

AEA EMUpdate

The Official Newsletter of the American Emu Association

President's Message

Volume 31 Issue 1— Jan-Feb 2021

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Advertise in th AEA EMUpdat Members Advert FREE	e
The AEA mailing addre American Emu Associatic 510 W Madison St. Ottawa IL 61350 susan.wright@aea-	on
<u>emu.</u>	orc

AEA Annual Meeting video now available at <u>www.aea-emu.org</u> in the "AEA Members Area"

Greetings From Iowa

Greetings to everyone. I hope you are all staying safe and healthy during this trying time. I am sure we are all ready to see an end to this difficult year. I have high hopes that 2021 will be better.

I want to encourage you all to check out the American Emu Association (AEA) website, as there are changes being made. I hope you will periodically log on and keep abreast of what is happening in the emu industry. The website can be found at <u>www.aea-emu.org</u>.

I would also like to call your attention to the Zoom meetings that Amy Hall has been leading. The meetings are held to bring emu farmers or people interested in learning about emus together. Amy's contact information can be found on the website under the "Contact Us" link or on the back page of this newsletter. If interested please contact Amy to find out when the next meeting will be.

I want to wish each of you, and your families a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Dennis Anderson AEA President <u>oaksaveemuranch@heartofiowa.net</u> home: 641-475-3498 cell: 641-751-4527

Dr. Leigh Hopkins

The AEA was informed that Dr. Leigh Hopkins died from a brain aneurysm on December 1, 2020. He was 76 years old.



As you know, Dr. Hopkins devoted a lot of his time and expertise to the emu industry. He was one of our honorary members and has been a speaker at past conventions. He authored many articles about emu oil and, I'm sure, he has contributed in other ways that we don't even know about.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family



BREEDERS LIST

The Breeders List will once again be offered to members at no cost for 2020. If you sell emu chicks yearlings or breeder pairs, add your farm to this FREE listing. This is the first place people look for emus on the AEA website.

Discount for Veterans - The AEA is offering a 10% annual membership discount to veterans and current military personnel with verification required. New & renewing members will be eligible for this discount. Apply online or contact susan.wright@aea-emu.org

From the Vice-president - Amy E. Hall

Hello again from Arkansas

I've been very excited as my young emus have started laying. Well, at least one has. The other pairs are somewhere between "I don't like him" to "what do I do when she drops down? Anyway, it's an interesting journey, so far.



Really, I am so grateful for my perimeter fence. I have one gal who has been finding ways to get out of the pen. The other morning, I look out the back window to see her mate, I mean the male I have in the pen with her, frantically running up and down the fence. I scan over, and there she is, strutting her stuff to the males in the far pen.

I analyzed the situation, scratching my head. She is not the friendliest of the bunch. I finally configured the gates and fencing to confine her movement, then I pulled open the pen gate and let her mate out. Within minutes he had wrangled her up and then they both walked back along the fence, into the alley, and back into their pen. I doubt that would work for my other young female... she hasn't yet warmed up to her pen mate.

A couple of months ago, I had to separate a female who was getting bullied badly in the mob pen. I had to just let her out into the main perimeter fenced area. She wandered the 7 acres for a couple of weeks while I built more pens for the breeding pairs. It really isn't difficult to trap them in a pen when all the food and water is in that area. I have also employed the strategy of just opening gates and letting them sort themselves.

I have one male sitting eggs. Yes, I am having some issues getting the incubators up and running. I also bought some temp and humidity gauges as I don't trust the old gauges these things currently have. Even though mortality may be high for a natural hatch, a bad incubator could be 100% fatal. I have lots of reservations about using them until I am sure they are correctly holding temp and humidity.

I am expecting the first of these chicks to be arriving sometime around New Years. The real issue is that this sitter is one of three roosters in a pen with one female. He is, so far, hogging all the eggs. She is still mating with the other two. I go out every day to see if there are overrun eggs. None so far. I would like to know if she will start laying in a different place at some point. I was also considering sectioning this laying male off in a small enough area that I could grab the chicks as they come. Maybe.

