. When necessary, facilities for cost-effective processing will be provided by the State until levels of production make it possible to shift these operations to private individuals, corporations, or cooperatives.

MARKETING

State assistance will be provided to establish cooperatives when these entities are deemed appropriate and the State will encourage the development of farmers markets as direct consumer outlets for food and fiber produced in Alaska. A marketing entity could be developed similar to the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute for Alaskan agricultural products.

QUALITY CONTROL

The quality of Alaskan grown products will be ensured through inspection, certification, and labeling. Agriculturally related inspection (formerly administered by the Division of Agriculture) and seafood inspection should be transferred from the Department of Environmental Conservation to USDA qualified inspectors at the Division of Agriculture to correspond with the administration of inspection in other states.

In addition, promotional and informational programs such as the Alaskan Grown program will be continued within the Division. These programs are essential links in increasing the market share of agricultural products produced and consumed in Alaska.

RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Results of investments in agricultural research and technology transfer provide an essential link for all segments of a sustainable agricultural system. Support for agricultural research and technology transfer will be provided by the State through the Agriculture and Forest Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service to protect Alaska's soil and water resources, and to enhance the quality of seeds, plants, produce, animals, and other agricultural products grown in Alaska. In addition, the State will encourage support for this work from the Cooperative State Research Service, the Agricultural Research Service, and Forest Service Research, USDA, through cooperative, integrated programs.

CONCLUSION

An efficient agricultural system involves small farms, family farms, greenhouse production, domestic red meat, natural animal farming, larger grain farming and other enterprises as well as the multiple use of infrastructure for processing, transporting, and marketing a variety of commodities.

The State of Alaska should let the farmer farm. Agriculture should not be directly managed by the state but supported and encouraged through technological advice and expertise. Then Alaska will have a healthy food and fiber industry that will enhance both Alaska's economy and benefit her people.



Ward Farms

P.O. Box 290 • Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • (907) 262-6159 • FAX (907) 262-7276

April 15, 1993

To: House Resources Committee

Re: HCS CSSB 46

"An Act relating to moose farming and relating to game farming"

It is my intention to appear before the committee at 8:00 AM on Monday 19th. to testify on this bill. Please refer to accompanying FACT Sheet for relevant information.

As an individual actively involved in the game farm business, I believe I can provide factual information to assist your deliberation on this legislation. My wife and I have been involved in successful agriculture all our lives. Since 1976 we have been developing a livestock ranch on the Kenai Peninsula and in 1990 we started raising Elk as a game livestock. We own 57 head of elk at this time and are increasing our numbers to 200. I have been involved in all aspects of agriculture in Alaska serving on associations, boards, and various government appointments. My farming operation is prosperous and will withstand any scrutiny.

I am on the managing Board of Directors for the North American Elk Breeders Association, a national livestock association representing 700 elk ranchers raising over 20,000 head of elk. As a director I am actively involved in the development, as well as the controversy surrounding game farming. I am aware of established and pending legislation in all states. We respond to those that challenge game farming with scientific, economic, and ethical data to support our industry. I have testified before the USDA, National Research Council, and US Animal Health Association to secure the game industries legitimate role in agriculture. I have participated in the World Deer Congress in New Zealand where over 23 nations gathered together to formulate a sound, worldwide game industry policy.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide honest and informative facts related to the game farm industry in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Bill D. Ward

GAME FARMING FACT SHEET: WARD FARMS

ALASKA FARMERS & STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.
"THE ALASKA FARM BUREAU"
Game Farming Subcommittee
P.O. Box 290
Soldotna, Ak. 99669
262-5135 FAX 262-7278

GAME FARMING FACT SHEET

FACT - Game farming is an agricultural business conducted by persons who privately own game animal species for the purpose of raising and breeding these animals as domestic livestock for commercial purposes.

FACT - Game farming is endorsed by the Agricultural Task Force and Governor Walter Hickel as a viable economic enterprise for Alaska.

FACT - The "Governor's Task Force On Regulatory Reform" recommends that the administrative authority for elk and game farming be placed in the DNR, Division of Agriculture.

FACT - Existing game farm operations in Alaska are successful, prosperous, and contributing to the economy of Alaska.

FACT - Game farming is a viable and successful national and international industry.

FACT - Game farm products are value added with higher profitability than conventional red meat livestock. Production costs in Alaska for game farm animals are lower than other red meat livestock animals.

FACT - The DNR, Division of Agriculture and the DEC, State Veterinarian have adopted a serious pro-active attitude to game farming with existing and draft regulations in place to manage the industry while protecting the health & welfare of all animals.

FACT - There has never been a documented case in the U.S. of the livestock disease Tuberculosis being transmitted from a private game farm to free ranging wildlife. An infection in wildlife that was contracted from cattle herds in the U.S. did not sustain itself once the source of infection was removed.

FACT - Game farm owners are the ones who are most interested in maintaining the health and confinement of farmed animals. With the high investment in game animals, game farms cannot afford disease or loss of animals through escapement.

FACT - Game farm operations are compatible to the environment and are widely accepted by local communities in Alaska.

FACT - Game farm legislation will not cost the State of Alaska money. Regulatory power and staff administration is already in place in the Division of Agriculture and State Veterinarian with no budget increases required. Game farming provides a significant contribution to the economy of Alaska.

ALASKA FARMERS & STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.
"THE ALASKA FARM BUREAU"
Game Farming Subcommittee
P.O. Box 290
Soldotna, Ak. 99669
262-5135 FAX 262-7278

GAME FARMING FACT SHEET - SUPPORTING INFORMATION

FACT - Game farming is an agricultural business conducted by persons who privately own game species for the purpose of raising and breeding these animals as domestic livestock for commercial purposes.

Game farmed animals by common, academic, and legal definitions are domestic agriculture livestock that should be administered by the DNR, Division of Agriculture under Statute, AS 03.

Domestication and domesticated have several definitions:

"A population that is adapted to life in intimate association with and to the advantage of humans, and whose entire life cycle is carried out under human management." (Annon: Criteria and requirements for sustainable use of wild species. International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - The World Conservation Policy. July 1992)

"a species is domestic if both reproduction and the habitat critical for reproduction are under human management. It is therefore semi-wild or semi-domesticated, if only one of these elements is met and wild if neither is met." (Prescott-Allen, C. and Prescott-Allen, R. 1986 The First Resource: Wild Species in the North American Economy. Yale University Press. New Haven)

"domestic animals are husbanded rather than hunted, produced rather than procured." (Hudson, R.J. 1989. History and technology of game production systems. In Wildlife Production Systems, R.J. Hudson, K.R. Drew, and L.M. Baskin (eds). Cambridge Univ Press. 11-27)

FACT - Game farming is endorsed by the Agriculture Task Force and Governor Walter Hickel as a viable economic enterprise for Alaska.

The recommendations of the Agriculture Task Force were endorsed by Governor Hickel in July 1992. Among the recommendations include:

"2. Support unrestricted domestic breeding and raising of all animals, including game species." (Future of Agriculture Task Force, Final Report. July, 1992)

FACT - The "Governor's Task Force on Regulatory Reform" recommends that the administrative authority for elk and game farming be placed in the DNR, Division of Agriculture.

Specific recommendations published by the task force include:

"SI 2 Red meat should be within ADNR's Division of Agriculture, not ADEC and AF&G AS 03.05.030 and 03.05.040; potentially AS 16.05.331"

"An administrative review should take place, on the issue of placement of Elk Farming. The Task Force recommends placement in the Division of Agriculture."

"GP 11 Each business or enterprise type should fall under a primary agency, division, or department."

"For example, the division of Agriculture would serve as the primary agency for farmers, who would deal with just a single agency for regulatory, permitting, and reporting purposes on all agricultural matters. On matters non-agricultural, the farmer would still be dealing with the appropriate division or department. (Final Report of the Governor's Task Force on Regulatory Reform, March 19, 1993)

FACT - Existing game farm operations in Alaska are successful, prosperous, and contributing to the economy of Alaska.

Reindeer, Bison, Musk-ox, and Elk are the authorized game farm species in Alaska.

The free ranging reindeer herding operations in Western Alaska have been regularly operating at a profit. Meat, antler, and breeding stock sales have contributed to the economy of native Alaskans.

Reindeer farming operations in the Matanuska Valley and the Kenai Peninsula are profitable by relying on meat, antler, and tourist opportunities.

Bison farms in Delta, Fairbanks, Kenai Peninsula, and Kodiak Island are established and provide profitable returns to the owners.

The Musk-ox Farm in the Matanuska Valley is providing a reliable return with Quviut wool supplied to native weavers and income from tourist visitors.

An elk farm on the Kenai Peninsula is expanding and profitable with live animal sales, antler production, and meat production.

FACT - Game farming is a viable and successful national and international industry.

Game animals have been in domestic ownership in the United States since early man. Currently there are approximately 700 elk farms with 18,000 animals in the U.S. and numbers are expanding. Deer farmers with about 30,000 animals are supplying venison to domestic markets with imports being necessary to fulfill demand. (Assessment of Risk Factors for *Mycobacterium bovis* in the United States, USDA:APHIS:VS, November 1992) The health awareness of consumers combined with the low fat nature of game meats equates to a strong demand for game meats. Throughout the world, game farm production is embraced as a legitimate and profitable multi-billion dollar industry. The recent World Deer Congress in New Zealand brought together 600+ participants from over 23 nations to provide for the advancement of the expanding game farm industry. In the lower 48, legislation is being implemented in most states to provide for positive administration by the Departments of Agriculture to accommodate this rapidly expanding and profitable addition to agriculture.

FACT - Game farm products are value added with higher profitability than conventional red meat livestock. Production costs in Alaska for game farm animals are lower than other red meat livestock animals.

The world wholesale price for game meats are at least double that of beef with a steady demand. Specialty marketing increases prices even higher. Velvet antler production for oriental medicine is based on long standing historical tradition assuring a steady demand for antler products. By-product demand for hides, organs, and carving material is strong with high prices.

Production costs are low. Free ranging reindeer herds have low input costs. Once the infrastructure is in place, the cost to raise game animals is lower than for other domestic livestock. Game animals require minimal care and are efficient utilizer of natural forage. They are efficient converters of feed to energy and typically require less feed to produce a pound of gain than other animals. With normal husbandry practices, game animals are healthier and require less labor to manage.

FACT - The DNR, Division of Agriculture and the DEC, State Veterinarian have adopted a serious pro-active attitude to game farming with existing and draft regulations in place to manage the industry while protecting the health and welfare of all animals.

The Division of Agriculture has existing statute authority to provide for the fencing regulations, ownership identification by

branding and tagging, management assistance, and other needed regulations. Currently the Division of Agriculture is drafting expanded regulations to provide for the effective administration of game farming.

The DEC, State Veterinarian has full regulatory authority to protect the health and welfare of all livestock in Alaska. Accurate disease testing procedures are available to document the healthy nature of animals within the state as well as all imported animals. The isolated nature of Alaska gives the State Veterinarian a unique opportunity to screen any animal entering the state and an ability to prevent infected animals from entering Alaska. Because of our arctic environment, there are few livestock diseases that can survive in the state. For the few diseases that can survive, there are accurate testing procedures available to detect disease and regulations to prevent an infection.

The DEC, State Veterinarian is concerned about the possible risk to domestic livestock for parasites and disease caused by the relocation of wildlife around the state by ADF&G. Since some diseases and parasites are endemic in wildlife, such as *brucellosis* in Caribou, Dr. Gore believes that testing of wildlife should be required before any movement occurs. (John Cramer-Div. of Ag. Director & Bert Gore, DVM-State Veterinarian, personal interview, March 1993.)

The UAF, Reindeer Research program has maintained an ongoing health program in free-ranging privately owned reindeer to vaccinate against *brucellosis* and provide treatment to control warbles and nasal bots. This further documents the pro-active attitude by agriculture to protect the health and welfare of all animals. (Lyle Renecker, Asst. Professor, UAF Reindeer Research Program, personal interview, March 1993.)

FACT - There has never been a documented case in the U.S. of the livestock disease Tuberculosis being transmitted from a private game farm to free ranging wildlife. An infection in wildlife that was contracted from cattle herds in the U.S. did not sustain itself once the source of infection was removed.

"No case of transmission (M. Bovis, Tb) between captive wildlife and free ranging wildlife has been documented." (Assessment of Risk Factors for *Mycobacterium bovis* in the United States, USDA:APHIS:VS, November 1992)

Allegations game farmed livestock will infect free ranging wildlife with diseases such as Tb, *brucellosis*, etc., simply are not true. In the United States there are two reported cases of Tb in free ranging wild deer in this century - 90 years -, both were in white-tailed deer in New York, one in 1934 the other in 1961, and both were associated with Tb infected dairy herds. *"There has been no documented instance where M. bovis (Tb) was maintained in a wild population of Cervidae once the source of the infection in either cattle or free-ranging bison was eliminated."* (Ibid.)

FACT - Game farm owners are the ones most interested in maintaining the health and confinement of farmed animals. With the high investment in game animals, game farms cannot afford disease or loss of animals through escapement.

Game farming like any other business venture requires a high capital investment in land, improvements, and livestock. It is possible to have over a million dollars invested in a game farm business. The livestock are the production base that provides the return on investment. To be productive with an economic value the animals must be kept under positive control and remain healthy throughout their productive life. It is absurd to think that the game farm owners will do anything less than provide for a maximum effort to retain these provisions. The regulation fencing on a game farm not only provides confinement fencing for the livestock but provides the owner with the security of excluding other livestock or wildlife that may be diseased.

FACT - Game farm operations are compatible to the environment and are widely accepted by local communities in Alaska.

A game farm management plan provides for the health and welfare of the livestock. In addition the land base resource must be managed to provide for continued well balanced production every year. Game farmed animals, while gregarious, do not thrive under heavy population densities so lower stocking rates are needed to maintain the health of the animals. Game animals do not impact the pastures or watering sources like other domestic animals. Effective rotation of livestock provides for well developed pasture ranges and game animals do not languish around water sources. The feeding habits and hooved nature of game animals permit grazing without impact to riparian zones. Fenced game farms provide natural habitat for waterfowl habitat as well. Typically migrating waterfowl seek out the protection of fenced areas which exclude predators and offer security to raise their young.

Game farming is accepted as a "natural" livestock business for Alaska. The general public may question the viability of some agriculture ventures in Alaska but they readily recognize the appropriate nature of raising hardy northern adapted animals in our climate. The general public is naturally curious about game farms and the animals. Once they recognize that the animals are raised in a healthy environment, they gain substantial pleasure in viewing these magnificent animals in farmed situations. There has been no negative public response to game farming in Alaska. Local boroughs recognize and endorse the potential of game farming as a legitimate business venture.

"It appears that the additional 80 acres of state land, together with the KPB tract, will enhance Mr. Ward's proven success with elk

and cattle ranching. In our opinion, both tracts are not suitable for other types of development. Utilization of these public lands for a viable agricultural project is viewed as stimulus to the local economy, therefore, in the public interest." (Richard Troeger, planning director. Kenai Peninsula Borough, Dec. 14, 1992)

FACT - Game farm legislation will not cost the State of Alaska money. Regulatory power and staff administration is already in place in the Division of Agriculture and State Veterinarian with no budget increases required. Game farm products provide a significant contribution to the economy of Alaska.

The Div. of Ag. and State Vet already have the regulatory structure in place to administrate game farming as it is just an extension of existing livestock farming. The Director of the Division of Agriculture, John Cramer, and the State Veterinarian, Dr. Bert Gore DVM, have both indicated that they can administrate the industry with existing resources. (John Cramer & Bert Gore, personal interview, March 1993.)

As mentioned in other FACT statements, game farm product sales will contribute and enhance the economy of Alaska. A strengthening of local economies is provided with game farm agriculture. Local employment is provided on the farms, support businesses such as veterinarians, equipment dealers, feed suppliers, and many others whose support is needed to provide for the operation of the business. Meat products are provided to in-state consumers and a stable supply of a preferred diet is available to native communities. Antler products are exported out of Alaska contributing to the United States's balance of trade.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Bill Ward - Chairman
Game Farm Subcommittee
P.O. Box 290
Soldotna, Ak. 99669
262-5135



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

Division of Plant and Animal Science, School of Agriculture and Land Resources Management

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

May 4, 1992.

The Honorable Cliff Davidson
The State Senate
Room 108
State Capitol
Juneau, AK99801-1182

Dear Senator Davidson:

This communiqué is in response to House Bill No. 478 would like to state my personal views and experience as a wildlife biologist on the issue of game farming. First, commercial production of wild ungulates or game farming offers a way for conventional agriculture to diversify. This diversification is not only beneficial for the agriculture industry which would allow Alaskan producers to place "their peas in more than one pod" but it adds a missing dimension to wildlife management. Wildlife managers often forget that if we are concerned about wildlife management and production of these ungulate species then to meet the needs of today we must diversify wildlife management. Wildlife management is diversified through protected, integrated, and productive management systems. Protected systems involve Parks, however, the land base is limited in size. Integrated or compromise management systems is practiced by most agencies where there is an attempt to balance the needs of other resources with wild ungulates. The missing dimension in most systems is productive management which includes game farming, ranching, and herding. In Alaska, the productive strategies of concern are farming and herding. In the specific case of farming, permissible species can be raised on private land bases and help add this missing dimension of management to our State Goals.

It should be remembered and acknowledged that game farming will not detract from the value of wildlife. But, there will be an additional importance. In Canada, there was a study which investigated the value of wildlife to citizens. They found that while a large portion of the public obtained some value from wildlife there was another group that received no benefit and wildlife was of no importance. This addresses the issue that society is changing and has changed from years past. The issues of concern in past are not resolved by methods which are no longer applicable for today's problems. However, if the large percentage of the public that extract no value from wildlife can obtain some value then we have accomplished an important goal. There is many people in this state and outside that DO NOT HUNT and do not wish to hunt. For these persons and those that extract no value from wildlife, a taste of meat and it's association with a species could prove a benefit. If these people taste the meat and desire more they may recognize its importance and therefore more support for production. What people view as "Wild Life" will not be detracted by game farms. It has been shown in Canada that people enjoy seeing game farmed ungulates but still seeing them in the wild. It is two settings that offer two rewards but both are complementary. For many people, they would never have the opportunity for viewing if not for the game farms. But overall, we address the needs and problems of today and develop diversified wildlife management with the inclusion of productive management systems.

Disease and parasites in game farmed species has been expressed as a major concern and a threat to wildlife. However, the potential threat should be no greater than for other conventional livestock. In addition, animals entering the state will be monitored and scrutinized by the State Veterinarian. It is known that animals permissible for game farming have few unique diseases or parasites and have generally been considered to have

GAME FARMING OPINION: DR. L. RENECKER
UAF DIV. OF PLANT & ANIMAL SCIENCE
SCHOOL OF AG. & LAND RESOURCES MGMT.

fewer disease/parasite problems than livestock. Because game farmed ungulates represent an economic commodity it is in their best interest to maintain healthy animals that are free of disease and treated for parasites regularly. A greater threat to the game farmer is potentially untreated wild species coming in contact with the ungulates maintained on the commercial game farm. There has been several memos that have been circulated to Legislators that refer to disease and testing and have originated from ADF&G. These memos have not presented all facts about disease testing, disease status, and the disease research conducted by the Reindeer Research Program at UAF in the proper context. In fact, some of the data and facts collected for these memos (apparently from sources other than myself who are not associated with the University) are incorrect. These issues and the overall concept of game farming will be outlined in a separate brief to Mr. Carl Rosler and a copy will be forwarded to your attention. I strongly urge you to carefully weigh the correct facts. However, in summary, brucellosis is being monitored and controlled in reindeer in Alaska. Tuberculosis is being tested for on imports - the problem is not one of a better test needs to be found but rather one for governments to adopt better techniques which are available. If you require further information please contact me.

Sincerely,



Lyle A. Renecker
Assistant Professor
Reindeer Research Program
Tele: 907-474-7166

474-7166

BRIEF ON GAME PRODUCTION

by

Lyle A. Renecker

Assistant Professor, Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station,
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Game production is not exactly new to man. Man has been associated with the use of native wild herbivores in North America since Paleolithic times more than 10,000 years ago. Deer farming has been practiced by the Chinese people for more than 2,000 years. Also, reindeer herding has been present in the cultures of northern Europe and Asia for over 2,000 years. The Romans enclosed deer in parks for both pleasure and profit as was stated by Columella in accounts of ancient times that "wild creatures such as red, roe, and fallow deer... sometimes serve to enhance the splendor and the pleasure of their owners, and sometimes bring profit and revenue". He also makes note of deer being in enclosures and given supplemental feed in order that "...when the custom of giving feasts called for game, it might be produced as it were out of store". This is not that different from what we perceive as game farming today.

Agriculture today must diversify in order to realistically anticipate survival. One of the options which has been pursued around the world is game farming. The form and rules vary in accordance with the political jurisdiction, however, the concept is not new. For a complete world wide perspective, see Renecker and Hudson (*Wildlife Production: Conservation and Sustainable Development*; 1991).

Management Systems

In order to develop and diversify wildlife management strategies, a blend of protective (parks), multiple-use (integrated), and productive strategies should be employed. Protective measures represent parks and wildlife preserves but these areas are small and usually are separated by political boundaries. Multiple-use or sometimes referred to as integrated or compromise systems attempt to satisfy the conflicting demands of several users. Land uses are integrated in this type of management system typical of government jurisdictions in order to maximize benefits, however, there are always trade-offs. Finally, the missing link in complete diversification of wildlife management is productive systems. Here a single resource is managed

intensively for peak performance. Game ranching/farming is one way to provide this missing dimension. Today, present concepts relate to control on removal rates of wildlife and guarantee a supply of wild stock for sport hunting. However, this does not resolve the management issue on privately-owned land where importance is an issue of value.

Demands for Precise Definition

One of the most important considerations in the development of a commercial game production industry is the proper definition of the business at hand. Terms can confuse and suggest different conceptual ideas to various sectors of the public. Therefore it is important that definitions be concise and consistent with biological and agricultural terminology. Specifically, I refer to the confusion that can revolve around the use of either game cropping, herding, ranching, or farming. These are clearly defined by Renecker (*Agroborealis* 23: 20-24; 1990).

Positives Realized

Growth & Demand - In recent years, conventional agricultural has been subjected to continual pressure of diversification. The farming business continent wide has been plagued with family farm foreclosures as a result of low commodity prices and political subsidy wars. Commercial game production offers a lean, healthy meat product that is in public demand. In return, this health conscious society is willing to pay sound returns for a quality, consistent product. Over the last 5 years, there has been a consistent increase in the trade of farm-raised venison. For example, from 1986 to 1991, New Zealand has increased its export sales of venison from about 1,300 metric tonnes to 3,000. The increase has come with concomitant demand for standards of quality and supply. In 1991, the USA alone bought New Zealand farm-raised venison valued at over \$ 1 million which has doubled from the mid 1980's. Clearly, the market will bear a considerable increase in supply, however, growth must occur in the industry worldwide to meet this demand for a quality product. Quality Alaska reindeer, wapiti, or bison are possible candidates for sale in this marketplace.

Culturally-consistent - An additional benefit is the culturally-consistent livelihood it provides for our Native people. Whether, the production strategy is farming or herding, commercial game production can provide employment and financial opportunities and yet attempt to remain in balance with traditional cultures.

Health - Disease regulation and control has been a concern of both opponents and proponents of this new industry. For example, there has been continuous blame placed on the game industry for the outbreak of the tuberculosis situation in Canada and the lower 48 states of the USA. However, is this a realistic evaluation or, in fact, was it the game production industry that has raised important questions that relate to the testing of even domestic ruminants. Precisely, the tuberculosis situation resulted from a breakdown in the screening process - the tests were not accurate enough. This does not open an immediate arena for emotional and erratic decisions but rather the situation must be resolved to allow business to be conducted as usual. Remember, this means the industry will have clean, healthy animals because they can be tested or vaccinated - and the system works. These newly developed techniques can then be applied by biologists to wild populations of ungulates.

Game animals have few unique diseases and are generally are considered to have fewer parasite/disease problems than livestock. Once intensive practices are employed on the range or farm, animals can be managed through normal health program procedures.

Fences and Handling - Fences and handling are incredibly important. As with other animals, facility designs must be utilized that minimize stress and take advantage of the animal's natural behavior to the manager's advantage. Game farm producers have rapidly learned these behavioral principles and adapted methods that facilitate management. For example, any wild or even an animal habituated to the presence of humans will rarely move down a straight alley that ends in a right angle corner or a dark shadow that streams across the end of the passage. It could be referred to as natural instinct or perhaps common sense. However, place a slight bend or curve in the alley and the animal can see there is a possible exit and a place to hide and feel secure from the herder who approaches from the rear. The animal moves around the corner into the security of a holding pen and the gate is closed before realizing that it is captured .

Fence materials (hi-tensile netting) have been developed and marketed specifically designed for game farms. Various combinations can be used to meet both practical and legal concerns for the perimeter and management needs of the internal paddocks. There is also wire netting that is designed with smaller openings at the bottom that increase in opening size towards the top. This keeps dogs and coyotes outside and prevents small calves from escaping.

Development Plan - Since facilities are essential it is important that the farm layout and design for the initial construction and future developments are thoroughly considered. A

development plan has helped many game farmers and herders plan their needs for infrastructure and capital many years in advance.

Economics and Markets - The initial investment for physical structures (eg. fences, handling facilities, etc.) is higher than for livestock production. However, barns and calving sheds are not required as they are with cattle. Markets for farmed and herded game animals exist and appear to have the potential to expand in the future. In Alaska, reindeer, wapiti, and bison are potentially three possible source of lean and well-flavored meat which is in consumer demand. Velvet antler is another commodity produced by both wapiti and reindeer that is utilized in Asian pharmaceuticals and traditional tonics. Other markets, such as for breeding stock, viewing, etc., can also be explored and researched.

Poaching - It has been suggested that poaching will increase with the expansion of the legal market for game meat. This will be improbable because of consumer desires for a consistent, high quality product. It implies government inspection and ante and post mortem inspection. In order to obtain the government stamp, the meat must be handled under rigorous standards which will be one of the producer's platforms for marketing a quality specialty-item.

It is obvious that there is potential in this new industry - situations and developments both around the world and here in Alaska have shown this. The industry will require research as it integrates and grows in size. An important issue is the continuous interaction, understanding, and compromises of all persons involved in order to ensure logical business development.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION ON GAME FARMING SUMMARY

- The administration supports responsible game farming in Alaska. Game farming is in its infancy but has potential to grow into a viable, sustainable industry.
- For growth to occur, the industry requires consistent state policies, stability in state laws and fair and effective regulations.
- The Departments of Environmental Conservation, Fish and Game and Natural Resources have developed a joint position paper that will lead to statutes, regulations and policies that provide opportunities for the game farm industry to expand while protecting the domestic livestock industry and wildlife resources from undue risk.
- Key points in the administration position are:
 1. Initially limit game farming to four species (reindeer, bison, elk and muskoxen).
 2. Provide a regulatory mechanism to expand the list of species that may be farmed.
 3. Prohibit farming of exotic species to protect native species.
 4. Farming of caribou cannot occur until the federal reindeer act of 1937 is amended. That federal law limits ownership of reindeer in Alaska to Natives and defines captive caribou as reindeer.
 5. Farming of moose is not recommended as a commercial enterprise. It has not been shown to be economically feasible. Biological attributes of moose make them unsuitable for commercial game farming.
 6. The Department of Natural Resources will have the responsibility and authority to regulate most aspects of game farming. Department of Environmental Conservation will have authority for animal health regulations. Fish and Game will have authority over surplusing game animals for game farming and joint responsibility with DNR for adding species to the list of game farmed animals.
- We have drafted proposed legislation based upon House CS for CS SB No. 46 that incorporates these key points.
- The administration believes this proposed legislation will lead to a strong game farming industry in Alaska while protecting our valuable wildlife resources.



CENTRAL COUNCIL
 Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
 ANDREW P. HOPE BUILDING
 320 West Willoughby Avenue - Suite 300
 Juneau, Alaska 99801-9983

Fifty-Eighth Annual General Assembly
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
 April 15-17, 1993
 Sitka, Alaska

SB46

RESOLUTION 93-42
TITLE: GAME FARMING RESOLUTION

Submitted By: Hoonah T&H Community Council

WHEREAS, this bill would introduce wild big game animals to be sold as meat, causing poaching of wild big game animals to be sold as commercial and Federally inspected food; and

WHEREAS, Alaska has sustained moose, deer, bison and other big game animals without outside help; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska needs it's financial funds to ensure that it's citizens receive a proper education, to increase their standard of living; and

WHEREAS, big game animals such as moose knows no boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature will use Alaska laws to further their own big game management plans while Alaska has a Board of Fish and Game with rules and regulations, biologists and the knowledge to let Alaska be Alaska and wild Big Game animals be free; and

WHEREAS, Alaska does not have a need for wild big game animals to be farmed, butchered, sold; and

WHEREAS, this bill is not specific enough because it mixes wild big game and domestic farm animals and in general does not have an impact statement, on where the farms will be nor does it say what will happen to the people who live around these farms.

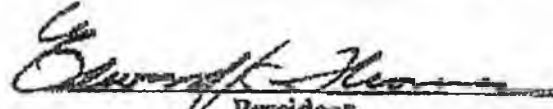
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the General Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska in session this date, that Senate Bill #46 does not pass the Alaska Lawmakers and become law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the lawmakers recognize the Alaska Board of Fish and Game's authority to manage big game animals, and to recognize subsistence rights of rural Alaskans by not allowing wild big game meat to be sold, and by not having big game ranches force rural people away from places that they have lived in for years, and by using these State funds for the Education of rural Alaska residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be directed to the Alaska State Senate and to the House Representatives, to the Governor of Alaska, and to Tlingit and Haida Central Council.

ADOPTED this ___th day of April 1993, by the fifty-eighth General Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, in regular session at Sitka, Alaska.

CERTIFY


President

ATTEST

Tribal Secretary

Soviet farmers learning to harness power of the moose

Not only do hunters kill far more moose in Russia each year than in Alaska, the Soviets have pioneered moose husbandry for meat and milk production as well as for riding and farm work.

Three experimental moose farms exist in the Soviet Union, according to H. R. Timmerman, one of Ontario's top moose biologists. Timmerman attended the third International Moose Symposium held in Syktyvkar, U.S.S.R., during the summer of 1990.

Timmerman, in an article published in the May edition of *Angler & Hunter* magazine, said he visited the oldest such farm, established in 1949 by K. P. Knorre near Yaska. During the past 40 years this farm has raised and domesticated 450 moose, some of which represent the sixth generation of original stock.

Operation of the moose farms, as Timmerman describes it, is similar to dairy and beef production with domestic cattle, but with some notable differences.

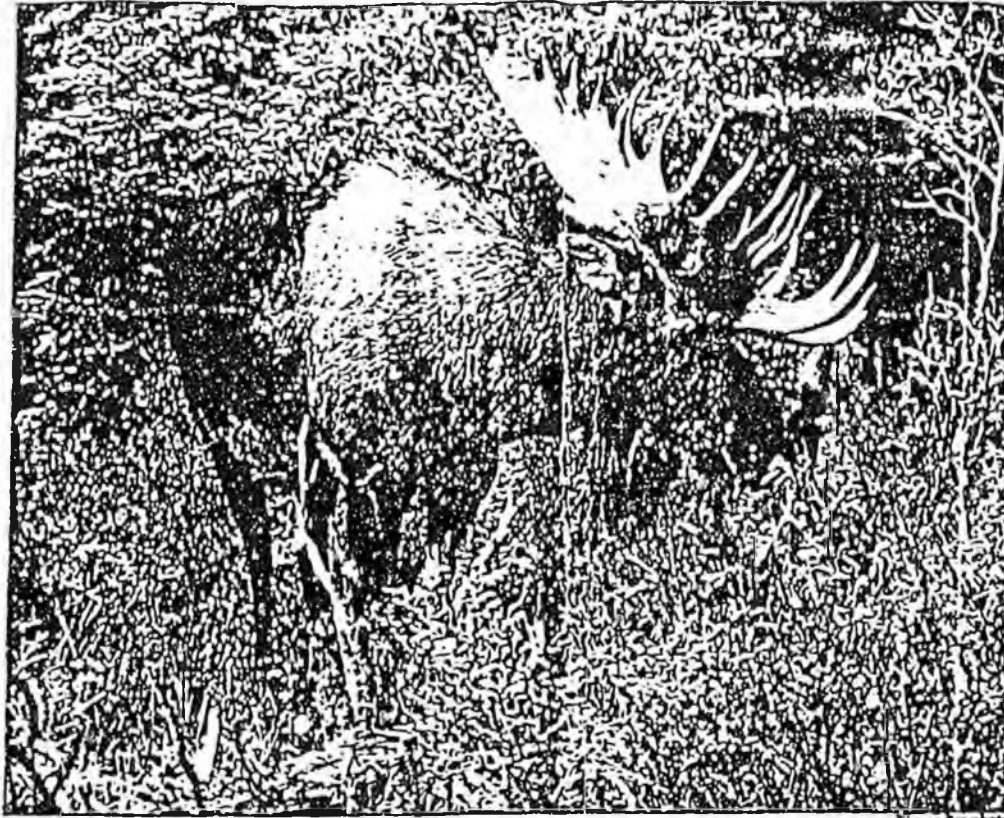
The Russians have found that the key to domestication of moose requires that each newborn calf imprint to a human milkmaid four to five hours after birth.

Consequently, as moose cows approach the time to give birth, they are taken to an enclosure and attended by milkmaids until birth occurs, usually from early May through mid-June each year.

After its first suckling, each calf is removed from the cow and fed from a bottle by the same milkmaid up to five times a day. Each cow is milked by hand at the birth site. They quickly substitute their milkmaids for their offspring and are released from the enclosures to the surrounding forest, but return twice a day for milking at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

That should sound familiar to anyone who has ever been associated with a dairy farm. And incidentally, I'm not being chauvinistic in saying that the moose cows and calves are taken care of by milkmaids. I assume men could handle those chores as well as women, but Timmerman doesn't indicate that he saw any men involved in that phase of the operation, and his pictures with the article show women doing the milking and handling of the calves.

As they grow older, the calves are fed milk substitutes or diluted sheep milk, taught to drink from a pail and are weaned by mid-September. About 95 percent survive to six months of age, when they are usually moved to an active logging area so they can feed on remaining tree tops and limbs.



Soviet farmers are perfecting methods to milk moose. They also raise the ungulate for food.

Moose cows are bred for milk production by selecting the best individuals, Timmerman says. Those who give the most milk generally give birth to calves that also have high milk yields. A moose cow produces about a gallon of milk a day, but this can be increased by more frequent milkings.

Eventually, I suppose by selective breeding, you could have some Jersey- and Holstein-type moose and even some Hereford and Black Angus types for meat.

Moose milk is richer than domestic cow's milk, containing up to 11 percent fat, 9 percent protein and a host of vitamins and micro-elements. Timmerman says the milk has been touted as having unique medical properties, particularly for the treatment of stomach ulcers and radian lesions. However, this hasn't yet been scientifically proven.

The moose milking must not be an economically

viable operation. In fact, it appears the farms are more on the line of a socialist experiment, and Timmerman speculates they may soon disappear.

At present, all the milk produced at the farm Timmerman visited is fed back to calves. This is partially due to the lack of facilities to sterilize, store and distribute it, he says.

Bull calves and cows that don't produce much milk, as well as calves, are butchered for meat, which is two to five times cheaper than cattle, he says. This would seem to indicate that raising moose for meat could possibly be an economically rewarding enterprise.

The bull calves, like beef cattle, are castrated. Timmerman says they are quiet and calm and retain their excellent meat qualities even to old age.

In the past, some castrated bulls were trained to



Anchorage Times
July 18, 1991

Ed Cooper

OUTDOORS
COLUMNIST

carry humans on saddles, cargo or haul sleighs in winter. Training the moose, however, was a labor-intensive process. Men were involved here, and apparently a bit of wild east rodeo was part of the exercise.

The training also tended to cause the animals to lose their fear of man or dogs, making them vulnerable to poachers and predators.

Yes, poachers are a significant factor in annual moose harvests in the Soviet Union, as they are in Alaska and other parts of the world.

Alaska's game regulations, incidentally, do not allow private ownership of moose, as they do buffalo and musk ox. Bills have been introduced in the legislature to allow moose ranching, but none have passed.

Officials in the Soviet Union estimate about 1 million moose roam the wilds in eight of its 15 federated republics, with the highest densities in the Baltic republics, the western and northern regions of the Russian Federated Republic, including the Komi A.S.S.R., and northern areas of Byelorussia and portions of the Ukraine.

In 1988, some 70,000 moose were reportedly taken by 20,000 to 30,000 hunters, a major percentage of whom are professionals. That compares with less than 10,000 moose taken by hunters in Alaska during the same year.

Now Russia is opening up its hunting, not only for moose, but also for bear, wolves and other species, to hunters from other parts of the world. They are likely to provide formidable competition to Alaska's guides and outfitters starting as early as next year.

Incidentally, Alaska isn't the only place in the world where officials worry about wild moose roaming streets, highways and railroad tracks. Timmerman said that up to 70 moose are captured in and around Moscow each year.

They just take them out to the moose farms. But then, I suppose to a moose, that could be the equivalent of being banished to Siberia.

photo →

Dr Hyle Renecker →
Head of REINDEER DEPT.
@ U of A in Feb.
Has had about 8
yrs experience with
Domestic Moose in
Canada

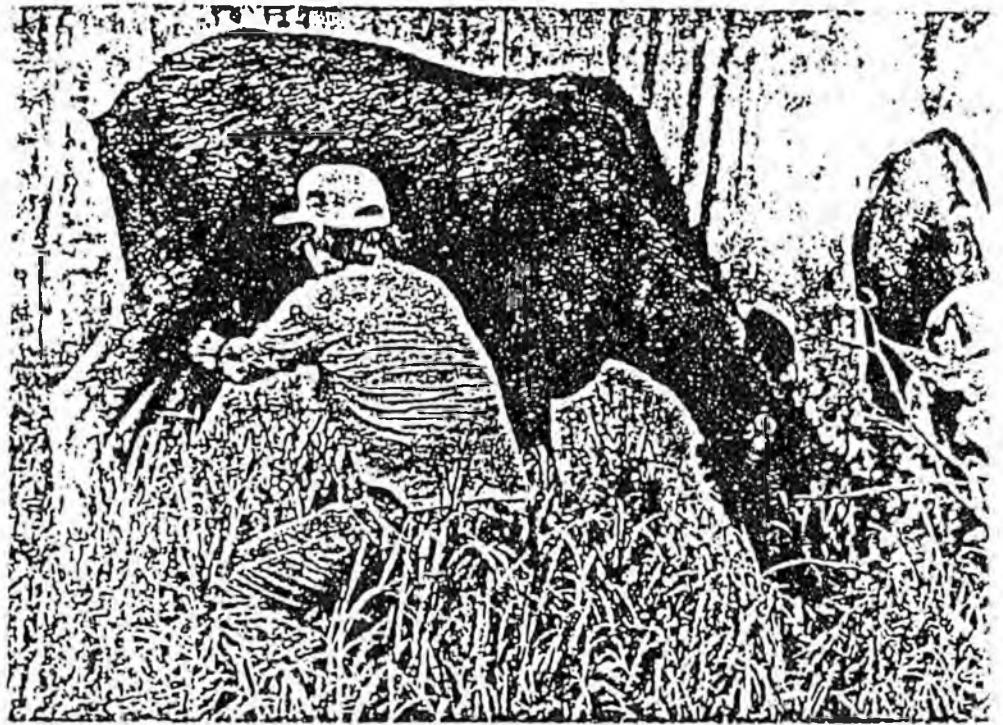


Fig. 2. Milking an untethered moose cow at the Ministik Wildlife Research Area.

titic appears to lag behind metabolic demands and losses of over 1 kg/day have been observed in penned adults. Voluntary intake and weight gain are highest during late spring and early summer. However, high ambient temperatures during July and August result in static or declining body weight as a consequence of reduced feeding activity to minimize heat stress. During the rut, bulls reduce feed intake and can lose over 1.3 kg/day. Subsequent to the breeding season, intake and weight of bulls increase until late November–December in preparation for winter.

Moose breed successfully under intensive husbandry but fecundity may be lower than in wild populations. The birth peak is generally broader than in the wild and birth weights are high ($\bar{x} \pm S.D.$;

16.6 ± 0.5 kg, $n=2$). However, dystocia and late conception may be associated with heavy winter feeding (Renecker 1987).

Calves are easily obtained from the wild and adapt well to a range of systems of hand-rearing. Occasionally problems are encountered at weaning. Growth rates are in the order of 0.69 kg/day for bottle-fed calves (Welch pers. comm.) and 0.7 kg/day for weaned animals at 6 months of age.

Russian workers have pioneered studies on the dairy potential of hand-reared moose (Knorre 1961). We have milked untethered moose which were either standing or lying (Fig. 2). The milk is more concentrated than domestic cow's milk with higher fat, protein and total

Lawmakers high on moose bill

By KATE RIPLEY
Staff Writer

JUNEAU—Last December, Doug and Opal Welton packed their three children into an old bus, drove 750 miles in the dead of winter and camped on a Juneau beach in the freezing rain.

They moved from their Chatanika home to the capital city for several months of down-home lobbying on behalf of would-be moose farmers everywhere.

The Weltons are not in the moose farming business, but would like to be. The problem is state law says they can't.

The couple have worked for several years to get the law changed so that people would be allowed to corral, raise and slaughter moose, as well as sell the meat commercially.

In addition to providing steady meat and milk for their family, a moose farm also would be a great money-making tourist attraction, the Weltons said.

"This means everything to us, because it will provide the lifestyle we came to Alaska to live," Doug Welton said.

The couple found a home to rent in Juneau. Doug has a handyman business and Opal substitute teaches. They plan to stay as long as it takes to ensure the moose bill, which has been introduced several other times, becomes law.

Observers say the mood is in the Weltons' favor.

The bill already sailed through the Senate with futile protest from the Democratic minority. It is now before the House Resources Committee, where it died last year under its former chairman, Rep. Cliff Davidson, D-Kodiak and a strong opponent of the bill.

This year the key committee is chaired by Rep. Bill Williams, D-Saxman. Williams is one of a handful of Democrats who crossed party lines to join the House Republican majority. Republicans generally support moose farming for its economic development benefits.

Williams himself is still non-committal about the bill.

"I'm going to wait until we get through this hearing. We're going to listen to the people, that's for sure," Williams said.

Veteran lawmaker Sen. Jay Kerttula, D-Palmer, said moose farming could be a \$100 million industry, but that more stringent controls on the business are necessary.

"I'm not against moose ranching. I'm just against the moose farming that they're talking about here," Kerttula said.

Sen. Georgianna Lincoln, D-Rampart, voted against the bill this year, though she has supported similar measures in the past.

This bill was different, Lincoln said, because of its emphasis on commercial meat sales.

"I just felt that that opened up a huge window for poaching, because how do you determine which is farmed moose and which is poached moose?" said Lincoln, who figures the House will approve the measure.

The rest of the Fairbanks delegation in the Senate is solidly behind the bill, sponsored by Mike Miller, R-North Pole.

Miller predicted the vote in the House will be close, but that it would pass if it makes it to the floor.

Rep. Davidson hopes it doesn't. "I'm not going to vote for it, but it's hard to say," said Davidson, who Welton nearly came to blows with last year in the Capitol.

Rep. Bill Hudson, R-Juneau, agreed the bill probably will pass, since this Legislature is more sympathetic to so-called "red meat bills" than those in the past.

"There may be some limitations placed on it before it actually passes out," Hudson said.

Rep. Irene Nicholia, D-Tanana and an opponent of the measure, also agreed chances of getting the measure through the house are fairly good. "More crazy things have happened in this House so far this year," she said.

House Majority Leader Gail Phillips, R-Homer, offered no early predictions, but said the idea of moose farming has merit.

"I think if we receive the assur-

ances that biologically it would work, maybe it's worth a try," Phillips said.

House Minority Leader Fran Ulmer, D-Juneau, said she has little sympathy for the proposal. "I wouldn't think I would describe it as one of the most important things that has to happen this year."

Of the Interior's House members, only Rep. Gene Therriault, R-North Pole, and Joe Sitton, D-Fairbanks, have voiced support for the bill. Rep. Al Vezey, R-North Pole, said he supports the concept of moose farming, but hasn't read through the bill yet.

The rest of the Interior delegation in the House is undecided.

A looming question over the whole affair is whether Gov. Walter J. Hickel will sign the bill into law, assuming it gets to his desk.

His Department of Fish and Game doesn't like it, but the departments of Environmental Conservation, Commerce and Natural Resources all have given it an OK.

In an interview last week, the governor said he has some concerns about the bill and questioned its reliance on "surplus" moose for seed stock.

Both proponents and opponents of the bill acknowledge that the word "surplus" needs definition.

Fish and Game officials say "surplus animals do not exist." Nick Colombo, a Delta Junction farmer who backs moose farming, believes surplus animals should be defined as those that are seriously injured, orphaned, or starving.

"They needed to define what a surplus is before they even started with the damn thing," Colombo said. "That's what killed it last year."

Kris Lethin, the governor's legislative liaison, said Tuesday Hickel's concerns mirror those of Fish and Game's.

Lethin would not, however, speculate on whether the governor would veto the measure. Sen. Miller said he doubts the Legislature has the two-thirds vote needed to override a veto.

Moose farming in Alaska: recipe for disaster or economic blessing?

By KELLY BOSTIAN
Staff Writer

Visions of moose farming in Alaska are as wide and varied as the palmated antlers that perch atop the long-legged ungulates.

Supporters say moose farming would offer economic self-reliance, especially in rural areas, to many people. Others say a moose farming bill now in the hands of state legislators is a recipe for disaster.

Senate Bill 48 allows "surplus" moose to be confined and domesticated, and the meat inspected and sold commercially or for personal use. It creates rules similar to those applied to the dairy and beef industries.