I have one poor bachelor who is sharing a fence line with the harem next door. Every time I go into his enclosure he propositions me. Actually, he downright drops down behind me and bumps up against my legs. He's a big boy as well. He is also a big eater. Red, the gal who already has 3 suitors, teases him relentlessly.

Continued

Right now, I have 9 birds. Only 3 are female. All the females are less than 2 years old. Half of the males are under 2. Its early in the season, and I still have maturing birds. All I can do is wait, and watch nature take its course.

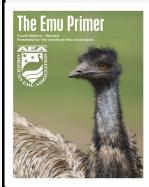
I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season. Amy

AEA Board Notes – Dec 2020

- The **<u>AEA website</u>** is being organized and content added on a regular basis. The Red Oak Farm emu information donation will be added as time permits.
- The **<u>newsletters</u>** are being sent in a timely manner. All newsletters from the past 15 months can be viewed on the AEA website in the Members Area.
- **<u>Articles</u>** from past newsletters are being archived for future reference.
- **ZOOM Meetings** will continue to be held at various times during the coming months. Free Conference Call phone meetings could be used, if there is interest in this format.
- All <u>AEA membership applications</u> have been updated.
- The <u>convention survey</u> has been updated. Oil committee is reviewing <u>older emu oil</u> <u>brochures</u> for any wording that might be red-flagged by the FDA.
- <u>Annual Convention</u> planning is on hold until future COVID-19 recommendations are finalized.
- The AEA has **endorsed the movie "Emu Runner"** that will be release in the U.S. in 2021. The movie, set in Australia, follows a modern Aboriginal family through the grief process, while showing how a girl finds hope through the wild emus,"

YahooGroups Email Lists ended on December 15th. The AEA Google Email List <u>member@aeaemu.</u>org ,will be used as an alternative. A possible <u>public service radio promo</u> was mentioned. Follow-up at a later date.

AEA Emu Primer



Are you looking for information on raising emus, hatching (including charts and forms for hatching season), emu pens and housing along with other emu related information? The AEA Emu Primer will have a lot of these answers for you.

Copies can be purchased from the AEA for \$20.00 + shipping. Contact Brian Smith, <u>snakeman52006@hotmail.com</u>, or phone 931-980-7503 (Also available from ET&T)

WEB INQUIRY REPORT

The Live Bird Requests are sent out to the members by these two electronic venues-Facebook and the AEA Google Email List.



If you are not signed up, you will NOT receive these contact opportunities along with many shared educational and business information ideas between members.

If you cannot find your invitation by email in your junk mail/spam folder for the AEA Members Email List, contact Susan Wright - susan.wright@aea-emu.org

For the Facebook AEA Members Only Network page. contact Amy Hall - gofarm2020@outlook.com

WANTED

2 emus , 1-female & 1-male (younger would be better) Freddy Costello, Lake Stevens, WA 206-227-4212 hansel35@frontier.com

2-3 chicks up to yearling. Kevin Harper, Lindside, WV 304-673-5775 harperkw@carolinaau.edu

Less than 5 emus for personal meat supply. Jordan Owens, Council, Idaho 541-519-2925 irlivestock131@gmail.com

Less than 5 female chicks. Amanda Suter, Hugo MN 651-262-3923 asuter15@gmail.com

A breeder pair or processing size emu. Kim Friend, Lamar, MO, 417-214-3211 kimfriend@hotmail.com

2 adult females emus. Wil Mullins, Catawba, NC wilbirdland@gmail.com

FOR SALE

4 emu chicks—7 months old. Melinda Novak, Manorville, NY melindanovak@gmail.com

Complete Emu Egg Candling System (Camera w/ stand, lighted egg holder and monitor) Reavis, Monroe, WI (608) 897-8224 emujoy@SugarmapleEmu.com

3 GQF Incubators & 2 GQF Hatchers. Cyril Klein, Iowa 319-415-1999 cyril@comonbackacres.com

RedOakFarm.com Donation

Lifetime AEA members, Allen and Myra Charleston, Trezevant, TN, have donated the emu information on their Red Oak Farm website to the American Emu Association (AEA) for use by its members. This wealth of information will be placed in the "Members Area" on the AEA website, <u>www.aea-emu.org</u>

Articles include emu husbandry, facilities, isease, emu handling, crafts, home processing and over 60 emu related recipes from their farm kitchen.