Nick Colombo, a Delta Junction farmer who lobbied for a similar bill last year, said the thousands of fallow acres in the Delta Barley Project and other lands between Delta Junction and the Canada border are ideal for moose farming.

"I would just hate to see the state go off on another binge to try and develop another type of agriculture. I don't see any light at the end of the tunnel on this stuff."

—Al Franzmann, a Game Board member from Soldotna and former director of the state's Moose Research Center on the Kenai Peninsula

"Have you ever seen the country between here and the border? There's nothing," he said. "I think there is enough land in this country that they could spare 100,000 acres for raising moose."

Moose farming opponents say such a large operation would set Alaska on the same road as the Lower 48—toward destruction of large predators that would inevitably want to feed on privately-owned moose.

But Colombo said fences designed to keep moose in would like-

wise keep predators out. "They don't know what they're talking about," he said.

The Alaska Board of Game as a whole recently stated its opposition to the bill.

Al Franzmann, a Game Board member from Soldotna and former director of the state's Moose Research Center on the Kenai Peninsula, said moose are expensive to raise and require a large piece of land for range.

"I would just hate to see the state go off on another binge to try and

develop another type of agriculture," he said. "I don't see any light at the end of the tunnel on this stuff."

Supporters of moose farming note that the Swedish government puts vast amounts of meat on the table for its people through its moose management system. But Franzmann said the plan before the Legislature bears little resemblance to Sweden's.

Forests in Sweden are harvested to create browse and bolster moose populations that are harvested by hunters. That's not farming, he noted. "What they have is intensive forest management."

But other state officials are supportive of the moose farming idea.

Raga Elim, Department of Natural Resources special assistant in Juneau, said that agency withholds judgment on the economic viability of moose farming. "Let the market

See MOOSE, Page A-8

MOOSE: Farming idea has critics, backers

Continued from Page A-1

dictate if it is a viable business and if individuals want to pursue it then let them. It's not our position to prejudge the economics of it."

Raga said the department would probably lend financial assistance to moose farmers with the state's Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund.

"We need to look at some of the specifics, but in general we are in favor of the bill," said John Cramer, director of the state Division of Agriculture in Palmer.

The Department of Commerce and Economic Development also supports the idea. The department's position paper states the bill will give greater opportunity to Alaskans to provide for their families. It further states the Division of Tourism is standing by to offer technical assistance to moose farm owners to add a tourism/education component to their operations.

Fish and Game officials say they are "neutral" on the bill, but they don't hold back reasons it shouldn't

pass.

"It's not like we're just naysayers," said Division of Wildlife Conservation Director Dave Kellyhouse of Juneau. "But the biology tells you all along that (moose) are not the animal to hang your hat on for a successful game farm operation."

He added that the department would be more supportive of muskoxen operations. "They are smaller, they're a herd animal and they take less land to raise," he said.

Disease among domesticated moose is a major concern, according to Fish and Game officials. They point to problems that cropped up with elk domestication in Canada and the western United States. Kellyhouse said a tuberculosis outbreak in Alberta among domesticated elk cost \$10 million and several human lives.

State wildlife biologist and disease specialist Randy Zarnke of Fairbanks said potential disease disasters with domesticated moose

are theoretical. "But as you get more and more animals in captivity and bring them into higher densities your theoreticals often become actuals," he said.

Bert Gore, state veterinarian with the Department of Environmental Conservation of Palmer, has little worry of serious disease cropping up in indigenous moose.

"I'm not totally convinced that farming some moose up here creates that great of a health risk," he said. "Normally the ones that are free-ranging pose the greater health risk than the confined ones. The animals that are behind a fence are closely monitored. In the wilderness you don't know what happens, they just die and the wolves eat them."

The time has come for moose farming

By DOUG WELTON

As I go through this life here on planet Earth, amidst all the confusion and grime, I am constantly aware of how unsettled society is—the soaring crime, suicide and destruction.

I get up in the morning and turn on the radio and hear the day's recital of what we are doing to ourselves, and to each other and what our government is doing to all of us. And then I compare the way I live my life, and the way I treat others, and think about what I want to do in this crazy world. And I can only wonder how what I want to do is illegal, while all the grief and greed and grossness of the world is apparently acceptable.

What do I want to do? My family and I have for four years now studied and dreamed about a way of life separate from all that we see going wrong in this world. All we want to do is salvage the orphaned, the hurt, and the problem moose, and put them to good use.

Through our extensive research, we have concluded that not only is this quite possible, but is exactly what is being done successfully in other countries, such as Russia. It may not be the biggest breakthrough since man on the moon, but it is definitely an option to the present policy of allowing moose to be hunted and killed only.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has this attitude that our wildlife should not be used commercially, or be privatized. But again, as I look out on this world, I see big game guides making millions carting people around, and getting paid to kill, kill, kill. I am also aware of people being allowed to display these animals, and charging others to have a look. Then, how about the research facilities that have for decades been allowed to privately conduct every imaginable kind of experiment on these animals?

Why can these people exploit our wildlife, and I cannot? While game farming science doesn't hold the moose to be the most economically viable species, in my view it is the most loved and desirable and enjoyed of them all. Most game farms in Canada keep a couple around, just because. And the fact that we've not yet realized how to capitalize on the potential, doesn't mean the potential is not there.

It's known for a fact that moose came as easily as calves, that they give the most nutritious milk on earth, that they will pull a sleigh or a cart, that they can be ridden in places other animals would find inaccessible, can breed at one year of age, and generally throw twins from the second

calving on.

When raised in captivity, they grow year round, and achieve larger size. When castrated they don't participate in the rut and continue to gain weight. They can provide a reliable source of meat to a family, and don't require watering in winter like all other farm animals. The antlers, hides, hooves, and bones provide materials for crafts and clothing, and yet it is not legal to raise them here in Alaska.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game says that raising them would ruin the "Alaskan experience" for our visitors, and that they simply can't be raised. I can't believe that this one department in our corrupt government has been allowed to become so powerful. They are a dark cloud over this state,

and I wish the people would wake up and see the truth.

I suppose if I were Oscar Meyer, I would get somewhere, but I'm not. I'm just a little ol' Alaskan. Do you have to be a multi-national corporation or millionaire to develop an industry, or even a way of life, in Alaska today?

Our legislators have all thrown in the towel, and won't even dispute what our so-called experts say. However, they have an opportunity with two bills legalizing the raising of moose, and predictably, Fish and Game will say no. Who owns this state anyway, and who owns all the wildlife and other renewable resources?

House Bill 478 and Senate Bill 216 would do more than legalize moose and caribou farming. It would give people like us a purpose and something to do. Are our



children going to be forced to seek their fortunes elsewhere? Or are we going to open opportunities to enrich their lives with the resources with which this state has been blessed? Or is Alaska just for the rich and powerful?

I am sick of hearing no, of denial and discrimination. I'm tired of getting nowhere and numb from the cold evasiveness of politics as usual. I'm not wanting any damned welfare or privileges. I'm not looking for a hand just a hand.

I see opportunities and I've sought them, but not got them. This country was built by dreamers and doers, not the passive and the politicians. Exxon us and BP you! Funny, they seem to get to do whatever they want to do. It doesn't matter what it takes, whether it's a park or refuge or forbidden place, they seem to run this whole damn human race.

Please consider what I've had to say; there is a better way!

Doug Welton is president of the Alaska Game Rancher's Association, a thirteen year resident of Alaska, and an advocate of the legalization of moose farming for the past four years.

Alaska could benefit from game ranching

Of Alaska wilderness and wildlife, relative to the rest of the nation, there is a very great amount. Empty lands? Not necessarily.

After the large acreage transfers authorized under the historic land settlement act have been accomplished, the state of Alaska will own about 104 million acres, about 28 percent of the total Alaska land mass; Alaska Native people will own an additional 44 million acres, about 12 percent, or roughly 1/3 of all Alaska. Together the non-federal lands will represent a bit more than two-fifths or 40 percent of the total. The federal government will retain ownership of nearly three-fifths or 60 percent of Alaskan lands.

This vast acreage apparently is dedicated almost entirely to wilderness and wildlife purposes. Initially after transfer much of the land in Native private ownership will remain essentially wilderness with minimum use by people. Of the state's portion, nearly 3/5 has been classified for fish and wildlife. A tiny amount has been classified for agriculture, about 2 percent, and only 16 percent for commercial forestry production.

Then an inescapable fundamental top-priority question facing all Alaskans, including Native Alaskan com-

munities, is working out some reasonable balance in the use of their lands.

To resolve the fundamental "All Alaska" question will take more than emotionalism, fixed ideologies of any extreme, and selfish specialized interests, however attractive out of context, or in isolation from consideration of the general good.

Any acceptable resolution will require a painfully realistic assessment of potential land resource uses, creative concepts for immediate, mid-term, and long-range uses that fit into a reasoned and well-balanced design for utilization. Truly this is a process without end—so long as the human mind and spirit prevail on earth. There is no quick fix in prospect.

Given the above, is there a common-sense approach to bringing Alaskan wilderness and wildlife into greater production for the benefit of residents in an all-inclusive sense? That is what our endless quest for an answer to our land issue is all about.

The goal of leaving a place better than we found it, over-simplified for clarity, exemplifies husbandry-at-its-best of the natural resources available to us, in reality merely lent to us for a brief time.

For some of the state's marginal



William R. Wood

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lands, including private ownership lands, game ranching holds much promise. It may offer the soundest approach to bringing a portion of Alaskan wilderness and wildlife into greater production to enhance the several "good-life" styles we enjoy in the North.

A strong case can be made for game ranching in Alaska, particularly in the Interior, but also in Southcentral and southwestern and northwestern areas. In Southeast Alaska the game ranching principle already is being used successfully in the fishing industry. The good case for can be spelled out readily in outline from successful game ranching operations elsewhere. Such experience and state-of-the-art practices must be examined closely

in relation to the particular Alaska project or series of projects that undoubtedly will be proposed this year and subsequently.

For discussion, to whom does Alaska state wilderness wildlife belong? All of us? Then how can we best preserve it and increase its productivity in multiple ways for the common good?

How can a reasonable portion of Alaska state and private lands be set aside for game ranching, beginning perhaps with a pilot project or two?

There are several types of game ranching operations, including but not limited to: those government-operated for preservation of species and tourism, with culling of herds open for recreational hunting, including trophy taking, on a limited permit basis; private club-type operations with access limited to members and their guests only; and private operations for profit, featuring a wide range of income-producing possibilities, from meat production and trophy taking to general recreation, sightseeing, picture taking, and esthetic fulfillment to be derived from wilderness and wildlife.

Paramount for consideration of continued success for private enter-

prise game ranching is not only the preservation but the enhancement of scientific principles of both wilderness and wildlife. Attempts at "exploitation for profit only" are doomed to fail promptly. An enlightened, well-informed people will not tolerate them.

To what extent might limited game ranching, especially in Interior Alaska, relieve pressure upon other wilderness lands and their wildlife? That pressure is building up dramatically. In particular, might a game ranching pilot project featuring Delta buffalo serve more than one good purpose, including resolution of the pre-emptive farmer vs. buffalo conflict in the Delta agricultural area? Both/and rather than either/or.

Let's think this game ranching prospect through together beginning with a positive and constructive analysis of possibilities as well as problems. Let's reason together and act sensibly for the general good without political posturing or attempted manipulation. Is this too much to ask in face of the number one priority basic issue of land utilization in Alaska?

There is urgent necessity here that demands immediate attention.

FAIRBANKS NEWSMINER 17 NOV. 1982

Let ag dept be responsible for alternative stock health

A bill in the Washington State Senate looks like a smart way to govern the domestic production of deer. It would rely more on sound science than would a House bill in the area of alternative livestock.

In the last few years, diet-conscious Americans have discovered that venison raised on farms is delicious and low in calories. Several years ago, a group of enterprising farmers in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia decided to cash in on a growing demand for this new product, which they found could be produced at about the same cost as beef but would sell for three to four times as much.

A marketing cooperative was established and the outlook was promising, but the Washington state Wildlife Department and Wildlife Commission last year used false information to justify an order that banned the import of deer from farms in Oregon and British Columbia for slaughter at a specialized USDA-inspected plant in Burlington, Wash. A ban on propagation of deer on Washington farms was overturned by a federal judge, but the ban on imports remained. Permanent regulations adopted in January permit farming of reindeer and fallow deer but outlaw sika deer.

Two bills before the Washington Legislature would give statutory protection to the alternative livestock industry. Deer farms would be regulated primarily by the Department of Agriculture under both bills, with a limited role for the Wildlife Department.

House Bill 1135 specifies that reindeer

and fallow deer and Rocky Mountain elk would be designated as alternative livestock. Other species could be added if agreed to by the two departments. A three-member review board could make recommendations, but the Department of Wildlife would have virtual veto power over adding more species.

Senate Bill 5418 would allow farming of any species except those the two departments agree should not be farmed because they might pose a threat to native wildlife. The Senate bill specifies a review board to include chairs of the state veterinary board of governors, the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine and the WSU Natural Resource Science Department.

The Senate bill would be best because it would ensure that decisions would be based on sound science rather than the questionable, one-sided criteria used by the Department of Wildlife.

Legislative testimony has shown that disease problems on deer farms have occurred only in states where they were regulated by wildlife agencies. There have been no problems where animal disease control on deer farms is handled by state departments of agriculture.

The state veterinarian in the Washington Department of Agriculture has done an admirable job of protecting native wildlife as well as domestic livestock from tuberculosis, brucellosis and other animal diseases.

It's time for the Department of Wildlife to step aside and let the job be done by people who have demonstrated that they know what they are doing.

The preservation movement is a lucrative and will continue to be as they can brainwash supporters into believing the world will come to them if they don't keep their noses rolling in.

However, "Friends" support such monstrous the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission are just as much of an agriculture.

The next step after will be an agricultural act where each will be told exactly farm, when and if to fertilizer or pesticides used, and eventual crops to grow. The end will be to pay taxes.

The free-enterprise with private property built the United States ism will destroy it.

George Paul Cornelius, CA

Grazing fee hike countereconomic To The Editor

In President Clinton news release, he told that he wanted to raise fees on public lands would force a lot of ranchers out of public lands.

President Clinton realize that most of the land in the Western very marginal, lands not worth homestead were taken back in the

These lands produce to 150-pound lighter calf than the more private lands. With calves at near \$1 per ranchers running a

The Anchorage Times

Publisher: BILL J. ALLEN

"Believing in Alaskans, putting Alaska first"

Editors: DENNIS FRADLEY, PAUL JENKINS, WILLIAM J. TOBIN

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Let moose roam loose

TUCKED AWAY in the House Resources Committee awaiting hearings is a reprehensible piece of special interest legislation that runs counter to most sound game management principles.

The measure, already approved by the Senate, would clear the way for moose farms in Alaska to benefit only the few people who are pushing to make a buck at our expense.

This bill, which crawled from beneath a rock as SB46, would allow private individuals to acquire from the state "surplus" moose to begin fenced-in game farms.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, up to a few weeks ago, vociferously opposed such legislation for a variety of very good reasons. Those include:

- Large, fenced tracts would interfere with the movement of other species in the area.
- Moose are not herd animals. For the most part, they are solitary.
- Biologists say the most productive habitat in Alaska can support only six or eight moose per square mile in the long winter months, and Canadian researchers say packing them together increases disease transmission which could infect wild stocks.
- It would increase the poaching and sale of meat from wild moose.
- The agency would have little say in regulation of moose farming schemes.
- The economics of moose farming make it almost a certainty such ventures will fail.

And, presumably, we could in the future see moose tied up for viewing at tourist traps along the highways of Alaska, just as other states have had bears, alligators and other wild animals caged and subjected to this form of cruelty.

Before Alaska decides to go along with this scheme, it should note there are no viable commercial moose farming operations anywhere, and for good reason. And many states that have allowed such ventures with other species now find themselves searching for ways to get rid of them. In the former Soviet Union, they tried for decades to domesticate moose before the idea was abandoned as impractical.

Oddly, the Department of Fish and Game — adamant until a few weeks ago on the moose farming question — now is strangely neutral on the subject. Maybe having its budget trimmed by \$3.3 million in Senate Finance played a role, or maybe it was having its world-class Moose Research Center in Kenai zeroed out of the budget.

If the agency that is supposed to be the authority on moose in Alaska now finds itself somehow choked into silence by Senate purrestrings, let us speak up in its behalf.

Game ranching is a lousy idea designed to benefit a few while costing the rest of us in resources, time and money. If you value Alaska's wildlife resources, let your legislators know.

Ap. 9, 1993

The Elk-Ranch Boom

By Ted Williams

Elk ranching is thriving. But is it a livestock bonanza or a wildlife disaster?

FEBRUARY 13, and already spring is busting out all over central Colorado. Flights of horned larks, carried like cottonwood leaves on the sweet Chinook wind, swirl over muddy pastures; and along the creek beds, burbling redwings ride bobbing cattails. In front of us Long's Peak rises white and cold; behind us red sandstone cliffs are washed in

muted sunlight. With my companions—Rick Kahn and John Seidel of the Colorado Division of Wildlife—I hike up into the realm of the wild elk. But now it is the realm of captive elk, too.

The yearling bull pushes his glistening black nose through the wire fence and browses the collar of my nylon parka.

When I step back he rolls his eyes, showing the whites the way wild elk do, then butts me with the painted stumps of his amputated antlers. A plastic square with a "1" on it dangles like an automobile air freshener from his left ear, and both ears carry punch-through metal tags. His neck is bare with mange.

Not having been bottle-fed, the other elk in the pasture hang back; but their coats are ratty, too. Human-habituated cervids are not, as the ranchers like to call them, "domesticated," nor will they be for thousands of generations. So while they may appear calm as cattle, there's a stress factor that shows up in their general condition. Further, they seem to have difficulty assimilating trace elements, and parasite



TRICK DAVISON

loading is heavy.

Like most biologists, Kahn and Seidel don't like to see wild animals confined, but neither are they fighting elk ranching. It's too late for that. Instead, they are trying to work with the new industry in order to protect Colorado's 200,000 free elk—the most of any state or Canadian province. Kahn had apologized for taking me to this and another ranch because

maladies and enhance sexual prowess. The state commissioner of agriculture was on hand to welcome us to the "Elk Capital of the World," so called for its free, not captive, elk. He was, he said, "proud" and "excited" to be associated with an industry so "dynamic" and "innovative," one that "epitomizes" agricultural diversification and has "blazed a trail" for the rest of agriculture.

dynamic and growing. And let me tell you, you just have to grab and get ahold of yourself because the speed at which these things are happening is phenomenal."

How right he was. In 1990 elk breeders powwowed to set up an organization that would promote their mutual interests, i.e., procuring a bigger chunk of the Asian antler market. Then there were 17 members. Now there are 700,

and they control about 85 percent of the 20,500 captive elk in North America, 17,000 of which are incarcerated south of the Canadian line.

Sounds impressive until you

INCITE

consider that there are 1 million European elk, better known as red deer, under fence in New Zealand.

Later there were speeches, seminars, movies, open bars, exhibits, and a lavish banquet of elk steaks—the best red meat that ever passed my lips, after Yankee whitetail. There were auctions, too, in which members bought live brood stock from around the country, shown live by satellite on TV screens, and elk-product gew-

We had lots in common, these elk ranchers and I. For instance, we adored wild cervids and were bored by domestic ungulates. I liked everyone I met. They struck me as more animated and, well, smarter than other stockmen; and certainly I couldn't blame them for wanting to diversify. Environmentalists had been nagging them about their cattle, trying to push grazing fees on public land closer to fair market value and chanting "Cow Free by '93." With America souring on beef and even cowboys, a light bulb switches on in the intelligent rancher's head when he looks out his bedroom window and sees a wild

animal worth \$8,000 grazing on the far side of his barbed wire.

Recently, environmentalists have been nagging ranchers about their elk, too. When NAEBA members asked for my opinions, I told them I hadn't come to Colorado to lecture but to listen and learn. When they pressed, I admitted to harboring grave concerns about the commercialization and privatization of any native fauna—an approach that has failed spectacularly in Europe and that clashes with 75 years of successful wildlife management on this continent. Amidst all the excitement and festivity and happy, positive, can-do attitudes, it pained me to throw in with the forces of negativism. But I suppose that's the lot of environmental reporters these days.

Regular reporters as well, according to the Colorado Elk and Game Breeders Association, whose officers I met at the convention. "As we all know, the press loves to



they were so well managed as to be not "representative." The others, though, were too far out of Denver for us to make it back to the downtown Radisson in time for the grand opening of the North American Elk Breeders Association's annual convention.



Above: Antlers are cut from an anesthetized elk with a common wood saw, then sold to Asian buyers for use in medicines and aphrodisiacs. Left: A de-antlered bull in Alberta, Canada. Opposite: Elk, with antlers in the velvet-covered stage, feed on hay at a ranch in Checkerboard, Montana.

The NAEBA convention's theme was "Elk! Livestock of the Future." But unlike livestock, captive elk usually aren't killed; instead, their antlers are cut off in the blood-engorged, velvet-covered stage and consumed by Asians in the belief that they ward off

Association president Sam Withiam, a beaming, white-haired Santa Claus of a man, warned about the forces of negativism that want "to see this industry fail and would enjoy seeing it fail." The association, he declared, is "an agent of an industry that is

gaws lofted about the room. President Withiam offered "two ampoules of semen rated 'excellent' in motility, volume, density, and morphological evaluation." This from his prize bull elk "Northern Exposure," sired by the great "Kojak."

"Should be read by every nature-oriented citizen."

—Roger Tory Peterson

BIRDS IN JEOPARDY



The Imperiled and Extinct Birds of the United States and Canada Including Hawaii and Puerto Rico

Paul R. Ehrlich, David S. Dobkin, and Darryl Wheye

As the impact of society spreads, more and more familiar birds are on the decline. Why? How can we reverse the trend? This first comprehensive review of the status of 184 endangered or extinct species, by the authors of *The Birder's Handbook*, alerts us to factors critical in the work of conservation and recovery. Striking color portraits by Darryl Wheye.

xii+259 pp. Cloth, \$45.00; paper, \$17.95

Stanford University Press
Stanford, CA 94305-2235

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distort and emphasize the negative," proclaims the group's publication, *Elk Family News*. The *Denver Post* had reported that two former members were "fined" \$6,450 each after the state accused them of luring 25 free elk into pens. The real story, reveals *Elk Family News*, is that the two ranchers "each donated \$6,450 to Operation Game Thief." Technically correct, although the "donation" was part of an agreement in which they pleaded guilty to illegal possession of elk for sale.

"Never trust the media's intentions," instructs NAEBA's quarterly magazine, *North American Elk*. And by all means keep it away from "velveting" operations (cutting antlers in the marketable "velvet"

able resource goes from excellent to good to poor to worthless. Do it right and you can make as much as \$110 a pound. Sometimes antlers get bacteria inside them, but you can sort these in the drying room—with your nose. ("It's the rottenest stink you ever smelled," said a convention panelist). Throughout the week I learned lots more about velveting, but it is hard for the public to comprehend its true nature. So hard, in fact, that when I attended a session on the subject I was asked to turn off my tape recorder.

So I took careful notes during a session entitled "Starting an Elk Farm—The First Two Years." The panel included a hunting outfitter who spoke about the booming trade in "shooter bulls," geriatric elk shot in enclosures by trophy hunters [see "Canned Hunts," January-February 1992]. "It's a manage-



Working from the back of a pickup truck, Dean Baumann feeds oats to the elk herd at his Alberta ranch, where he has built a \$275,000 "velveting" facility for cutting antlers and where he has hosted a major antler auction.

ment decision," he explained. "If he's absolutely prime, has a Boone and Crockett rack, I'll pay twelve thousand dollars for him. Is three thousand dollars' worth of horns this year worth a gamble on keeping him another year, when you can put twelve thousand dollars in your pocket?"

I learned even more at the bars and display booths. But when I asked about the dangers to free cervids posed by genetic swamping, disease, and the new infrastructure for laundering stolen wildlife, the ranchers got tight-lipped and testy. "The people worried about that stuff never had shit on their boots or signed a paycheck on the back," boomed NAEBA board member Bob Spoklic, of Antelope, Montana, a square-jawed man with green eyes and steel wool hair who looks as if he just stepped off the *Guns Smoke* set. In addition to annually harvesting 200 antlers from his own herd (more than any operation in the United

stage). Otherwise, the public will be reading such descriptions as this, from the October 16, 1989, *Albuquerque Tribune*: "The body of the drugged animal leaps. Its hooves paw the ground. . . ."

Velveting, at least as it is now practiced by most NAEBA members, is no more inhumane than any of the other things people do to livestock. The bulls are thoroughly anesthetized. Occasionally they are turned on their sides so more of the highly valued blood, from which the medicine supposedly gets its potency, will drain into the still spongy antlers. Sometimes Asian buyers hover around, asking to imbibe the raw liquid as it spurts from the antler stumps. ("I can't stand that—to see them guys drinking that," one rancher told the *Tribune*.)

You have about four days to velvet, during which the quality of this renew-

States), Spoklie canvasses the northwestern quarter of the nation, from Minnesota to Washington, collecting frozen velvet. He is honest, hardworking, and well respected in the industry. Recently he installed his own drying

The antlers are cut off in the blood-engorged, velvet-covered stage and shipped to Asian markets.

facility and staffed it with Koreans, some of whom were brewing up pungent antler tea at a convention booth. "Who are we to say it doesn't work?" he said.

But Spoklie hasn't used the stuff. I have. Sunny Chae showed me the ingredients—thin slices of dried antler perched like burned potato chips on a rat's nest of twigs, leaves, bark, and berries. "No," she said when I pointed suspiciously to the black, shiny pellets, "they are not elk droppings." She prescribed the \$400 dosage; I opted for the \$10 shot. Even this, said Sunny Chae, was a powerful aphrodisiac, and more important to me at the moment, it would cure my cold.

"Is your wife with you? This could get ugly," commented the rancher behind me as I pinched my nose and gulped. She wasn't and it didn't. During the rest of the evening I felt no more passionate than usual, and the next morning I awoke with clogged sinuses.

By far the most vocal opponent of privatization and commercialization of wildlife—the man elk ranchers love to hate—is Valerius Geist, 54, the ecologist who directs the Environmental Sciences Program at the University of Calgary, in Canada. Whenever an interview started to bog down, I'd bring up his name. It was like whistling "Marching Through Georgia" to the Savannah Elks Club.

"Valerius Geist! I'll tell you, the man is crazy," cried Welch Brogan, 84, when I phoned his ranch, in Corwin Springs, Montana. "The man is a radical."

The "Canadian Update" session was positively abuzz with talk of the vile and evil Geist. Wilf Jurke, president of the Saskatchewan Game Farmers Association, explained how this "self-acclaimed alien from another planet" had ir-

ritated the Canadian Wildlife Federation to raise \$1 million to sabotage game ranching and was helping it spread "half-truths and total lies," and how his group had "contacted one of the best lawyers in Saskatchewan" to write Geist a cease-and-desist letter.

Scarcely anything that walks or haunts this earth frightens Val Geist, least of all gored elk breeders brandishing puffy letters. His strong spine and custom of saying precisely what he believes make him aberrant in the wildlife business, where the meek and manageable rise fastest and highest. "Do we endorse the bestial cruelty to elk on Canadian game ranches in order to fatten the profits of whorehouses in Seoul, Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Tokyo?" Geist demanded of the Canadian minister of the environment.

Geist may be a radical, but he is not, as his enemies contend, a crackpot or a charlatan. One of the most respected wildlife professionals on the continent, he has worked with Ian McTaggart-Cowan and Konrad Lorenz, serves on all manner of international committees, and has advised foreign governments. "The consequences of game ranching were predictable and have been borne out entirely so far," he wrote last November, "only earlier and worse than predicted, even by pessimists."

What does frighten Geist is red deer, the European subspecies of our elk—at least when they are shuttled about the planet in the deadly shell game humans play with plants and animals. Red deer are redder than elk, thinner in the shoulders and hips, with antlers that rise more vertically. They don't "bugle," they "bellow"; and when they duel they don't lock up and push, they thrust and parry. Bull elk refuse to fight them. In fact, if a rutting elk hears a red deer bellow in another pasture, he'll lie down. So when an escaped red deer stag meets a band of elk, he absconds with the females and breeds them all.

At Wildlife Division headquarters, in Denver, I sat at Rick Kahn's desk as he showed me a computer model of what would befall 500 Rocky Mountain elk if one were to unleash upon them 10 red deer. In 80 years, 95 percent of the herd

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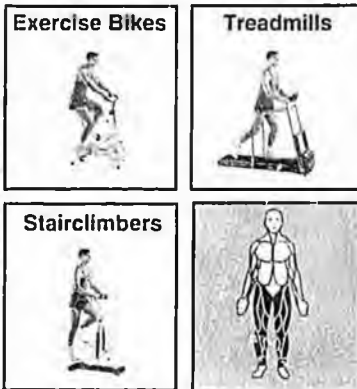
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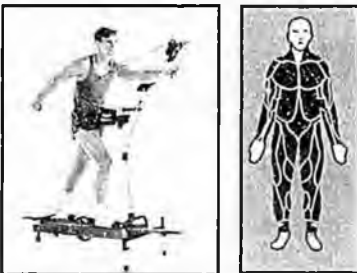
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wouldn't be elk anymore. They'd be something else, something less—mongrels. This disturbs Kahn and his colleagues, because they know that the only real guarantee you get with "game-proof" fencing is that sooner or later it

do in the wild," he pronounced. "If they interbreed, what are they going to do?" There was nothing left for me to say. We were speaking different languages.

One thing they might do, even if interbreeding doesn't occur, is contaminate elk with a nasty little nematode called *Elaphostrongylus cervi*, which, in the infective stage, lives in snails and slugs. Red deer in Europe and New Zealand accidentally



A worker unloads a pile of "hard" antlers at a warehouse in Ennis, Montana. Although not as highly prized as those in the velvet stage, these antlers are sold to South Korean pharmaceutical firms.

ingest these slugs and snails with their browse. The young worms penetrate the gut wall

will be breached by water, wind, snow, fire, vandals, or free elk sparring with captives; and because they see in their native elk a treasure more valuable than trophies, venison, or even antlers, a treasure that belongs not just to Colorado but to the planet.

So in late 1990 they set about testing Colorado's captive elk for red deer genes. Fourteen percent of the animals checked turned out to be hybrids. These the state ordered deported, paying the ranchers the difference between what they could hawk them for and their alleged worth. The bill came to half a million dollars.

But elk ranching can't really make it in North America

without red deer. Or so says the man who should know best—Mike Bringans, the young, affable vet from New Zealand (and more recently Ontario) who supervises the care and artificial insemination of some NAEBA elk. Reds, he told me, are cheaper, gentler, and more adaptable to diet. When you cross them with elk, "hybrid vigor" ensures faster growth. "What about genetic pollution of free elk?" I asked.

"Tell me what genetic pollution by an animal that looks like an elk is going to

and migrate to the spinal cord, brain, and muscles, where they mature and lay eggs. Larvae flow with the blood to the lungs and are coughed up in sputum, swallowed, and shed with the feces, which then attract slugs and snails. Red deer can usually handle *E. cervi*. North American cervids have no natural immunity and very likely can't.

So last November ranchers and game managers were appalled to learn that the test by which they'd been confidently certifying red deer *E. cervi*-free and shipping

The only real guarantee you get with "game-proof" fencing is that sooner or later it will be breached.

them around the continent was unreliable. But at least the hosts and maybe the worms were being kept within game-proof fences. Except, of course, around Colorado's Eagle Rock Ranch, where a flash flood had taken out the game-proof fence, and where red deer, along with all sorts of other weird exotics used in canned hunts, were reproducing in the wild. Then in October, *E. cervi* showed up in three red deer held in New Brunswick. Solution: The three were immediately killed, and the remainder of the herd was

PATRICK DAVISON

taken to Ontario for routine slaughter.

All the red deer arrived safely in Ontario—whereupon 91 escaped, taking up residence in the woods before eventually being hunted down and shot by game managers on foot and in helicopters. No *E. cervi* were found in the carcasses. If any infected feces were deposited, they will remain contagious for three Canadian winters.

Wildlife advocates west of the Great Plains are even more terrified of *E. cervi*'s cousin, the North American brain worm. Eastern white-tailed deer, which evolved with brain worms, aren't bothered by them. However, probably because the Great Plains are too dry to support many slugs and snails, brain worm doesn't occur in the West. If it gets there, it will devastate mule deer, elk, moose, caribou, mountain sheep, and mountain goats. So after Alberta rewrote its Wildlife Act to permit private ownership of public wildlife, it required game ranchers wishing to import stock to certify that it came from somewhere west of brain-worm land. Unfortunately, reports Margo Pybus of the provincial Fish and Wildlife Division, some of them cheated, laundering eastern game through western ranches. As a result Alberta closed its borders to all captive big game in 1988.

Another nasty creature threatening North American wildlife is the bacterium that causes bovine tuberculosis (TB). Elk, moose, and caribou are especially susceptible because they evolved in the dry, cold climate of Siberia, where pathogens were scarce and strong immune systems superfluous. Captive elk spread TB by mutually grooming open sores and by dripping contagious saliva, feces, pus, and probably urine.

"I don't know what we'll do if TB gets established in wildlife populations," remarked the thoroughly unexcitable Mitchell Essey, senior staff veterinarian for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "No one knows how we'd control it if it got into elk herds like those in Yellowstone National Park. The potential ramifications are almost inconceivable." Unfortunately, the USDA has no jurisdiction over cervids because they're not "livestock." Responsibility lies with the states, which don't like to dispatch TB carriers because they fear the courts will force them to pay compensation. Two years ago ranchers and game

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managers were appalled to learn that the test by which they'd been confidently certifying elk TB-free and shipping them around the continent had been detecting only about 20 percent of the cases.

Having been in the business 46 years, Welch Brogan is the grand old man of North American elk ranching. He says he's had problems with some of the statements the state veterinarian has made to the press about his TB-infected elk, now under quarantine. It has, however, been documented by U.S. and Canadian wildlife and health authorities that Brogan shipped 18 elk to Alberta in 1988, and that they were later diagnosed with TB. Some U.S. and Canadian officials believe that TB had arrived at Brogan's ranch a year earlier via a shipment of 27 infected elk from Nebraska.

During the last two years Canadian officials have found TB in pigs, cattle, bison, and deer. Infected animals destroyed to date, costing the Canadian government \$10 million in compensation, include 2,200 elk—close to half of Alberta's captive herd. At this writing the disease has been seen in captive game in 5 Canadian provinces, from New Brunswick to British Columbia, and 14 states, from New Jersey to Oregon.

But the threat extends beyond livestock and wildlife. The disease can be contracted by humans who handle a host, inhale its breath, touch its body fluid, or drink its unpasteurized milk. It used to be rampant in its native Europe, where, according to a report in *Time* magazine, it may have caused lesions on Joan of Arc's brain and other organs, bringing on her visions and loss of menstruation. The recent outbreak in Alberta quickly spread to farmers, vets, postmortem technicians, meat inspectors, and tanning-plant workers, most of whom were put on preventive medication but at least one of whom developed the actual disease.

If TB does get a toehold in the wild, Geist predicts, then "in national parks tame, infected elk, dripping contagious body fluids, will mingle with the public on golf courses, lawns, picnic grounds,

campgrounds, promenades, even school yards"

Because Yellowstone elk play in Brogan's backyard, wildlife officials were hoping he'd tend his game-proof fences. Alas, there has been ebb and flow between Brogan elk and public elk. Brogan told me he's been offended by statements made by the local game wardens, who, like the state vet, "get carried away with stories" when they talk to the press. However, the Montana Sixth Judicial District Court told this story as a "finding of fact": "The defendant [Brogan] within a few minutes after the game wardens left his home drove up through the 'cow' pasture to open the gate on the triangular pen and herd out the wild elk he had lured onto his premises . . . by leaving the gates open, baited with hay." On September 5, 1991, Brogan was found guilty of "capturing over eighty head of wild elk for use in his game farm business."

Brogan is the exception, not the rule. Were he an NAEBA member, he could be summoned before the organization's board of directors for possible reprimand, suspension, or expulsion. In all aspects of their privatization and commercialization of public wildlife, elk ranchers of the NAEBA want desperately to be responsible and ethical. The tragedy for them, as well as for wildlife and the public, is that the nature of the business makes this impossible.

According to the state of Colorado, TB bacteria allegedly hitched a ride from the Brogan ranch to the Royal Elk Ranch in Powderhorn—another atypical operation whose owner, accused by the U.S. government of passing cocaine and converting his barn into a "hydroponic laboratory for the growing of marijuana," also is not an NAEBA member. The point, though, is that pathogens, parasites, and alien genes don't care who's typical and who isn't.

Recently the Division of Wildlife gravely offended the NAEBA by showing slides of TB eradication at the Royal Elk Ranch, where it killed and burned 52 animals. In one photo a firestorm rages around the carcass of a diseased bull. But through the flames, standing as tall and beautiful as Joan of Arc, is a pair of perfect antlers. Antlers worth perhaps \$2,500. It was the most powerful image I took home with me. ♣

Legislators want to give away the moose farm, and much more

Senate Bill 185 means as much as \$2 billion to the state treasury. Senate Bill 46 is worth zip, unless you dream of being a moosepuncher. Guess which one has passed three committees and a floor vote, and which one is resting on the bottom rung of the committee ladder.

That's right, good old 46, the all-important legislation to allow moose farming, is streaking along like a scalded cat. Poor old 185, which would prevent oil companies from stalling tax disputes until the clock runs out, has been sucked backward into the Senate's Labor and Commerce Committee.

Some people argue this is just Alaska's peculiar form of Republican philosophy: Socialism for the rich combined with contempt for the public interest. But I think a couple of other factors are involved. One is that this year's coalitions have allowed a lot



MIKE DOOGAN

of people who are inexperienced or incompetent, or both, to gain power. The other is these people have bungled the state's finances so badly they think they won't survive the election. So they're doing as many favors as they can on the way out the door.

Nothing shows this more clearly than oil-related legislation. Here's a sample:

- Stalling on SB 185, which at best weakens the state's negotiating position and at worst lets companies walk away from tax disputes scot-free.

- House approval of the large-block leasing bill, which allows oil companies to tie up as much as 2 million acres for as long as 20 years without having to bid, or pay, for the leases. Arco Alaska Inc. helped write the bill and Rep. Joe Green, R-Arco, was its chief defender.

- Senate approval of a bill lowering the bond oil companies have to put up in case they pollute. This is an invitation to fly-by-nighters.

- Senate Resources Committee approval of an oil company tax break worth \$114

million over five years. The change to the so-called 470 fund would take that money away from oil spill prevention and response programs. Guess five years is as long as senators can remember the Exxon Valdez.

- The quick attention paid to the Hickel administration's plan to cut back on oil lease sale reviews. The division of oil and gas has been doing a lousy job preparing for lease sales, and the courts have said so in four separate cases. Instead of cleaning up his act, division director Jim Eason is asking to have his job made easier.

A couple of other rank pieces of resource legislation come to us courtesy of the Fairbanks Senate delegation. One would give 1 million acres of state land to the university to do with as it pleases. Why? Well, university vice president Brian Rogers claims the federal government once promised the university 400,000 acres. I guess the extra 600,000 acres is inflation. The other would allow forest land to be leased without requirements to reforest. Why? Well, somebody thinks there's money to be made in Interior white spruce, and once those trees

are cut it'll be many, many years before new ones reach the same size.

Whatever you do, don't forget moose farming. Probably thousands of good jobs in the moose-farming industry.

Put the best possible face on this. Kowtowing to industry shows that legislators think no price is too high to pay for jobs, no matter how destructive the industry or how few, short-term or poorly paid the jobs.

Or take the cynic's view. The legislators in power would much rather just give the oil industry a big whomp of money, like Ed Dankworth did in the early '80s. But gosh darn it, they can't afford it. So, instead, they've decided to have a resource fire sale.

If they're not going to be back, what do they care? And if they're going to try for re-election? Just think of those campaign contributions as the brokers' fees.

Mike Doogan's opinion column appears in the Daily News each Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. You can hear more of Mike Doogan on the Daily Newsline. Call 277-1500 and enter code 2205.

Farmer starts reindeer ranch in Mat-Su

The Associated Press

WASILLA—Under cover of midnight darkness a vintage DC-3 set down at the Palmer airport. Its cargo was 22 reindeer fawns flown south from the Beaufort Sea coast in Canada.

Flying the animals to the Matanuska Valley last week was just one step taken by Tom Williams in his effort to start a reindeer farm on 600 acres at Point MacKenzie.

Williams said he went to Canada because his plans to move 300 ailing reindeer from Hagemeister Island near Togiak to Point MacKenzie has run into opposition on a number of fronts.

Several Native groups want to keep the reindeer in southwest Alaska and others are concerned the animals could be carrying disease.

"The money I've spent buying and flying these animals from the beach of the Arctic Ocean of Northwest Territories could have been spent saving several times as many reindeer from Hagemeister Is-

land," said Williams.

Handler Lloyd Neiman of Palmer had stayed with the reindeer on a deserted beach near Inuvik in the Northwest Territories for 51 days to feed and tend them during a federally mandated quarantine

period.

Eventually the reindeer were loaded into the plane and taken to Anchorage, where they passed through Customs before flying to Palmer, and from there by truck to Point MacKenzie.

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committee on SB 46 MOOSE FARMING, dated 2-18-94
bill/subject

I WOULD LIKE TO GO ON RECORD AS SUPPORTING THIS BILL. I BELIEVE THAT MOOSE FARMING WOULD HELP INCREASE WILD HERDS AS PEOPLE WOULD BE ABLE TO GET THEIR MOOSE IN OTHER WAYS. THIS MAY ALSO HELP SLOW DOWN POACHING AS "DOMESTICATED" MOOSE COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE YEAR ROUND.

I DO NOT AGREE WITH SEC. 3 AS IMPORTATION OF SOME MOOSE MAY BE NECESSARY TO PREVENT INBREEDING AND HELP SOME MOOSE FARMS GET STARTED AS THERE MAY NOT BE ENOUGH "SURPLUS" MOOSE IN THE BEGINNING. INSTEAD THERE SHOULD BE AN IMPORTATION LIMIT.

I AM VERY INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MOOSE FARMER AND AM THEREFORE DEEPLY INTERESTED IN SEEING THIS BILL PASSED.

Signed: Cherylene Walker
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
HC 62 BOX 5360 DELTA JCT, AK. 99737-9501
Address

897-1024
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
committee name
committee on SB 46, dated 2/18/94
bill/subject

I would like to go on record as being in favor of SB 46.
In areas that face heavy hunting pressure, moose farming would
be a good alternative.

Signed: Tim. Weld
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
HC 62 Box 5360 Delta Jct. AK. 99737
Address
895-1024
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
 committee name
 committee on SB 46 , dated 2/17/94
 bill/subject

TAKING A PUBLIC RESOURCE FOR PRIVATE EXPLOITATION IS NOT ONLY IRRESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF THAT RESOURCE BUT IT FLYS IN THE FACE OF REASON CONSIDERING EVERY KNOWN ATTEMPT TO "FARM" MOOSE HAS FAILED. THE ONLY SUCCESSFUL GAME RANCHER IN THE STATE OPPOSES THIS BILL AS DOES THE ALASKA DEPT. OF FISH & GAME AND THE ALASKA ENVIRONMENTAL LOBBY. THE DEMONSTRATED FACT THAT MOOSE FARMING IS NOT A VIABLE ENDEAVOR SHOULD BE REASON ENOUGH NOT TO PASS THIS BILL. PLEASE LISTEN TO AND FOLLOW THE ADVICE OF THE ACCREDITED EXPERTS ON THIS SUBJECT AND VOTE NO ON THIS BILL.

Signed: David M. Bear
 Testifier 567-3344 (hm)
 283-583 (wk)

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STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 25526
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4100

March 11, 1994

The Honorable Pat Carney
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 434
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Carney:

In your capacity as chair of the House Resources subcommittee that is continuing to work on SB46 (Game Farming), we would like to clearly outline the administration's position on game farming and SB46.

The Departments of Environmental Conservation, Natural Resources, and Fish and Game, in consultation with Bill Ward representing the game farming industry, developed a unified position on game farming in Alaska. This position protects the domestic livestock and game farm industry, protects Alaska wildlife resources, and provides a climate for game farming to grow and prosper. We have also worked with Senator Miller's office in an attempt to amend SB46 to include these provisions.

The administration firmly believes that the House CS for CSSB46 requires further amendments. Changes that we propose would limit game farming to elk, bison, muskoxen and reindeer. An experimental animal husbandry permit would be authorized to allow individuals to raise moose. Regulations would be developed by DNR to allow the addition of moose and other native big game species to the list of species that could be game farmed. We believe it is essential to separate the administration of game farming and experimental animal husbandry permits. The state would retain ownership of animals held under an experimental animal husbandry permit and the sale of live animals or their meat would continue to be prohibited. The permittee would be able to use the meat for personal and family use and be able to sell antlers, hides, milk and other byproducts.

The Honorable Pat Carney

- 2 -

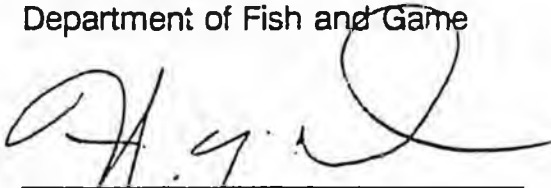
March 11, 1994

We have enclosed a list of amendments that would make these changes to House CS for CSSB46. The administration is supportive of the game farm industry and can support SB46 if these amendments are adopted and incorporated into the bill.

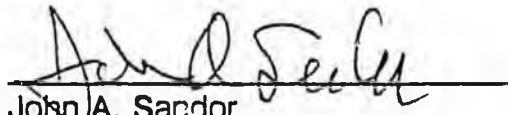
Sincerely,



Carl L. Rosier
Commissioner
Department of Fish and Game



Harry A. Noah
Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources



John A. Sandor
Commissioner
Department of Environmental Conservation

Enclosure

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED CHANGES FOR
A M E N D M E N T

TO: HCS FOR CSSB 46()
(Utermohle WORK DRAFT 3/8/94)

Page 2, lines 15-16:

Delete "and animals subject to an experimental animal husbandry permit under AS 16.40.010"

Animals held under Title 16 permits should be regulated by the commissioner of fish and game--not by DNR; DNR should be responsible for game farming and domestic animals, ADF&G should retain responsibility for animal husbandry permits and game animals.

Page 4, lines 11-12:

Delete "caribou, moose, Sitka black-tailed deer"

Caribou, moose and Sitka black-tailed deer should not be defined as "game farm animals until they have been successfully bred under experimental animal husbandry permits.

Page 5, lines 30-31:

Delete "or to an experimental animal husbandry permit under AS 16.40.010"

Animals held under a Title 16, experimental animal husbandry permit should not be defined as "domestic" (and removed from department and fish and game oversight) until they are actually held under a game farming license.

Page 7, lines 28-29, following "The":

Delete "possession and utilization of animals acquired under this section for commercial purposes and"

Title 3 statutes and regulations adopted under Title 3 should apply only to game farm animals--not to animals held under Title 16 permits or used for commercial purposes other than game farming.

Page 8, line 10:

Delete "and sell the meat from"

Sale of meat from animals held under Title 16 experimental animal husbandry permits is inappropriate and could compromise wildlife enforcement regulations adopted by the Board of Game. At such time as ownership of animals held under these permits is transferred to the permittee under Title 3 game farming licenses, sale will become legal.

Page 8, lines 11-17, following "animals":

Delete ", and may charge a fee to the public for viewing of the animals. The preparation and sale of meat or other products under this subsection for human consumption are subject to AS 03 and regulations adopted under AS 03. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this subsection, the possession of animals for experimental animal husbandry purposes is subject to AS 03 and regulations adopted under AS 03 in the same manner as the possession of game farm animals"

Regulation of animals held under Title 16 permits should be by the department of fish and game. Experimental animal husbandry permits are intended to test the feasibility of using surplus wildlife for game farming--not for zoological exhibition. Exhibition is currently regulated under Title 16 scientific/educational permits.

Page 9, lines 8-16:

Delete all material

Criteria for declaring game as surplus can best be achieved in regulations adopted under Subsection (a). Some of the criteria listed here are allocation matters that should be considered by the Board of Game (e.g., declaring animals in proximity to highways, railroads, urban areas as surplus: these are also the animals most in demand by the public for subsistence, sport hunting, viewing).

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 25526
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4100

March 25, 1994

The Honorable Pat Carney, Chair
House Resources Subcommittee - SB 46
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 434
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Carney:

Pending legislation authorizing game farming (SB 46) continues to concern the Departments of Environmental Conservation, Natural Resources, and Fish and Game. We have reviewed the March 17 work draft from your subcommittee on game farming and the March 13 memorandum to you from Senator Mike Miller. Neither of these documents resolves major concerns expressed in our March 11 letter, which summarized the administration's unified position on game farming.

We also would like to correct a mistaken belief that the three agencies recommended transferring regulatory authority over the experimental animal husbandry permit from the Department of Fish and Game to the Department of Natural Resources. The position of the resource agencies remains that the Department of Fish and Game should regulate possession of animals held under experimental animal husbandry permits and the Department of Natural Resources should regulate game farming and the possession of game farm animals.

To reiterate, we propose changes in the legislation to limit game farming to elk, bison, muskoxen and reindeer. Under Title 16, an experimental animal husbandry permit would be authorized to allow individuals to raise moose. Regulations would be developed by DNR to allow the addition of moose and other native big game species to the list of species that could be game farmed.

We believe it is essential to separate the administration of game farming and experimental animal husbandry permits. The state would retain ownership of animals and their progeny held under an experimental animal husbandry permit and the sale of live animals or their meat would continue to be prohibited. The



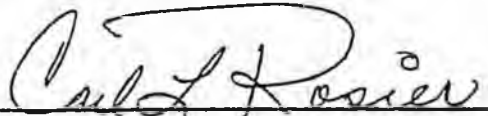
March 25, 1994

permittee would be able to use the meat for personal and family use and be able to sell antlers, hides, milk and other byproducts.

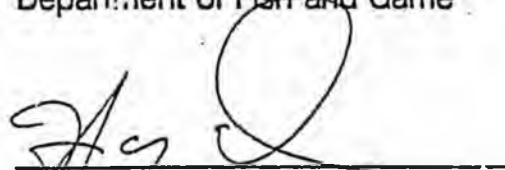
Finally, the newly proposed subsection, AS 16.40.010(f), should be deleted or completely reworked. As written, this subsection would be bad for game farming, experimental animal husbandry, and sound wildlife management.

We remain committed to the concept of game farming and would welcome the opportunity to work directly with your subcommittee, the House Resources Committee, and legislative legal counsel to devise a bill that could be supported by both the legislature and the administration.

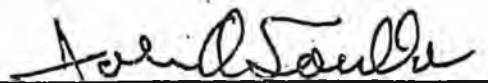
Sincerely,



Carl L. Rosier
Commissioner
Department of Fish and Game



Harry A. Noah
Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources



John A. Sandor
Commissioner
Department of Environmental Conservation

cc: Representative Williams ✓
Representative Hudson
Representative Bunde
Representative Green
Representative James
Representative Mulder
Representative Finkelstein
Representative Davies



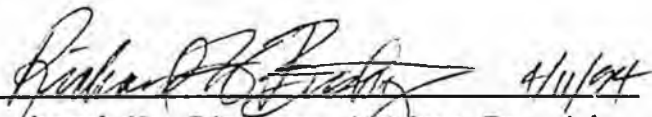
ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL

2932 C Street, Suite B
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 563-4AOC
FAX: (907) 561-0800

To whom it may concern:

On April 10, 1994 delegates to the Alaska Outdoor Council's annual meeting reviewed the general issue of game farming, and SB 46 in particular.

The Council delegates took the following position: The Alaska Outdoor Council opposes game farming of moose, caribou and Sitka Blacktailed deer. If SB 46 is approved by the Legislature, it should do so only with the amendments jointly proposed by the Commissioners of the Departments of Fish & Game, Natural Resources, and Environmental Conservation.


Richard H. Bishop, Acting President
and Vice-President, Interior Region

MARCH 30, 1994

Representative William Williams
Chairman House Resources Committee

Dear Mr Williams,

HAVING NEVER written to the legislature before, I hope that this letter reaches the proper person. In regards to S.B. 46, The Moose farming issue, I would like to express my strong opposition to it.

I feel that allowing Moose farming would open us up to too many unacceptable risks including diseases, theft of wildlife and poaching.

I can understand the "farming" of non-indigenous species but NOT Moose.

Who would decide who was eligible to receive Moose for farming. The Moose of this state belong to ALL of us. Giving Moose to selected individuals removes Moose from the general population, thereby limiting our opportunity.

I'm sure that some of those who seek to own orphaned calves would be only too happy to illegally kill a cow Moose with the hopes that they could be there to provide a "good home" to the poor orphaned calves.

In a recent Fairbanks newspaper it was said that
one local advocate of Moose farming doesn't really
know what he wants to do with them. Ideas
included riding & milking!

Perhaps raising them like beef is some people's
thoughts. Then with the selling of Moose meat
being legal. Anyone who possesses Moose meat
out of season will claim to have bought it,
making for another loop-hole or story to try and
disprove for our game wardens.

Please don't allow this legislation pass just to
appease a very few people who only have their
own special interests in mind. The rest of us
Alaskans depend on our wildlife resources and
are not willing to accept the risks to a
healthy Moose population just because a few
ill-informed people want the state to make
them special by giving them something that
rightfully belongs to all of us.

respectfully,

Robert Mumford
2240 Cordes Way
Fairbanks, Ak. 99709

Mary L. Bishop
1555 Gus's Grind
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907-455-6151

March 31, 1994

*Rep. Bill Williams, Chairman
Home Resources*

Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol MS 3100
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear *Rep. Williams*:

Everyone should have the right to fail or succeed in business enterprise. But NO ONE should have the right to do it at the expense of our state's healthy moose population.

I urge you to oppose moose farming in Alaska.

My adamant opposition to moose farming is based SOLELY on the risk it puts upon one of the most valuable assets we have in Alaska--our healthy moose herd. Scientific literature is replete with examples of wildlife disease related to confined wild ungulates. I have enclosed only one example. Wildlife disease experts can provide you with others.

There is no question that fenced animals will escape. In this day and age--when animal rights advocates are freeing research animals all over the U.S.--it will be a simple matter to cut a moose fence in Alaska.

Will escaped animals be diseased? Will disease spread to the healthy wild population--one of Alaska's greatest assets? The risk is too great; the potential benefit too small.

Contagious diseases like TB and brucellosis develop in confined ungulates. Additionally, there are severe nutritional problems: The "Northern Exposure" moose died; the best efforts of wildlife scientists have not been able to keep a confined moose alive more than 6 years--usually less.

Because of unfortunate experience, other states and provinces are moving away from ungulate farming--not toward it. ^{few}

This issue is like fish farming and ranching. It should receive the same careful consideration of disease and genetic implications to the free roaming, wild population.

Increased moose for eating, viewing and hunting should be provided by measures like SB 77--intensive management of free roaming wildlife populations. In my opinion, it is irresponsible to put this invaluable wildlife population at risk by passing SB 46--moose farming.

Sincerely,

Mary Bishop
Mary Bishop

TB outbreak scares wildlife managers

Disease could be devastating to wild elk & deer herds

By Steve Merritt

The threat of disease and parasites associated with the game ranching industry and their potential impact on wildlife and domestic livestock has long caused concern among wildlife managers and cattlemen. Game ranching advocates say these concerns are being blown out of proportion, that the facts are being sensationalized in an effort to diffuse the efforts of would-be game ranchers who simply want to diversify agriculture. The debate continues - are disease and parasite concerns really something to be worried about?

Today, more than ever before, it appears the answer to that question is yes.

Today, the game ranching industry is in the midst of a serious world-wide outbreak of bovine tuberculosis (TB), and the disease is rapidly spreading through game ranches across North America. The ramifications for wildlife are relatively unknown but potentially very serious; more is known about the risks to the cattle industry, where the ramifications are equally serious.

Nearly all of Wyoming's immediate neighbors have had recent problems with TB linked to game ranching operations:

- Officials in Montana and Colorado have had to quarantine and destroy TB-infected game ranch animals; investigations and testing to locate other infected or exposed animals are still being conducted.

- Officials in Nebraska had to destroy infected game ranch animals as well as 115 head of cattle that were apparently infected by the game ranch animals.

- A TB-infected beef cow imported from Alberta, possibly linked to a widespread outbreak of TB in Canada, was recently discovered at a slaughterhouse in Utah.

- South Dakota officials recently quarantined a game ranch with red deer and elk suspected of TB infections; cattle on the ranch are also under quarantine.

TB problems have also surfaced in Washington, Oregon, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin,



Photo courtesy Colorado DOW

A Colorado Division of Wildlife employee uses an ATV to drag a bull elk closer to veterinarians performing necropsies on a captive elk herd that was slaughtered because of bovine tuberculosis. One captive herd of game ranch elk in Colorado was completely destroyed, two others were quarantined and several others are suspected of exposure to the disease. Wildlife managers say they don't know how a disease like bovine tuberculosis could be controlled if it becomes established in wild, free-ranging elk herds.

Florida, New York and New Jersey. Several Canadian provinces, including Alberta, Ontario, Manitoba, New Brunswick, British Columbia and Saskatchewan, have been hit as well, with major outbreaks reported in Alberta and Ontario. Many experts monitoring the situation expect more infected ranches to soon be added to the rapidly-growing list.

The WG&FD's concern about TB obviously centers around wildlife, but its concern doesn't end there. The outbreak is also posing a major risk to the livestock industry as well as some risk to human health.

IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE UNKNOWN

The possible ramifications TB has for free-ranging wildlife - specifically, cervids like elk and deer - are relatively unknown. Some experts claim the risk of passing the disease to wildlife is minimal but

possible. They say TB has evolved over thousands of years specifically to infect cattle and that any infection in wildlife populations would be self-regulating. Other experts say TB can be passed to wildlife and that the end result can be disastrous.

Dr. Mitchell Essey, senior staff veterinarian for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's cattle diseases and surveillance staff, is one of the experts convinced that TB, if established in wild elk and deer, would be an unparalleled wildlife catastrophe.

"It's a picture you can paint as black as you want because that's the way it would be," Essey said. "I don't know what we'd do if TB gets established in wildlife populations - no one knows how we'd control it if it got into elk herds like those in Yellowstone National Park or in the Gunnison (Col.) area. The potential

ramifications are almost unconceivable."

Dr. Victor Nettles, director for the Southeastern Cooperative Disease Study, says Wyoming has "a perfect scenario for transmission from animal to animal."

"Tuberculosis is a valid concern, especially in your state because of the large number of elk and the presence of feedgrounds," Nettles said. "Wyoming is probably more vulnerable than any other state in the nation."

Margo Pybus, wildlife disease researcher for the Fish & Wildlife Division of the Alberta Department of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, agrees that the problem could potentially be very serious for wildlife but thinks the risks of

See TB, page 8

H U N T I N G · F I S H I N G · T R A P P I N G

The Wildlife Trust Account:
what it is and what it does
for Wyoming's wildlife

Playing the drawing odds
game: how to avoid the no
draw blues

Record book
elk taken by
Powell



A study of the prevalence and economic significance of diseases and defects of slaughtered farmed deer

P. Selwyn* and S. Hathaway**

Abstract

A survey was undertaken in a deer slaughterhouse to record the diseases, defects, and productivity-related information that were detectable at postmortem meat inspection. A total of 4762 farmed deer were surveyed in 1988-89 over the period of highest throughput (October-January). Comparative data were drawn from a further two deer slaughterhouses and from national disease and defect statistics for slaughtered cattle. Farmed deer had a very different disease and defect status compared to cattle. Wounds and bruises were the most common defects, and resulted in an average loss of 26.9% in carcass value over all diseases and defect statistics.

Probable malignant catarrhal fever in a sika deer from an Alberta game farm

David L. Fritz, Michelle S. Mostrom, Leonard E. Lillie, Robert W. Coppock

Malignant catarrhal fever (MCF) is a frequently fatal, sporadic disease characterized by generalized, fibrinoid necrotizing vasculitis (1). The disease is characterized by a profuse, mucous, exudate from the nostrils. On day 5, there was no ruminal or gastrointestinal motility. Death occurred on day 6. The three affected deer remained clinically normal for the remainder of the study.



SCWDS BRIEFS

A Quarterly Newsletter from the SOUTHEASTERN COOPERATIVE WILDLIFE DISEASE STUDY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA ATHENS, GEORGIA 30602

Gary L. Docter, Editor Phone (706) 542-1741 FAX (706) 542-5865 Volume 8 April 1992 Number 1

Malignant Catarrhal Fever

During December 1991, a private veterinarian in Andalusia, Alabama, contacted SCWDS because one of his clients had death losses in captive deer. After state authorities examined the deer, the disease was determined to be MCF. MCF is an uncommon and almost always fatal disease of captive deer. In addition to our native deer, sika deer, red deer, blackbuck antelope, and bison also are susceptible. All of these animals suffer irreversible, fatal disease. The risk of virus transmission is enhanced by confinement near sheep or zoological animals of the wildebeest subfamily (wildebeest, topi, hartebeest, blesbok). For example, an MCF outbreak killed 23 of 28 white-tailed deer in a small New Jersey zoo in 1990 (see *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*, April 1992). In the recent case in Alabama, the potential for MCF virus exposure at the auction cannot be ignored, but the animals could have been infected prior to passing through the sale barn. Increased marketing of captive ruminants for game farming is likely to continue and could result in a greater prevalence of MCF. Persons should be alert to this disease and contact state authorities when MCF is suspected.

Gross and microscopic lesions of naturally occurring tuberculosis in a captive herd of wapiti (*Cervus elaphus nelsoni*) in Colorado

Jack C. Rhyan, Dennis A. Saari, Elizabeth S. Williams, Michael W. Miller, Arthur J. Davis, Arach J. Wilson

Abstract. A *Mycobacterium bovis*-infected herd of captive wapiti (*Cervus elaphus nelsoni*) depopulated after lesions of bovine tuberculosis were confirmed in 8 of 10 tuberculin-tested animals >1 year of age. 26 had gross lesions suggestive of tuberculosis, 43 animals >1 year of age, 26 had gross lesions suggestive of tuberculosis, and 23 had acid-fast bacilli associated with the lesions. Lesions were the most frequently affected sites. Most lesions grossly and microscopically were the most frequently affected sites. Most lesions grossly and microscopically however, some lesions resembled abscesses or ovine caseous necrosis. Immunohistochemical techniques labeled few to numerous bacilli.

Until recently, bovine tuberculosis was an unusual and sporadic disease in cases involved captive and wild animals. With recent developments in the prevalence of the disease, the prevalence of the disease is increasing.

Reports on Wildlife and Laboratory Animals of *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis* in a wildlife park

Ely, DVM, PhD, R. J. Holland, DVM

Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory where determined to be caused by *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis*. Also during the same time Department of Wildlife was analyzed tissues for *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis* were American Goldfinch, 20 miles of the park.

Mycobacterium bovis infection in North American elk (*Cervus elaphus*)

Charles G. Thoen, William J. Quinn, Lyle D. Miller, Larry L. Stackhouse, Bradford F. Newcomb, James M. Ferrell

Abstract. A naturally occurring outbreak of *Mycobacterium bovis* infection in captive wild elk (wapiti) in Montana was confirmed by microbiologic examination. Twenty-eight of 143 elk responded to *M. bovis* purified protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin injected intradermally in the cervical region. Comparative cervical tuberculin skin tests conducted within the park indicated that the prevalence of PPD tuberculin was higher in the Park of North Dakota.

Mycobacterium bovis infection in a captive herd of Sika deer

Michael L. Mirsky, DVM; Daniel Morton, DVM, PhD; John W. Picht, DVM; Howard Gelberg, DVM, PhD

A 3-year-old male Sika deer from a small, privately owned herd in central Illinois.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources Committee
 committee name
 committee on Moose Farming, dated 3/8/94
 bill/subject

I might add the Mat-Su Borough Agriculture and Forestry Board representing all areas of the Mat Su and alot of farmers, foresters, supports this bill.

Signed: _____

Testifier

Robert Shumacker

Representing (Optional)

P O Box 3712, PALMER 99645

Address

(907) 746-4453

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
committee name

committee on HB 46, dated 3-9-94
bill/subject

I WOULD LIKE TO GO ON RECORD, AGAIN, AS SUPPORTING THIS BILL. I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT MOOSE FARMING WOULD HELP IN INCREASING WILD HERD POPULATIONS. THIS WAY THERE COULD BE CLOSED HUNTING SEASON IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS A LARGE HUMAN POPULATION WITHOUT AFFECTING THE NEED FOR FOOD FOR THOSE WHO HUNT FOR FOOD.

I STILL OPPOSE RESTRICTING IMPORTING MOOSE FOR MOOSE FARMING. THERE SHOULD BE A LIMIT. I KNOW ONE MAIN CONCERN IS DISEASE, BUT CONTROL WILL HELP. WE ALSO HAVE TO BE CONCERNED FOR LOCAL DAIRY & BEEF FARMERS THAT DISEASES ARE NOT TRANSMITTED TO THEIR ANIMALS. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT JUST ANYONE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE A MOOSE FARM, ESP. IF RAISING MOOSE FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION. PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH MOOSE FARMING SHOULD BE AWARE OF SPECIAL FOOD NEEDS FOR MOOSE, VACCINATIONS AGAINST DISEASES, & BRANDING OR EARTAGGING TO PROTECT ANY ANIMALS THAT MAY ESCAPE.

Signed: Cheyenne Walker CHEYENNE WALKER
Testifier

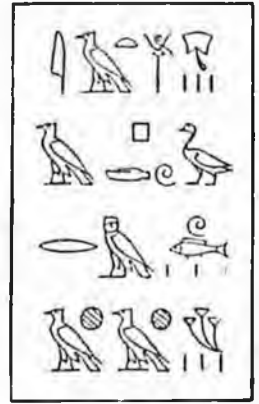
SECF
Representing (Optional)

HT 62 BOX 5360 DECTA JCT, AK 99737
Address

895-1024
Phone No.

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

ALASKA CHAPTER



March 18, 1994

Hon. Bill Williams, Chairman
Resources Committee
House of Representatives
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building, Rm. 128
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: CSSB 46

Dear Rep. Williams:

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society wishes to register its opposition to SB 46, the "moose farming" bill. The Wildlife Society is a national organization of wildlife research, management, law enforcement, and administrative professionals with over 8,000 members nationwide and 340 members in the Alaska Chapter. The Chapter recently adopted a position statement on importing, transplanting, and ranching game in Alaska, which I have enclosed. This position statement reflects the experience and judgement of knowledgeable professionals in Alaska, as well as experience of colleagues with whom we've discussed this issue from other states, Canada, and Scandinavia.

Although there are some areas of the world where game ranching is appropriate, Alaska is not one of them. Alaska still has an abundance of free-ranging native wildlife species and relatively intact ecosystems that are available to the public for both consumptive and non-consumptive uses. As our position paper presents in greater detail, game ranching could jeopardize these wildlife resources by competing for wildlife habitat, introducing diseases to native wildlife populations, increasing opportunities for poaching, and generating pressure to reduce natural predators. An additional consideration is the philosophical implications of reducing species currently held in public trust to the status of privately-owned livestock. The United States has a long tradition of holding native wildlife for the common good of all, rather than the economic benefit of a few.

Again, the Chapter urges you to vote against CSSB 46, or any similar legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Shideler".

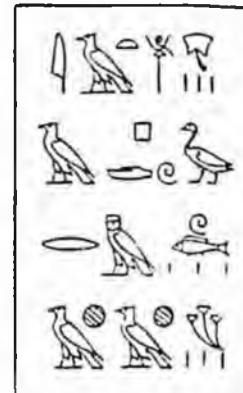
Richard Shideler, President
1833 No Way Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Encl

cc: Rep. Bill Hudson
Rep. Con Bunde
Rep. Joe Green
Rep. Eldon Mulder
Rep. David Finkelstein
Rep. John Davies
Rep. Pat Carney
Sen. Mike Miller

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

ALASKA CHAPTER



POSITION STATEMENT
OF
THE ALASKA CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
ON
IMPORTING, TRANSPLANTING, AND RANCHING GAME IN ALASKA

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society is dedicated to wise management of wildlife resources and their habitats. Alaska is unique in supporting native wildlife populations at historic levels over much of the state. These populations have great economic and cultural value to the state and its people as sources of food, fur, and revenue. Much of this value derives from wildlife being in its original, free-ranging condition where both consumptive and nonconsumptive users have access to this public resource.

English common law gave ownership of wildlife species to the ruler to be held in trust for the people. In reality, the only group that benefitted from this arrangement was the privileged class. In North America, free-ranging wildlife species traditionally have been held in common by the public. Private ownership of wildlife thus can only occur as authorized by government acting in the best interest of the people.

The Alaska Legislature has authorized private ownership of bison, muskoxen, and elk. Plains bison and elk are exotic (i.e., non-native) species that have been imported to Alaska and established as wild populations in several locations. Muskoxen were extirpated in Alaska in the 19th century and re-established in the wild with imported stock. Alaska also has an existing reindeer herding industry. Ownership of reindeer herds in Alaska is restricted to Alaska Natives by federal law, although non-Natives have challenged the law by importing reindeer from Canada. Recently, persons promoting game ranching as business ventures have proposed legislation authorizing private ownership of additional wildlife species, including moose. Other proposed legislation would require resource-management agencies to transplant exotic species such as elk to areas where they do not currently occur.

Game ranching may have a place in some countries or regions of the world based on their unique conditions and institutions. In such situations, game ranching can provide an alternative to domestic livestock and may to some extent preserve the diversity and abundance of native ungulates. Alaska, however, has the opportunity to maintain its historic abundance of free-ranging wildlife species for the benefit of all its citizens without resorting to game ranching.

Game ranching or other private ownership of wildlife species threatens to diminish the abundance and quality of Alaska's wildlife resources. Wildlife species occupy the landscape regardless of land ownership, yet remain public property. It is common knowledge that commercial development of land often alters or eliminates wildlife habitat thereby reducing wildlife populations. The public may not realize that ranching

or herding privately held wildlife may similarly reduce native wildlife populations through displacement, competition, disease, hybridization, poaching, and elimination of large predators.

Land occupied by ranched or herded game is land from which native wildlife species are excluded by fences or competition for resources. Habitat available for occupancy by free-ranging native wildlife is thus reduced, with concomitant reductions in their populations. Wild ungulates attracted to captive animals during the rut have been destroyed in several instances in other jurisdictions. In addition, there is no assurance that public lands would not be leased and fenced for game ranching. Public access to wildlife species for consumptive and nonconsumptive uses would be restricted by fenced ranges.

Importation and transportation of wildlife species poses the risk of spreading disease to free-ranging populations. Problems with disease have included bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) in elk, bovine brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*) in elk, rangiferine brucellosis (*Brucella suis* biotype 4) in reindeer, and bluetongue in elk. Bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis are transmissible to humans as well as to native wildlife. Other diseases and parasites potentially present in imported wildlife include anaplasmosis (*Anaplasma marginale*), meningeal worm (*Parelaphostrongylus tenuis*), carotid artery worm (*Elaeophora schneideri*), and giant liver flukes (*Fascioloides magna*). Quarantine and/or veterinary treatment of imported, transplanted, and ranched game can reduce the risk of disease transmission to native wildlife, but these measures can fail if animals escape quarantine, if tests for disease are not foolproof, or if unscrupulous or lax individuals fail to adhere to proper procedures. Introduced parasites and diseases could diminish Alaska's wildlife populations.

Individual animals or groups of animals that are ranched or herded eventually will escape captivity through accidents or inadequate fencing or herd husbandry. For example, ranched elk have escaped captivity in Alberta, as have African ungulates in Texas and bison and reindeer in Alaska. Wildlife that escapes captivity poses the risk of contaminating the genetic integrity and fitness of Alaska's wildlife species through hybridization. Native wildlife populations exhibit particular genetic adaptations to their environments. For instance, Alaskan caribou have significantly longer legs than reindeer, an adaptation having important implications for escape from predators, energy costs of locomotion, and ability to move and forage in deep snow.

An established commercial market for game meat introduces an incentive for large-scale poaching of free-ranging wildlife species and for illegal sale of game meat. A poacher could sell poached meat to an unscrupulous game rancher to mingle with ranched meat from the same species or could sell directly to an unscrupulous retailer. Unauthorized live capture of wild ungulates to supplement ranched breeding stock could also occur. A very large regulatory network and force of inspectors for tracking the origin of game meat in the commercial market would be necessary to reduce the incentive for illegal take and sale of game. The resources to adequately accomplish this level of oversight of game ranching are unlikely to be available in Alaska.

Game ranching would jeopardize populations of large predators. In North America, large predators such as bears and wolves have been eliminated from most areas supporting significant concentrations of domestic livestock. Persons engaged in game ranching almost certainly would view predators as threats to their economic livelihood and would

generate pressure to eliminate large predators from areas in which game ranching occurred.

In addition to considering the risks to Alaska's wildlife species posed by game herding or ranching, or by resource-management agencies importing or transplanting exotic wildlife, the public should contemplate the philosophical implications of reducing species currently held in common to the status of privately-owned domestic livestock. Traditionally, consumptive users of wildlife have had a strong vested interest in maintaining healthy, abundant, free-ranging wildlife populations. More recently, nonconsumptive users also have supported legislation and policies that maintain wildlife habitats. Although captive wildlife may serve an educational role by providing highly managed viewing opportunities to the public, ranched game is unlikely to generate the incentive for maintaining large, relatively unmodified ecosystems currently engendered by free-ranging, native wildlife species.

Alaska's wildlife has local, statewide, national, and international importance. In recognition of this, and in the interest of maintaining these valuable resources for the enjoyment and use of future generations, the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society finds that:

1. Skillful, professional management is required to assure the future of wildlife resources in North America;
2. Wildlife species in North America have traditionally been considered common property of the people, and public ownership of wildlife has benefitted both the public and the wildlife resources;
3. Reindeer herding by Alaska Natives is an economic benefit to those communities where herding has traditionally and continually been practiced since inception of the industry;
4. Private ownership of wildlife has led to unfair chase harvesting, inhumane treatment of captive wildlife, illegal commercial trade in wildlife and wildlife body parts, and escape of captive wildlife and potentially will reduce habitat for wild ungulates, impair public access to wildlife, decrease numbers of ungulates in a wild setting, disrupt the genetic integrity of native wildlife populations, and cause extirpation of large predators;
5. Exotic wildlife species, and to some extent native wildlife from non-Alaska stocks, imported to Alaska and subsequently transplanted within Alaska by resource-management agencies, pose many of the risks identified for ranched game;
6. Commerce in wildlife without a uniform system of disease inspection has facilitated introduction and transmission of non-native diseases and parasites, including bovine tuberculosis and bovine and rangeliferine brucellosis; and
7. The presence of free-ranging, native wildlife species has strongly contributed to the maintenance and protection of large, relatively undisturbed natural ecosystems.

In support of the preceding findings, the Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society specifically recommends that:

1. Reindeer herding be limited to ranges traditionally and frequently grazed since inception of Native herding in Alaska and not be expanded to other areas of the state;
2. Research on range management, veterinary medicine, nutrition, animal husbandry, meat processing, and marketing be applied to enhance the value and productivity of reindeer herds as an alternative to expanding the distribution of reindeer to additional areas of the state;
3. Private ownership of elk, bison, and muskoxen for game ranching currently authorized by Alaska law be repealed, with provisions for protecting the interests of persons currently ranching or herding these species;
4. Private ownership of wildlife species be prohibited with the exception of zoos, research institutions, and educational facilities authorized by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for the purposes of public education, protection and propagation of endangered species, and scientific study, and with the exception that individuals authorized by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game may possess raptors for the purpose of falconry;
5. Pending repeal of Alaska law authorizing private ownership of wildlife species for game ranching, the industry should be fully regulated, including testing and certification of disease-free status to control interstate and intrastate spread of animal pathogens and minimize the potential of disease transmission to free-ranging wildlife populations, licensing of persons engaging in game ranching, mandatory tracing of animals and animal products in commercial trade, and comprehensive monitoring and enforcement of all relevant regulations;
6. Importation of exotic wildlife to Alaska, and transplantation of exotic wildlife within Alaska, by resource-management agencies for purposes of establishing free-ranging populations be prohibited; and
7. Transplantation of native species (e.g., muskox) within Alaska for wildlife management purposes be accomplished with stocks already present in the state rather than with imported stocks.

Larry Holmes
Chairman Anchorage
Fish and Game Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 454
Girdwood, AK 99587

March 31, 1993

The Honorable Rick Halford
President of the Senate
Room 111
State Capitol
Juneau 99801-1132

Dear Senator Halford:

The Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee opposes unanimously:

- 1) SB 43, requiring elk to be transplanted to certain Southeast Alaska islands where they are not indigenous;
- 2) SB 46, to allow moose farming; and
- 3) SB 77 and HB 141, to require intensive management of game species.

The Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee is an elected body that represents Anchorage hunters, anglers, and many other types of wildlife users of a consumptive and non consumptive nature; in fact we have more than a dozen user interests represented on our committee.

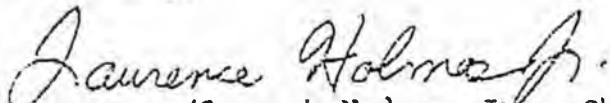
We are unanimous in opposing these bills because they all share the common error of bringing the legislature into issues of fish and wildlife management at a level best left to the Department of Fish and Game. We believe the legislature's role in fish and game is best one of general guidance rather than specific direction. Historically, the legislature has wisely left such specific issues as these to the agencies with the necessary expertise. In fact, the need for such expertise is the very reason the legislature established such agencies in the first place.

Each bill raises concerns best left to departmental discretion. Regarding SB 43, the impact of elk on deer has been of concern to Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists. The potential for disease transmission to and displacement of the indigenous black tail deer by elk needs to be studied further before we expand elk herds in southeast Alaska. From a user's perspective, certainly many Southeast Alaskans value deer in the freezer each winter more than an occasional shot at an elk.

Regarding SB 46, we think moose farming raises concerns of disease, and in our opinion, has no place in Alaska in that it abuses Alaska's native species and diminishes appreciation of wild stocks. Good hunting will only survive with good ethics. It won't survive if we turn our game stocks into merely wild versions of farm animals.

Regarding SB 77 and HB 141, we think this is the worst of bills. It guts the discretion that is wisely placed in the Board of Game to rely on agency expertise and instead directs the board to pursue intensive management of certain species for consumptive use to the detriment of other species and other uses. As hunters, fishers and other users we appreciate Alaska as a wild place. We don't want it turned into a game farm.

Sincerely,



Laurence (Larry) Holmes Jr., Chairman
Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

LH:rlj

cc: Members of the Senate
Members of the House



DATE

February 12, 1994

FROM

House Resource Committee (all members)
 Chair/Representative Bill Williams

THOMAS J. CLASSEN
 P.O. BOX 80507
 FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99708

FAX LINE

465-3793

Tel: (907) 479-2303
 Fax: (907) 479-3569

TOTAL PAGES (Including Cover Sheet)

1

I refer to Senate Bill 46 "An Act relating to moose farming and relating to game farming." The idea of confining a wild animal for the purpose of commercial exploitation is extremely repulsive to me. Alaska is advertised as the "Last Frontier" although it is rapidly being despoiled, the last frontier image should be retained for as long as possible. Wild animals held in captivity for the purpose of monetary gain is not appropriate to this image. Do you realize that every idiot with 20 acres of land will become a moose farmer. Good tax right off as the project could not possibly become viable. No one also ever thinks of the animal suffering involved. Wild animals confined suffer terribly something a compassionate human race would not inflict on any creature. Remember the confined moose in Alaskaland? What a pitiful sight. Moose are browsers and need to roam. They also do not do well on a diet of commercial food. Their systems require the woody pulp found in their natural foods. I also suppose this project will become eligible for State agricultural grants a governmental waste of State funds. Agricultural projects of any type are not suitable in this arctic area. Not one has ever proved viable. The investment required to properly set up a farm is certainly not affordable by our prospective Fairbanks farmer and the risk element from a business point of view is very high. This all equates to a shoe string type of operation and means added suffering for the animals.

I would like to remind you of our infamous Fairbanks chicken farm. A typical shoe string operation destined for failure right from the start. The State poured one million into this failed venture. The guy absconded with the funds leaving dead and dying chickens everywhere. Let's not have another disaster like this one. This is not the country for agricultural projects. I urge you to throw SB 46 into the waste basket

Sincerely

Thomas J. Classen
 Thomas J. Classen

To:

Representative Williams

fax # 465-3793

April 19, 1994

LETTER FROM A MOOSE

Why do you Legislators want to treat me as a cow?

Why do you want to fence me from my freedom that I have enjoyed for thousands of years?

Why do you want to let entrepreneurs experiment with my species?

Why do you want for me to be tied to a gas pump for tourists to taunt and torment?

Why do you want to spend more millions of state dollars to prove Moose farming, like all previous ventures were disasters i.e. dairy farming, pig and chicken and musk ox, fox and barley farming!

Why do you want to degrade, humiliate and domesticate me when I am one of your states greatest wild assets?

Lastly, does Sen. Miller own stock in chain-link fencing?

Scientifically, morally, and financially, this SB 46 is a disaster and deserves to be killed.

Paddy Tatum
HC 66
Nenana, Ak. 99760
Ph. 582-2535
fax 582-2860



Testimony ON SB No. 46

3 #1 of 2

John Cramer
Director of Agriculture

The Department of Natural Resources currently to some extent regulates the farming enterprises in the state of ALASKA as well as products produced and transported into our state.

We also work in concert with the Dept. of ENVIRONMENTAL Conservation's State Veterinarian ON Domestic livestock as well as ELK.

This Bill establishes by statute most of the industry standards for game farming. Regulations will need to be developed to strengthen these standards with regard to: farm standards

- fencing
- handling
- quarantine
- Branding, marking tagging for identification purposes
- inter/intra state transportation
- nutrition

The Dept. of Natural Resources stands by ready wherever appropriate with other state agencies to assist and enhance the development of the game farming industry in Alaska for species farmed currently such as bison, wild boar and ELK and potential species musk ox, Caribou, moose etc.

SB 46

John Cramer

pg #2 of 2

Through the reduction in legislative and administrative barriers and development of increased market opportunities

The industry in the state needs to be regulated and in fact those currently involved in game farming have requested further regulations. These individuals have invested significant personal resources and realize the importance of regulating this enterprise.

* As far as Rep. Carney's question with regards to why not reindeer these are not considered a game animal.

John Cramer

POB 949

Palmer 99645

745-7200

To	LIO /JNU	From	LIO Sold.
Co.	Written testimony	Co.	for H(Res)
Dept.	to be put with	Phone#	SB 46.
Fax #		Fax #	

State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources committee name
 committee on CS 46 (FIN) , dated 4-19-93
 bill/subject

I support "an Act relating to moose farming and relating to game farming."

The major concerns I had were addressed in the revisions of the bill.

Game farming is a major industry worldwide. Alaska has the opportunity to encourage ~~the~~ its farmers to participate in this very profitable enterprise.

Signed: Billie Hardy Billie Hardy
 Testifier

self

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 3391 Soldotna AK 99669

Address

262-9881

Phone No.

Missoulan Jan. 9, 1994

Game farm's fair game in West's wild debate

By GREG LAXES
of the Missoulian

D ARBY — In the past 18 months, Len and Pamela Wallace have put together one of the nation's largest herds of captive elk. More than 330 animals laze along the bottom of Rye Creek south of Darby.

Len Wallace and his ranch are pictured throughout the brochure of the two-year-old North American Elk Breeders Association, across the back cover of its quarterly journal, and in an ad calling his purchase of 140 elk from a Missouri game farm the largest elk transaction in history.

In those 18 months, Wallace has bought into both the leading edge of a new and growing industry, and into the controversy that engulfs it.

The breeders' association says

elk are the livestock of the future. Biologists say game farms pose a threat to native wildlife that's unprecedented in this century.

Elk meat is low-fat and almost without cholesterol, says the association's promotional material, and demand far exceeds supply.

Antler velvet supplies an eager Asian market, though price has dropped to its lowest in a decade. For the foreseeable future, says the association, prime breeding stock will command impressive prices, and old bulls bring high profits as the objects of controlled hunts.

Elk are three times cheaper to feed and pasture. To Wallace, they afford both a mystique and a profit.

"Elk are a grand animal; they have a grandeur," Wallace said. "But they're a crop. I have to keep my sensibilities here."

Opponents of game farms point to concerns about disease

and genetic pollution.

By mid-1992, Alberta officials had euthanized 2,600 captive elk to stop the spread of bovine tuberculosis, and will wait years to see if they successfully kept the disease out of the province's wildlife and cattle.

The Virginia Cattlemen's Association has asked for a ban on game farms because of the threat to the TB-free status of the state's livestock industry and the lack of definitive diagnostic tests.

Wyoming bans game farms, Oregon recently imposed a moratorium, and Montana, Colorado, Washington and Alberta have dramatically tightened regulations.

Game farms may usurp critical wildlife winter range and disrupt migration routes.

Biologists say the escape of captive animals is inevitable.

Twice in the past couple of years, Montana hunters have shot elk in the wild that were



probably game-farm hybrids, and biologists say genetic pollution would forever alter native species.

Valerius Geist, a University of Calgary professor and author,

(See FARM, Page A-8)

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENTS
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

(continued)

refers to the underlying principles that guide wildlife management — tenets that all revolve around respect for wildlife and are responsible for the recovery of species nearly annihilated at the turn of the century.

"Game farming," he said, "violates every one" of the principles.

Wallace founded a couple of electronics companies and developed real estate in California. In May 1991, he bought the first of what would eventually be about 5,000 acres of steep open hills, timbered draws and creek bottom south of Darby.

"You cannot make any money on cattle," he said. "It looked to us like we could raise elk on the place, have the ranch be a going concern, pay the bills, and make a living here."

Elk production was good last spring, he said, though sales were less than expected, mainly because Darby's too far from the Midwest center of elk-raising.

But his emphasis, Wallace said, will be hunting on an 1,800-acre enclosure. He'll buy mature bulls to release, sell trophy hunts, and he expects to turn a profit in 1994.

"We have a facility that has to be close to the best in the country," he said. "We can provide a customer a very realistic hunting experience. We can walk them around until their tongue's hanging out."

As a representative of the game-farm industry, Wallace has done all the right things. He and his herd has genetically tested pure Rocky Mountain elk, and is free of tuberculosis and other common diseases. He endorses new state regulations, and sees few problems with complying.

But it's an uneasy truce between the industry and state wildlife officials. Officials say tests and rules don't protect enough. Game farmers have sued over new restrictions.

In Montana and in several other states, there's an uneasy truce between agencies that manage wildlife and those responsible for livestock.

"The advantages are all in the economic and agricultural sectors," said Rick Kahn, at the Colorado Division of Wildlife. "There's nothing good for wildlife that can be said about game ranching."

Many of the concerns over game farms revolve around health issues — and tuberculosis, which ranks near the top of potential health risks to wildlife domestic

worry.

In November 1990, Alberta officials found TB in a captive herd of about 30 elk near Edmonton. Provincial policy is strict: Not only are the infected animals killed, so are any animals with which they had contact.

"Experience has shown us this is the only possible way you can ensure the disease will not survive," said Stan Petran, of Agriculture Canada in Alberta. "Unless you take every one of them, there is always the chance it will come back and haunt you."

It took two-and-a-half years for Petran's staff to track elk sales and euthanize exposed animals. The effort ultimately "depopulated" 16 game farms, killed 60 percent of Alberta's captive elk, and cost the agency \$15 million in compensation alone.

Dr. Ann Fanning, of Alberta Health in Edmonton, said at first, livestock officials refused to believe the outbreak posed a health threat to people.

Her staff tested 600 people — veterinarians, ranch hands and workers in rendering plants — who'd been exposed to diseased elk. She ultimately treated 10 of them with a nine-month course of antibiotics.

There had been some transmission of the organism to humans as a result of handling the animals or their carcasses, she said.

Alberta officials traced the source of the outbreak to a Montana game farm near Yellowstone National Park. Montana officials traced other elk owner Welch Brogan had sold, and eventually found tuberculosis in four elk herds and two groups of captive allow deer.

Montana's rules are less stringent. Animals that react to TB tests are destroyed, but the rest of the herd is quarantined until it passes a series of tests over 15 months.

The deer herds were euthanized, said state veterinarian Don Ferlicka. Two of the elk herds have had their quarantines lifted, and two remain in place.

Until 1991, TB tests designed for cattle were used to test deer and elk, with inaccuracy some experts blame for outbreaks in Montana, Alberta and in several Eastern states.

"They were missing some TB," said Tom Thorne, wildlife veterinarian for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, whose research is partly responsible for that state's ban on game farms.

Now, the test has been adapted, but it still has limitations. For weeks or months after exposure, an infected animal may not produce enough antibodies against the slow-growing bacteria to react to the test.

The tests are intended to screen

more statistical certainty of discovering the disease. Accuracy suffers when applied to one or a few animals, as required when elk are sold, Thorne said.

"If you're looking at interstate commerce, where you're moving a few animals, you're going to miss some," he said.

If TB ever did get established in the wild, it would be a permanent source of infection for native species, game farms and cattle ranches.

"By the time it's discovered, there'd be no way to solve it," Thorne said. "You'll never get rid of it. In all likelihood, you'll lose your hunting opportunities for that elk herd, because of the risk to human health."

But disease may be the lesser threat to wildlife, critics say, compared to the introduction of genes from similar, non-native species.

"I don't know of any situation where disease has eliminated a species of animal," said Gary Burke, administrator of Fish, Wildlife and Parks's Criminal Investigation Division. "But genetic pollution, that's forever. Once it's here, it's always there."

Red deer are the European subspecies of elk. They're smaller, more aggressive, and they bellow like cattle instead of bugling like elk. They've bred with free-ranging elk in New Zealand and have been intentionally crossed on game farms here and in the United States.

"The red deer is a totally different animal," said Heidi Youmans, author of a Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks paper on game farms.

"If red deer or hybrids escape, they could eventually alter a wild herd's gene pool and behavior," Youmans said.

"It would be a tragedy," she said. "We would certainly have lost a very important legacy."

In Alberta, 11 percent of tested animals were hybrids, according to Youmans' figures. In Colorado, game farms found that 10 percent of the animals tested were hybrids, in 13 of 21 herds checked, and officials ordered them out of the state.

"There was too much risk to allow any hybrids to remain in the state," said Kahn at the Division of Wildlife.

Kahn modeled the results of 10 red deer or first-generation hybrids escaping into a herd of 500 pure wild elk. Within 60 years, 50 to 60 percent of the wild herd would have red deer genes.

"We feel confident there are significant threats to even a few red deer getting out and mingling with elk," Kahn said.

Montana game farmers point to genetic tests as a way to screen out the hybrids, and allow ranchers to keep them out of their captive herds.

The test reliably catches first-generation crosses, but gets less sensitive with subsequent generations, said its creator, Peter Dratch of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensic Laboratory in Ashland, Ore.

It's intended to screen entire herds for the presence of hybrid genes, Dratch said, not to draw conclusions about the purity of any particular animal.

"If they tell you the herd has tested 100 percent pure, they're misrepresenting the test," Dratch said. "I would never call this a purity test."

A year or so ago, Montana officials submitted samples to Dratch's lab from an elk killed in the wild near Twin Bridges. The sample was too old to be sure, but was probably a hybrid, Burke said. Last fall, a hunter shot a hybrid in Powell County.

"The test detects a problem," Dratch said. "It showed hybridization was occurring on game ranches within the range of native elk. Now, it's showing there are hybrids outside the fences."

How much genetic pollution would it take to change native elk into something else?

"It's stupid to play those sorts of games," Youmans said. "By the time you know, it's way too late."

Wade Hainstock, executive director of the North American Elk Breeders Association, said the threats are overblown.

"What you're looking at here is very much a political football used by people philosophically opposed to game farming," he said. He said domestic cattle face more risk of TB from imported beef and the dairy industry than from game farms, and genetic testing is too inconclusive to worry about the results.

Montana Audubon flatly opposes game farms, as does the National Wildlife Federation. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has yet to make a firm policy statement.

Wildlife managers say few things hurt the sport's public image more than hunting inside a fence. Geist, at the University of Calgary, predicts public pressure alone will spell the industry's demise.

"It is such a problem-generating industry," he said. "I have enough faith in North American society that it will eventually outlaw it."

Maybe. But only two of the 75 or so people who attended a public hearing last winter spoke against Wallace's game farm.

"I think the game farm industry has the overwhelming support of the people in the Bitterroot Valley," Wallace said. "I doubt I would have any opposition in any location in Montana."

That March, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks conducted surprise inspections on all 97 game farms in the state. On 90 percent of them, they found violations of then-relatively lax state laws, said Gary Burke, administrator of the department's Criminal Investigation Division.

Some of the infractions were minor record-keeping or fencing problems, due more to apathy or ignorance than malicious intent, Burke said.

But 24 had serious violations, and three months later, Burke's agents returned to 12 of them with search warrants.

Welch Brogan, dean of Montana's elk ranchers, was charged and convicted of possessing illegally captured game, a felony. A Livingston operator was charged with a misdemeanor for selling hunts on his game farm, but conducting them on public land. Several, including Darby resident Cal Greenup and Mark Ingraham of Kalispell, were charged with operating a game farm without a license. Greenup's charge was dismissed when he ultimately got a license, and Ingraham forfeited a \$65 bond.

Hamilton game farmer Chancy Ralls pleaded guilty to a record-keeping charge, and paid a \$65 fine.

Several game farmers had their pastures closed for fencing violations, officials are trying to revoke the license of another, and the attorney general's office is still considering charges against 12 others, Burke said.

Industry representatives say the move was political. The department was trying to justify a push for tighter regulations at the time, which it got from the 1993 Legislature.

But Burke said game farmers had asked to police themselves, and abused the privilege. Montana now has 107 game farms, more than 90 of which raise elk, and it has new regulations. Has the situation improved?

"Not quite yet," he said.

State plays it by book with farms

By GREG LAKES
of the Missoulian

HAMILTON — In early 1992, state officials realized the number of animals game farmers were reporting didn't match the numbers behind their fences, or what they were telling local tax appraisers.

The difference varied from several dozen for elk, to several hundred for white-tailed and mule deer.

PADDY TATUM
NATURALIST

February 11, 1994

HC 66 Box 27620

NENANA, ALASKA 99760

Dear Representative Williams:

You now have a chance to save the State of Alaska tremendous amounts of monies that could be directed to worthwhile and proven projects. I am referring to SB 46 the "Moose Farming" bill, the most abhorrent idea yet to come out of the Legislature.

It is a biological, scientific and financial disaster waiting to happen. Whereas deer, elk and reindeer have been successfully raised in some instances, altho many had problems, mostly with disease, moose are entirely unique, they have never been farmed successfully (not being a natural herd animal, no fence can hold them).

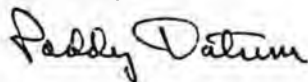
Ask yourself what is the real reason for the proponents of this bill? Is it for political cronies financial gain? Or a tourism gimmick at a far higher cost than can possibly benefit the State and residents who are actually the owners of the game.

Alaskans are the custodians, not entrepreneurs, of our wild game.

Please take a few minutes to read the enclosed information, although previously written, it is still most pertinent.

Thank you for your time. I'll be in touch on this.

Sincerely,



Paddy Tatum
HC 66 Box 27620
Nenana, Ak 99760

Ph. 582-2535
FAX 582-2860

Don W. Collinsworth, Commissioner

Public Communications
Box 3-2000
Juneau, Alaska 99802-2000
(907) 465-4113

1-800
474-
7346

Mr. Williams,
this is dated
material, but
still pertinent

Deputy Dir



ime
S

Alaska Department

April 23, 1990

Contact: Wayne Regelin 456-5156

Two bills pending in the Alaska Legislature would allow moose to be raised as domestic animals for commercial purposes and allow the meat to be sold.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game believes legalization of moose farms would start Alaska down the trail to private hunting preserves and potentially the European system of hunting. Only about 3 percent of Europeans are hunters because the cost is prohibitive and game meat can be purchased.

The foundations of wildlife management in the United States for most of the 20th century have been public ownership of wildlife resources and prohibition of the commercial use of those resources. Bison of the Great Plains and the North American waterfowl are but two examples of wildlife decimated by commercial meat hunters before such management principles took hold.

Alaska's wildlife resources are extremely valuable economic assets. Wildlife contributes approximately a quarter of a billion dollars a year to the state's economy through tourism, guiding, hunting, personal use and subsistence.

Tourists list the opportunity to see wildlife as their primary reason for visiting Alaska. But they want to see wildlife in the wild, not in roadside attractions and game farms.

The primary proponent of the legislation wants to capture 100 moose along the Alaska Railroad near Talkeetna to stock his commercial operation near Delta Junction. He claims their capture would reduce the number of moose killed by trains. A better method of reducing moose mortality along the railroad would be to support legislation that already has been approved by the House to require the use of pilot cars on the railroad and long-term habitat improvement along the railroad right of way.

Whether the moose are killed by trains or moved to moose farms, the result is the same -- fewer moose along the railroad.

Moose farming will require large acreage and interfere with the movements of other wildlife species in the area. The primary proponent wants to lease 4,000 acres of state land and fence it to contain his moose herd. This would remove habitat from wildlife production for general public use and enjoyment.

Moose are not herd animals. Stags with calves are loners and other moose seldom congregate in groups of more than four or five. To put more than 100 moose into a 4,000-acre enclosure would increase the potential for outbreaks of disease, which could be transmitted to wild moose or domestic species outside the enclosure.

Even worse, this legislation would allow people to own a few moose as a hobby or to promote their tourism businesses. Such roadside attractions are notorious for mistreatment of animals and Alaska steadfastly has prohibited such activity in the past. Do Alaskans really want to see moose, among the most noble symbols of our wilderness, being ridden, hitched to plows or chained at a gas pump?

Do Alaskans want to see game ranches where people pay thousands of dollars to shoot confined moose, reminiscent of the "Guns of Autumn," the television segment which produced a national uproar a few years back?

Allowing the sale of moose meat will create serious law enforcement problems and add an economic incentive to poachers. In the Canadian province of Alberta, where elk farms are common, the sale of elk meat is prohibited due to concerns over enforcement of poaching laws. Alberta has 115 game wardens; Alaska has 75 for an area more than twice as large.

From a purely economic point of view, game ranching has been successful in some parts of Canada, most notably in Alberta. No moose farms exist in Alberta because they are not profitable.

The Yukon Territory commissioned a study in 1986 to analyze the feasibility of game ranching. The report concluded moose are unsuitable for game farms because of disease problems when the animals are kept in close captivity. The most productive natural habitat in Alaska can support six or eight moose per square mile during the winter. The primary proponent of moose farming in Alaska plans to stock more than 16 moose per square mile throughout the year on his farm.

Much has been made of domesticated moose programs in the Soviet Union. The truth is, their only two moose "farms" failed in the early 1960s.

The state already has spent many millions of dollars trying to subsidize agricultural projects that had a greater chance of succeeding. We consider providing 100 publicly owned moose and removing 4,000 acres of publicly owned wildlife habitat another state subsidy and an extremely poor precedent.

Wayne Regelin
Deputy Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation
Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Concerns about game ranching

Richard Schneider

Involvement of the veterinary profession in the ranching of wildlife is increasing, as evidenced by the large game farming session at this year's WCVMA spring conference. At a recent wildlife management conference in Calgary, game ranching was discussed in detail, and a number of serious concerns about its expansion in Canada were raised. The following is a summary of these concerns, which I feel we as a profession must fully address before supporting this enterprise.

1. Poaching

Once a market for venison and other wildlife products is established, increased poaching is inevitable and it becomes more premeditated and organized. In Germany where such markets exist, there are approximately 65,000 *armed* wildlife protectors in contrast to Alberta where 115 *unarmed* wardens patrol a much larger land base (1). The African experience with elephant ivory (up to 80% of ivory on the market in recent years originates from nonlegal sources) demonstrates that strict laws and market controls can *not* stop poaching (2). In North America, our chronically underfunded wildlife agencies do not have the resources to combat the poaching that is even now taking place, let alone any increase. Finally, there are already two cases on record in North America where wild elk were corralled and then sold as private breeding stock.

2. Restricted public access to wildlife

The present system of wildlife management in Canada is based on public ownership of all wildlife and the absence of markets for wildlife meat and parts. Hunting rights are controlled by the Crown with equal access for all. The establishment of game ranching and associated markets would result in demands for hunting fees by land owners, as the wildlife on their land now would have monetary value. This is the situation in Germany and Texas, with the result that hunting is the domain of the elite. Another spin-off may be direct or indirect restriction of access to wildlife for nonconsumptive users. This is the major reason that fish and game associations and other wildlife groups such as the Canadian Wildlife Federation have come out strongly against game ranching.

3. Genetic pollution

With game ranching it is a fact that, with time, escapes occur. In Texas there are a number of exotic species which have escaped from game ranches and now constitute naturally reproducing wild populations. Introduction of exotic species has on many occasions around the world caused extirpation or extinction of native species (3). Even with the ranching of native species, genetic pollution is still a problem as the ranched animals are selected for large antlers, large body size, lean meat, and so on, and over time become maladapted to the natural environment.

4. Disease

Translocation of wildlife is an integral part of game ranching. As disease agents are often specific to certain species or locations, the possibility of introducing a biologically or economically devastating disease into susceptible wild or domestic populations must be considered. Examples of such problems which have already occurred include the introduction of *Parelaphostrongylus tenuis* to moose and elk, *Brucella abortus* and *Mycobacterium bovis* to bison, and *Besnoitia* spp. to caribou (4-6).

5. Moral and spiritual concerns

A number of participants at the conference, which I believe have a strong support base among urban, non-consumptive wildlife users, voiced strong objection to any further domestication of wildlife. This is an ethical judgement by a segment of society which feels that wildlife has an intrinsic right to live in its natural setting. Native participants also echoed this view, with their philosophy that no one has the right to own wildlife (though they differed from the aforementioned group in regards to usage of wildlife).

6. Fencing

Game ranching where animals graze natural vegetation (the most common form of ranching in Alberta) requires that large tracts of land be fenced off. There are cases in the US where this has interfered with the migration and other movements of local wildlife.

7. Predator control

Game ranching is incompatible with predators. This may result in further lobbying for predator control, eroding efforts to have the government manage wildlife for biodiversity.

Department of Pathology, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1.

8. Humane concerns

The removal of antlers for the harvesting of velvet can be done in a humane manner, however, unless proper techniques are consistently carried out by all ranchers, the development of game ranching will be a retrograde step toward the humane treatment of animals. Tom Hughes, speaking on the moral perspective of game ranching, told us of witnessing antler removal without the use of any anesthetic.

9. Economics

There are a few hundred ranchers in Canada involved in game ranching, most of them in Alberta. The range-style ranchers contend that society is served through their use of lands from which there is presently little economic gain, leading to a stronger Canadian economy. Valerius Geist gives strong evidence, however, that "a policy giving market value to *living* wildlife generates more income than one giving economic value to *dead* wildlife" (1). For example, Germany, with its market for venison, elite hunting, and expensive poaching control, generates only about half the monetary value from wildlife as do Wyoming or Wisconsin with democratic hunting, nonconsumptive expenditures (which are three times the amount of consumptive expenditures), and relatively inexpensive poaching control (1). The bottom line is that game ranching, if developed in Canada, would be a subsidized industry (once poaching control, regulatory

infrastructure and so on have been paid for) *and* have all the detriments to wildlife and society noted above.

The issue is clearly very complex and different people will place different values on the various concerns noted above. Furthermore, there are good reasons for the continuation of the fur farming, fish farming, and even bison ranching that is already in existence. It is my contention, however, that all things considered, there is overwhelming evidence that the ranching of any new species of wildlife in Canada, and in particular native and exotic cervids, is inadvisable.

References

1. Geist V. How markets in wildlife meat and parts and the sale of hunting privileges jeopardize wildlife conservation. *Cons Biol* 1988; 2: 15-26.
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4. Carpenter JW, Jordan HE, Ward BC. Neurological disease in wapiti naturally infected with meningeal worms. *J Wildlife Dis* 1973; 9: 148-153.
5. Tessaro S. Review of the diseases, parasites and miscellaneous pathological conditions of North American bison. *Can Vet J* 1989; 30: 416-422.
6. Glover GJ, Sendrowski M, Cawthorn RJ. An epizootic of besnoitiosis in captive caribou and mule deer. *J Wildlife Dis* 1990; 2: 186-195.



TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.

122 FIRST AVENUE
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701-4897
PHONE (907) 452-6251 FAX (907) 451-8938

April 16, 1993

House Resource Committee Members
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear House Resource Committee Members:

I understand that SB 46, "An act relating to moose farming and relating to game farming" is being heard by your committee on Monday, April 19, 1993. You should be aware that the 43 member villages of Tanana Chiefs Conference, inc. are opposed to moose farming of any kind, at any level. Further, during the February meeting of the Executive Board of Tanana Chiefs Conference, the bill was reviewed and discussed and unanimously opposed. On behalf of Tanana Chiefs Conference, I respectfully request your rejection of this bill and I urge you not to pass it out of committee. Thank you.

Sincerely,

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.


for Wil Mayo
President

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

April 5, 1993

Representative William K. Williams
Chair, House Resources Committee
State Capital Building
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Williams:

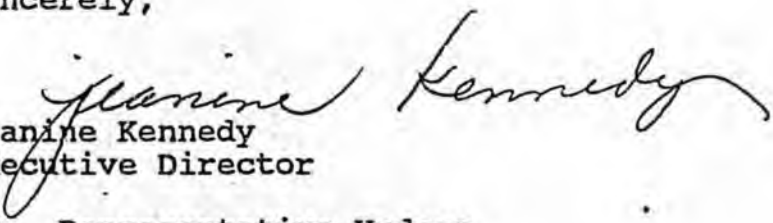
RURAL CAP is concerned that the legalization of moose farming and the sale of moose meat could have adverse effects to thousands of rural Alaskans who depend on the subsistence lifestyle.

We feel there are a host of serious questions that cannot yet be adequately addressed, such as the threat of disease to both domestic and wild animal populations, problems of domesticated animals attracting bears and wolves, incentives to illegally harvest animals for income, and finally the enormous cost to the State.

While we believe strongly in increased economic opportunities, especially in rural Alaska, we cannot afford to do so while putting at great risk the subsistence economy which provides sustenance to rural Alaskans.

Thank you for considering our views as you debate the merits of legalization of moose farming.

Sincerely,


Jeanine Kennedy
Executive Director

CC: Representative Hudson
Representative Bunde
Representative Green
Representative James
Representative Mulder
Representative Finkelstein
Representative Carney
Representative Davies

Page 1/1

April 3, 1993

To Rep. Bill Williams, Chairman House Resources,

As a Biologist/Naturalist and a 26 year resident of Alaska I find SB 46 (Moose Farming bill) the most abhorrent idea yet to come out of our Legislature.

It's not often that I agree with the Alaska Fish & Game - but they and many other scientists and wildlife professionals present well founded biological data on why this is a bad idea.

I find it ludicrous to envision our wild moose, be it calf or adult, held in pens, corrals, and cages, tethered and taunted, their dignity destroyed by "Another Roadside Attraction" mentality, by the exploitations of a few who might financially profit from this degradation.

This is not what Alaska is all about.

I don't believe we can "Own" that which is meant to be a free-living being, and a very important part of Nature as wild.

Rather, we Alaskans are the custodians, not entrepreneurs, of our wild animals.

If anyone is interested, I have collected volumes of cases over the last two years of disastrous attempts to capture and raise wild ungulates in western states, in Canada and in Europe. Three problems that will surface are:

1. Infectious diseases such as bovine TB, and Brucellosis are likely in penned-up conditions
2. Moose are not a herding animal, but territorial, how is this going to be handled?
3. Opens a plethora of problems regarding poaching.

We all know what a disaster all attempts at agriculture and animal farming have been in the last ten years, not to mention the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on such failures.

Let's face it, the few people that would financially profit from this are those that need a "Gimmick Display" to lure tourists, or those that would receive huge state agricultural loans (does this smack of the multi-million dollar defunct Delta Farm Project, or the Point MacKenzie Dairy debauchery?)

May I please hear from you on this matter?

Please vote against SB 46

Sincerely,

Paddy Tatum

Paddy Tatum
HC 66 box 27620

Nenana, Ak. 99760 Fax. 582-2860

Ph. 582-2535

Carol A. Jensen
3451 Greenhill Way
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
(907) 344-7078

April 17, 1993

TO: House Resources Committee
FROM: Carol Jensen
RE: SB 46, Moose Ranching

I strongly oppose passage of this bill for the following reasons:

1. For the same reasons the Fish & Game Dept. opposes it. The threat of disease to wild stocks; the encouragement of even more poaching than we already have.
2. I have worked in the tourist business since 1982, and have talked to thousands of tourists. I also talk to many different people when I travel on my own vacations outside. These people DO NOT want to see wild Alaskan animals caged, penned, or chained. Even a safari type set up where people are driven through a fenced game "preserve" is not acceptable to most, because THIS IS ALASKA...the last wild, spacious outpost for truly free roaming animals. In the Lower 48, that has been all but lost, and the only way to see "wild" animals is in this type of setting. BUT WE FORTUNATELY ARE NOT AT THAT POINT YET. They don't come to Alaska to see zoos. Many that do go to the Alaska Zoo are saddened by what they see. They would much rather see the animal in the wild.
3. I do not want to see entire industries developed to warehouse and slaughter our wild game animals. The next step will be the cruel "factory farms" that we presently have in the Lower 48 that warehouse pigs and cattle.
4. Game farms and tourists traps with wild animals may also take away some of the anticipation and mystique from Denali and our other parks. Many people go to these parks to see wild animals...if they can pay a few bucks and see a moose, caribou or even wolf (yes, this bill could just be the start of more wild animal "farms"), they may decide to skip the trip to the parks, particularly if the weather is a deterrent (we get a lot of inclement weather May-August).
5. Animal abuse is very common within private businesses that exploit animals for profit (ie: many zoos, circuses, rodeos, the entertainment business and animal "parks"). The Animal Welfare Act is terribly inadequate and under-enforced. We don't need this here.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Carol Jensen

Carol Jensen
(daytime phone: 800-478-2234)

please include in testimony on SB46 in House Resources R.2

TO: House Resources Committee
From: Gary V. Oskolkoff & Marla Kvasnikoff
RE: Moose Farming SB-46
DATE: April 16, 1993

Dear Committee Members:

We ask that you reject the proposed moose farming bill.

At this time a lack of data as regards the issue of moose farming will lead the State of Alaska into many problem areas:

ex: funding (although a zero budget is being proposed we believe this to be unrealistic)
grazing leases and regulations (also relating to the funding issue)
environmental and resource damage, waste and exploitation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms. Marla Kvasnikoff

Marla Kvasnikoff/and for
Gary Oskolkoff

*Box 39070 -
Ninilchik, AK
99639*

Bill Arvey
P.O. Box 81195
Fairbanks, AK 99708
April 2, 1993

State Representative Williams
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Juneau, AK

Dear Representative Williams;

I strongly urge you to reject the "Moose Farming Bill", SB 46.

Alaska's wild game animals should not be the objects of commercial ranching or farming for several reasons.

1. "Moose ranchers" will be afforded preferential use of a public resource, at public expense. Once recognized as commercial game ranches, these operations will become eligible for state assistance in the way of revolving agricultural loans, predator control, and whatever else can be dreamed up to gain access to the state till. This is not an unusual pattern, as past legislatures have funded plenty of turkey schemes that have diminished the state treasury while providing no known benefits. Some of us still hope that the experience of these losers would have led to a collective learning experience.

2. There are really no "surplus" animals available to provide startup herds for the proposed operations. The potential for abusive poaching of young and injured animals in the name of "ranching" is great. Even animals that die naturally from disease and starvation are fully utilized by predators and scavengers, many of which form the basis of the trapping industry.

3. Moose are wild, intractable animals that require large quantities of native vegetation in order to thrive. Implicit in the proponent's arguments are the requirements to provide large amounts of native willow and birch to feed out the captive animals. Therefore, what you may think will be a red meat ranching concept will quickly become a project to raise and cut vast amounts of feed, which is highly unlikely to even be possible.

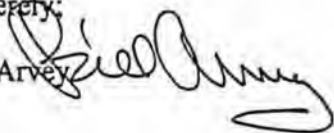
4. As with most other public-funded Ag projects that fail, when this baby folds up, as it surely will, the "rancher-farmers" will be back begging you (that is, us) for supplemental help, loan forgiveness, etc. I don't think the public will be happy to realize that they must subsidize or rescue yet another poorly conceived program.

5. Proponents argue that predators can be excluded and moose be kept in by fences at the perimeters. Fences will not prove effective at either in my opinion. Just as in other commercial ranching ventures of this type, predators will prove to be a problem, and demands for special predator control measures to protect investments will surely follow. Witness the current situation on the Seward Peninsula where commercial reindeer herders demand that natural predators (wolves and bears) be destroyed to protect herds that are utilizing public lands.

Thank you for considering my views.

Sincerely,

Bill Arvey



To	Please include testimony on	From	
Co.	SB 46 to the	Co.	Resources
Dept.	Thanks-	Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	Uesta

April 15, 1993

To: House Resources Committee

From: Dave Bear
 P.O. Box 39283
 Ninilchik, AK 99639
 Ph. 567-3344 (hm) 283-5831 (wk)

Subject: Moose Farming-SB 46

I sincerely hope that each committee member will carefully and objectively examine the information before them regarding the subject issue. I have and I find the published support and justification for SB 46 to be offensive, outrageous, hypocritical, self-serving, outright fraudulent and a blatant demonstration of autocratic posturing by at least one politician and several appointed government officials.

* There was no public meeting in Ninilchik to discuss the subject issue.

* We have some of the finest fish and game biologists in the country here in Alaska but because the subject proposal is scientifically ridiculous their opposition has been silenced because it is in conflict with "someone's" political agenda. Our biologists have won awards for their efforts with the Moose Research Center in Kenai and have been rewarded by having it shut down. In some 25 years of actual hands on, gone out and did it, non-profit, non-politically motivated, scientific oriented study, they have proven that moose farming is a BAD idea. Why don't we listen to them(re. official position of The Wildlife Society).

* The State of Alaska Department of Agriculture has something less than an outstanding record of accomplishment as regards "providing greater consumer availability of quality Alaskan grown products in the marketplace through inspection, certification, labelling, marketing, and education programs." If you are to believe what you read in the newspaper the State has poured who knows how much money into existing, and past, programs and they have basically zilch to show for it.

* We are supposed to be in a budget crunch. Our schools and prisons(Wildwood) are being neglected or shut out altogether. Our roads and emergency service personnel are suffering greatly. BUT, the subject plan would "assure the availability of financing sources for agricultural operations that are financially viable"(our experts say this plan is not); "continue the State's investment in agricultural science and technology to protect and enhance the quality of Alaskan soils, seeds, plants, produce,

①

animals, and other agricultural products, and the necessary knowledge transfer"(this probably means they'll shut down some other highly esteemed and long established study center); "facilitate the development and use of agriculture in conjunction with other Alaskan resource uses and needs". Where is all this funding going to come from?. I'm sure as hell not going to contribute.

* All of this land that the State is going to "make available for agriculture under a variety of provisions including fee-simple title with fair market value purchase or homestead credits". What exactly does that mean?. It sounds pretty dubious to me.

* The Department of Commerce & Economic Development makes statements that clearly are motivated by that all holy and most venerated, not to mention extremely profitable, of all endeavors, tourism. They make it sound like we're all going to starve to death unless this legislation passes. As far as a source of red meat is concerned, haven't these people heard of plain old cattle?. But then of course, what tourist is going to pull into the gift shop at Tok to look at and pet a Hereford or an Angus?.

* One of the major impacts of this legislation will be in the areas of law enforcement and quality control. This will naturally cost the State a great deal of money in terms of personnel and administrative costs. How can this be justified?.

Summary: There is a fixed amount of land in this country. As more people move to Alaska and those that are so inclined move further away from the cities there is less and less land, or wildlife habitat, left available for the animals. Unless this moose farmer is going to grow, on an annual basis, one tremendous amount of the kind of willows and other browse his moose like to eat, they will run out of food in their "pen" in very short order. I know for a fact that these guys will not eat just any old bush. So, more moose, more land & more food. Everything in nature, left alone of course, has a balance point. I contend that if you allow this ludicrous legislation to pass you will destroy that natural balance and cause harm beyond imagination. Please listen to the experts, they are the true stewards, when not politically pressured to do otherwise, of our resources. They, unlike the supporters of this legislation, are motivated by the perpetuation of a resource and truly "look to the future". The supporters of this legislation are a small, special interest group who apparently could care less how this legislation will impact future generations or other residents of the State. Please do not allow this legislation to pass. The personal satisfaction of knowing that you have done the right thing in the instant case is, in my opinion, worth a great deal more in terms of integrity and ethical behavior than the long remembered notoriety that most certainly will be given those responsible for passing this bill.

My most sincere thanks and appreciation for your time and consideration in this matter.

Katherine C.E. Smith
1193 Cooper Crt.
Homer, Alaska 99603

February 22, 1994

Chairman Bill Williams
Alaska State Legislature
House Resources Committee
Room 128
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Chairman Williams:

Re: SB 46 (Authorizing Moose Farming)

The following is a copy of my February 18, 1994 testimony via tele-conference on SB 46 to the House Resources Committee:

This is Katherine Smith, a resident of Homer. I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist and 1983 Graduate of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks Master's program in wildlife management. I have been working with Alaska's big game species or as a consultant in game farming ever since.

I was Project Director and Manager of a private elk farm at high elevation in Hawaii where I oversaw construction of a state of the art quarantine and handling facility for elk, and importation of 50 head from the mainland in 1987. The herd is now up to several hundred animals and doing well as long as a rigorous health program and supplemental nutrients are provided. Even with year-round pasture and benign conditions in Hawaii, it is extremely expensive to keep fenced game healthy, and handlers safe. And elk are a herd animal, very tractable and easy to handle and provide for as compared to moose. Moose are more than a challenge--they are a mistake!

In winter, moose are wide-ranging browsers. They wander far as lone animals or cow-calf units seeking high quality, low availability willow, cottonwood, and birch buds and tender stems. When locked in by fences they quickly run out of this limited dietary requirement of high protein and roughage. Supplements are very costly, and as Charles Schwartz of the moose research center in Soldotna stated earlier in this teleconference, fencing and feeding moose creates conflicts and problems between animals which do not naturally group together.

With the high cost of game fencing, no one can afford to fence enough area to adequately provide for moose. Again, I agree with Charles Schwartz that animals are subjected to poor diet, inter-species aggression, and mishandling by caretakers who do not understand their needs or know how to provide for them. It is also very difficult to define what constitutes an "adequate handling facility" as stated in this bill. It would be even more difficult to regulate.

Moose are a proven poor choice for intensive game farming. In addition to the studies in Russia and Scandinavia cited

earlier, there are examples closer to home--the University of Alberta did studies as did the University of Saskatchewan, all concluding that moose are NOT suitable for game farming on any intensive basis. The land area required is too great to fence and the handling and feeding considerations make it uneconomical.

Meat and antler sales also present a problem. State Fish and Wildlife Protection is already overtaxed, under-staffed and under-funded in their efforts to check illegal take of moose. This bill will promote poaching and black market sale of meat by creating a market incentive.

Disease transmission to wild stock is also a very real problem when animals are confined, housed, trucked to new location, sold and traded. SB 46 unnecessarily places one of the State's most significant subsistence animals at risk and threatens the lifestyle of Native and rural Alaskans.

From one who has been in the game industry for a decade, I assure you that the State has nothing to gain from SB 46; it will in fact cost Alaskan's the health and welfare of moose, an important sport and subsistence animal. Substantial funds and personnel will also be diverted to administer, research and regulate this ridiculous bill. Promoting moose farming at a time when the State does not even have money for existing programs and needs, does not make sense. As such I respectfully urge the Committee to NOT foster this very harmful and costly legislation. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Katherine C.E. Smith

cc: Suzanne Little
Gail Phillips
Alaska Environmental Lobby

93-68-BOG

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
RESOLUTION

RELATING TO THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF MOOSE

WHEREAS, the Alaska Board of Game has statutory responsibilities for the conservation and development of Alaska's game resources, and

WHEREAS, the game resources of Alaska provide great subsistence, recreational, aesthetic, and economic values to the state of Alaska through viewing, tourism, hunting, and guide-outfitting; and

WHEREAS, reducing public resources to private ownership for commercial use has been consistently opposed by the Board of Game for reasons which include:

- (1) allowing sale of moose meat would encourage poaching, and the illegal sale of wild moose meat and complicate enforcement of game regulations,
- (2) the possibility of disease introduction to wild populations from captive stock, and
- (3) allowing moose from captive stock to be bought and sold will diminish the overall value of wildlife, and the aesthetic values of Alaska,
- (4) the foundation for wildlife management in the United States is common ownership by state residents, and the private ownership would compromise successful long-term wildlife management, and
- (5) husbandry of moose is likely to involve requests for control of predators which pose a threat to penned moose,
- (6) research in Alaska has determined that confined moose quickly decimate native habitat and then must be maintained on a special supplemental diet costing approximately \$1800 per year per adult moose making moose farming a costly and likely unprofitable enterprise,
- (7) failure of these moose farming enterprises will place an additional financial burden on the state.

RESOLUTION NO. 9368 BOG
Alaska Board of Game
Page Two

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

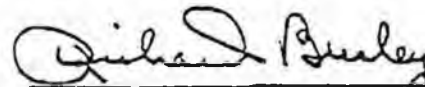
the Alaska Board of Game respectfully requests the Alaska State Legislature not to pass Committee Subsitute Senate Bill 46 which would allow private ownership of moose for commercial purposes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

The Alaska Board of Game respectfully requests the Alaska State Legislature to resist all efforts to privatize and commercialize the husbandry of Alaska's game resources, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

that copies of the Resolution be promptly transmitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Chairman of the Senate and House Resources committees.



Richard Burley, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

ADOPTED: March 19, 1993
Anchorage, Alaska
VOTE: 7 Favor 0 Oppose

MARCH 30, 1994

Representative William Williams
Chairman House Resources Committee

Dear Mr Williams,

HAVING NEVER written to the legislature before, I hope that this letter reaches the proper person. In regards to S.B. 46, The Moose farming issue, I would like to express my strong opposition to it.

I feel that allowing Moose farming would open us up to too many unacceptable risks including diseases, theft of wildlife and poaching.

I can understand the "farming" of non-indigenous species but NOT Moose.

Who would decide who was eligible to receive Moose for farming. The Moose of this state belong to ALL of us. Giving Moose to selected individuals removes Moose from the general population, thereby limiting our opportunity. I'm sure that some of those who seek to own orphaned calves would be only too happy to illegally kill a cow Moose with the hopes that they could be there to provide a "good home" to the poor orphaned calves.

In a recent Fairbanks newspaper it was said that one local advocate of Moose farming doesn't really know what he wants to do with them. Ideas included riding & milking!

Perhaps raising them like beef his some peoples thoughts. Then with the selling of Moose meat being legal. Anyone who possesses Moose Meat out of season will claim to have bought it, making for another loop-hole or story to try and disprove for our game wardens.

Please dont allow this legislation pass just to appease a very few people who only have their own special interests in mind. The rest of us Alaskans depend on our wildlife resources and are not willing to accept the risks to a healthy Moose population just because a few ill-informed people want the state to make them special by giving them something that rightfully belongs to all of us

respectfully,

Robert Mumford
2340 Cordes Way
Fairbanks, Ak 99709

**** ORDER SUMMARY ****
 SPONSOR: HRES HOUSE RESOURCES CHAIRS: REP WILLIAMS
 PURPOSE: PUB PUBLIC HEARING LEGISLATIVE
 CONTACT: GAIL FORD TEL#: (907)465-2338
 CHAIRING SITE: JUNEAU CAPITOL CAP124

SPONSOR REMARKS(PUB): TESTIMONY:Y ALLOWED 2 MINUTE LIMIT
 PUBLIC TESTIMONY WILL BE TAKEN ON SB310. STILL LISTEN ONLY ON SB46.
 TCN REQUESTED ON 04/20/94 AND HAS 5 UPDATES

**** AGENDA ****
 1 SB 46 AUTHORIZE MOOSE FARMING
 2 SB 310 STATE/PRIVATE/MUNI TIMBER OPERATION/SALE

**** PARTICIPATING LTOS ****

ANC ANCHORAGE	716 W 4TH. #200	LOCATION STAFF
COR CORDOVA	705 2ND STREET	LOCATION STAFF
FBX FAIRBANKS	119 N CUSHMAN ST	LOCATION STAFF
GLN GLENNALLEN	COMMUNITY LIB.	LOCATION STAFF
HOM HOMER LTC	126 W PIONEER #4	LOCATION STAFF
* JNU JUNEAU	CAPITOL CAP124	LOCATION STAFF
KOD KODIAK	112 MILL BAY RD.	LOCATION STAFF
MAT MATSU	165 E PARKS HWY.	LOCATION STAFF
NDM NOME	FRONT STREET	LOCATION STAFF
PSG PETERSBURG	101 GJOA STREET	LOCATION STAFF
SEW SEWARD	2001 SEWARD HWY	LOCATION STAFF
SIT SITKA	210 LAKE STREET	LOCATION STAFF
SOL KEN/SOL	34824 KALIFONSKY	LOCATION STAFF
VAL VALDEZ	STATE BLDG. #13	LOCATION STAFF

**** VOLUNTEER & OFFNET SITES ****
 ZZZ OF1 OFFNET 1 PALMER JOHN CRAMER (907)745-7200

PARTICIPANTS IN: ANCHORAGE ANC

1	JIM SYKES		TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 68	TALKEETNA	AK 99676 (907)278-7436
2	CARLY BOEHNERT		TSFY. SB 310
	1851 BARRESTER	ANCHORAGE	AK 99508 (907)274-3621
3	JIM MJNTON		TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 190121	ANCHORAGE	AK 99519 (907)248-1965
4	JIM SEALY	S.V.A.	TSFY. SB 310
	4330 SEELU CT	ANCHORAGE	AK 99502 (907)243-7001
5	JOHN REEDER	S.V.A.	TSFY. SB 310
	9600 SLALOM DR	ANCHORAGE	AK 99516 (907)346-1943
6	TABITHA GREGORY		OBSV. SB 310
	19530 PRIBILOF	EAGLE RIVER	AK 99577 (907)696-1215

PARTICIPANTS IN: CORDOVA COR

1 MR.	STEPHEN BOONAR	SELF	TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 2262	CORDOVA	AK 99574 (907)424-5427

PARTICIPANTS IN: FAIRBANKS FBX

1 MR.	DANIEL LUM		TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 70169	FAIRBANKS	AK 99707 (907)454-8143

PARTICIPANTS IN: FAIRBANKS FBX

2 MS.	SYLVIA WARD	NAEC	TSFY. SB 310
	218 DRIVEWAY	FAIRBANKS	AK 99701 (907)452-5021
3 MR.	LARRY MAYO		TSFY. SB 310
	282 HAY WAY	FAIRBANKS	AK 99709 (907)479-2954
4 MS.	RONNIE ROSENBERG	GREEN PARTY	TSFY. SB 310
	841 NINTH AVE.	FAIRBANKS	AK 99701 (907)452-6476
5 MS.	MARY SHIELDS		TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 80961	FAIRBANKS	AK 99708 (907)455-6469
6 MR.	CHARLES SIMMONS		TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 81724	FAIRBANKS	AK 99708 (907)479-0406
7 MR.	TED SWEM		TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 82068	FAIRBANKS	AK 99708 (907)474-9324
8 MR.	FRED BROWN		TSFY. SB 310
	1469 HOLY CROSS	FAIRBANKS	AK 99709 (907)479-0215
9 MR.	DALE HAGGSTROM		OBSV. SB 310
	2349 STEVENS AVE.	FAIRBANKS	AK 99709 (907)455-6242
10 MR.	FRED PRATI		OBSV. SB 310
	PO BOX 72981	FAIRBANKS	AK 99707 (907)000-0000
11 MS.	SATIVA QUINN		OBSV. SB 310
	PO BOX 254	ESTER	AK 99725 (907)458-8251
12 MR.	NIKE WALLERI	TANANA CHIEFS	OBSV. SB 310
	122 FIRST AVE.#600	FAIRBANKS	AK 99701 (907)452-8251

PARTICIPANTS IN: GLENNALLEN GLN

1 MR.	DAVID HILL		OBSV. SB 310
	PO BOX 12	COPPER CENTER	AK 99573 (907)822-3420
2 MR.	ROBERT FRISBIE		OBSV. SB 310
	PO BOX 635	GLENNALLEN	AK 99588 (907)822-3062
3 MR.	MARTIN MARICLE		OBSV. SB 310
	PO BOX 412	GLENNALLEN	AK 99588 (907)822-3414

PARTICIPANTS IN: JUNEAU JNU

1 MS	KATYA KIRCH		TSFY. SB 310
		HAINES	AK (907)766-0000
2 MS	BARBARA KELLY		TSFY. SB 310
		JNU	AK (907)000-0000
3 MR	CHRIS ??		TSFY. SB 310
		JNU	AK (907)000-0000
4 MR	DAVE KELLYHOUSE	F&G	TSFY. SB 46
			AK (907)000-0000
5	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
6	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
7	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
8	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
9	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
10	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
11	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
12	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
13	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
14	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
15	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
16	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
17	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS

LTN1100-R01
04/20/94

LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE NETWORK

PAGE 03
19:00:28

TCN: 40685 DATE & TIME: 04/20/94 15:30 TO 18:00 STATUS:6 ADJOURNED

PARTICIPANTS IN:JUNEAU

JNU

18	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
19	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
20	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
21	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
22	TO	OBSERVE	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
23	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
24	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
25	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
26	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
27	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
28	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
29	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
30	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
31	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS
32	TO	TESTIFY	TSFY. ALL ITEMS

PARTICIPANTS IN:NOME

NOM

1 MS.	ROSE	ATUK-FOSDICK	KAWERAK, INC.	TSFY. SB 46
	BOX 1485	NOME		AK 99762 (907)443-5231

PARTICIPANTS IN:SEWARD

SEW

1 MR	CHARLES R	BOOTH	SELF	OBSV. SB 46
	PO BOX 102		SEWARD	AK 99664 (907)224-5751

PARTICIPANTS IN:KEN/SOL

SOL

1 MR.	CHUCK	SCHWARTZ	SELF	OBSV. SB 46
	390 ENDICOTT DR		SOLDOTNA	AK 99669 (907)262-7548

PARTICIPANTS IN:VALDEZ

VAL

1 MS.	NANCY	LETHCOE	AWRTA	TSFY. SB 310
	PO BOX 1353		VALDEZ	AK 99686 (907)835-4300
2 MR.	GREG	WILLIAMS	KCHU	OBSV. ALL ITEMS
	PO BOX 467		VALDEZ	AK 99686 (907)835-4665

PARTICIPANTS IN:OFFNET 1

ZZZ OF1

1 MR	JOHN	CRAMMER		OBSV. SB 46
			PALMER	AK (907)745-7200
2	TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. SB 46
				AK (907)000-0000

TCN: 40300 DATE & TIME: 02/18/94 09:15 TO 10:00 STATUS:7 STATS. IN

**** ORDER SUMMARY ****

SPONSOR: HRES HOUSE RESOURCES

CHAIRS: WILLIAMS

PURPOSE: PUB PUBLIC HEARING

LEGISLATIVE

CONTACT: MARY MCDOWELL

TEL#: (907)465-3715

CHAIRING SITE: JUNEAU

CAPITOL

CAP124

SPONSOR REMARKS(PUB): TESTIMONY:Y ALLOWED
TCN REQUESTED ON 02/18/94 AND HAS 10 UPDATES

99 MINUTE LIMIT

**** AGENDA ****

1 SB 46 AUTHORIZE MOOSE FARMING

**** PARTICIPATING LTOS ****

ANC ANCHORAGE	716 W 4TH, #200	LOCATION STAFF
DJT DELTA JCT.	JARVIS CTR. #210	LOCATION STAFF
FBX FAIRBANKS	119 N CUSHMAN ST	LOCATION STAFF
HOM HOMER LTC	126 W PIONEER #4	LOCATION STAFF
* JNU JUNEAU	CAPITOL CAP124	LOCATION STAFF
MAT MATSU	165 E PARKS HWY.	LOCATION STAFF
SOL KEN/SOL	34824 KALIFORNIA	LOCATION STAFF

PARTICIPANTS IN: DELTA JCT.

DJT

1 MR. DON QUARBERG	DELTA JUNCTION	AK	OBSV. SB 46	99737 (907)895-4215
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PARTICIPANTS IN: FAIRBANKS

FBX

1 MR. BUD BLISS	GAME FARMING	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99709 (907)451-8652
2 MR. STANLEY NED	FAIRBANKS	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99701 (907)452-8251
3 MR. JEREMY WELTON	FAIRBANKS	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99712 (907)000-0000
4 MS. OPAL WELTON	FAIRBANKS	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99712 (907)000-0000
5 MR. DOUG WELTON	FAIRBANKS	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99712 (907)000-0000
6 MR. HAROLD GILLAM	FAIRBANKS	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99701 (907)452-2534
7 MS. SANTIYA QUINN	FAIRBANKS	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99701 (907)452-8251
8 MR. FOREST WELTON	FAIRBANKS	AK	OBSV. SB 46	99712 (907)000-0000
9 MS. CRYSTAL WELTON	FAIRBANKS	AK	OBSV. SB 46	99712 (907)000-0000

PARTICIPANTS IN: HOMER LTC

HOM

1 MS. KATHERINE SMITH	HOMER	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99603 (907)235-5448
2 MR. CHRIS RAINWATER	HOMER	AK	TSFY. SB 46	99603 (907)235-6278

PARTICIPANTS IN: JUNEAU

JNU

1 REP. BILL HUDSON		AK	TSFY. SB 46	(907)000-0000
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TCN: 40300 DATE & TIME: 02/18/94 09:15 TO 10:00 STATUS:7 STATS. IN

PARTICIPANTS IN: JUNEAU

JNU

2 REP. JOE GREEN		AK	TSFY. SB 46	(907)000-0000
3 REP. DAVID FINKELSTEIN		AK	TSFY. SB 46	(907)000-0000
4 REP. PAT CARNEY		AK	TSFY. SB 46	(907)000-0000
5 REP. ELDON MULDER		AK	TSFY. SB 46	(907)000-0000
6 REP. JEANNETTE JAMES		AK	TSFY. SB 46	(907)000-0000
7 TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
8 TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
9 TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
10 TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
11 TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
12 TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
13 TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
14 TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
15 TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
16 TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
17 TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
18 TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
19 TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
20 TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
21 TO	OBSERVE		OBSV. ALL ITEMS	
22 TO	TESTIFY		TSFY. ALL ITEMS	
23 TO	TESTIFY		TSFY. ALL ITEMS	

PARTICIPANTS IN: MATSU

MAT

1 MR. JOHN CRAMER	PALMER	AK	OBSV. SB 46	99645 (907)745-7200
2 MR. DOUG WITTE	PALMER	AK	OBSV. SB 46	99645 (907)745-7200

PARTICIPANTS IN: KEN/SOL

SOL

1 MR. KRIS HUNDERTHARK	SELF	AK	OBSV. SB 46	99672 (907)262-9368
2 MR. CURT SHUEY	SELF	AK	OBSV. SB 46	99669 (907)262-9368



HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: April 19, 1993

PLACE: Capitol, Room 124

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
 CSSB 43 Elk Transplant
 CSSB 46 Moose Farming

NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?	WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
Dave Kelleyhouse	ADFG				465-4190	(Y) N	CSSB 43
Bill B Wood	Wood Farms				262-5135	(Y) N	CS SB 46
JANS McMillon	AK ENVIR. Lobby				463-3366	(Y) N	CSSB 43, 46
GENE THERRIAULT	DIST 33				465-4777	(Y) N	CSSB 46
SEN. Mike Miller	DIST Q				465-4976	(Y) N	SB 46
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	
						Y N	



HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 2-18-94

PLACE: Capitol, Room 124

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
 SB 46 - Authorizing moose farming
 SJR 13 - Opposing export on North Slope crude oil

NAME	REPRESENTING	BUSINESS/PERSONAL MAILING ADDRESS	ZIP	(H) PHONE	(W) PHONE	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?	WHAT SUBJECT/ WHICH BILL?
Gloria Gill	AK ENVY LOBBY AET	POB 22151 Juneau AK	99802	463-2266		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	SB 46
Wayne Regelin ✓	ADFG	POB 4 25526 Juneau		465-4190		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	SB 46
Kit Buelstene	DEC	40 Willoughby Km 105 Juneau	99801	465-5250		<input type="radio"/> Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N	SB 46 - only to answer questions
Charles Schwartz ✓	ADFG	Soldotna AK			762-43	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	SB 46
Gloria Gill	AK ENVY LOBBY	POB 22151	99802	463-2266		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	✓
						<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	
						<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	
						<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	
						<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	
						<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	
						<input type="radio"/> Y <input type="radio"/> N	