Allen and Myra were active members of the AEA for many years and the AEA greatly appreciates this generous donation.

For a peek of what will soon be in the "Members Area", you can visit www.redoakfarm.com.

AEA Members

To improve your marketing, use these phrases on product labels, in ads, all written copy and on your websites.

> "The American Emu Farmer Believes in Fair Trade and Sustainable Agriculture."

"Grown and Processed in the USA"

Did you know Emu Today & Tomorrow is the emu

industry's premier magazine? Published four times a year, ET&T provides insight to current emu market trends and how-to guides for emu farming. Partnering with the AEA, ET&T also offers on its website EmuToday.com a wealth of resources and tools for raising emus.

Tomorrow Good Advice on

- ✓ Marketing ✓ Care and Feeding
- ✓ Emu Oil
- ✓ Emu Meat
- ✓ Eggs
- ✓ Raising Chicks
- ... and much more!

Order online at www.EmuToday.com!



We also have the Emulicious Emu Egg booklet, mini emu meat and emu oil guides, several emu oil handbooks, and the original *Emu Farmer's Handbook* available for sale. *Emu Today & Tomorrow* is an invaluable resource for everything emu!

Emv Toda

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YES! Please send me four quarterly issues of Emu Today & Tomorrow for only \$25.00!			CITY/ST/ZIP			
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GROWN & PROCESSED

IN THE U.S.A.

Welcome to the American Emu Association We are glad you are here!

Introducing one of our newest members, Joanna Rosenfeld. She lives in Valley Ford, California, a small town near Bodega Bay where the movie, "The Birds" (Alfred Hitchcock) was filmed.



She tells us, "My Family is mostly in Buffalo NY and used to visit, before the Pandemic. Now I'm a hermit. I never go out and I like it this way. My husband hasn't really changed. He was already not going anywhere.

We don't have kids, on purpose. I have two young adults who live with us, for free, because "I can't say no". They feed the chickens, and sometimes make a mess but usually clean it up before the dogs get into it. We have too many dogs. We just got two kittens. Last year we added two pigs. There are always too many projects and things seem to break every day. It's fine, we're fine, but, we're not getting any more animals."

Joanna and her husband have sheep for land management and a friend thought it "would be fun" if they had a breeding pair of Emus. Their friend brought the emus over and then proceeded to move away leaving the emus there. Six years into it, one of the eggs hatched, in bad health and we had to rehab the chick, Nerma, including using a toothpick taped to her legs to support her because of a deformity. The procedure worked and then she grew up to have 5 or 6 more near death experiences. Now she's pretty savvy, always silly, and, so far, never dead.

Last year during a windstorm, 3 trees fell on our house and when we opened the back door, we found Nerma, in a pocket of the only place that didn't have a tree limb on it. Not a scratch on her. That was kind of weird, since everything was crushed except for her. She stood up and walked through the house and out the other door and she didn't even have Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD).

For now, I am just caring for the birds. I was looking for a mate for Nerma but, I think it might be too late. I think she's too much of a loner now. She likes the sheep but, her parents absolutely hate her. They both try to kick her on the shared fence that I let them have sometimes. I was hoping to put her in the same 4 acres that her parents are in, and get her a mate, but, since they don't like her, I don't want to risk an injury. One time, her parents ganged up on her in a corner and tried to kick her to death. I broke it up and no one got hurt, but I don't want a Part 2.

I joined the AEA on a whim. Actually, I had a lowgrade fever and, while surfing the internet, I decided it might be good to become a member. I don't regret joining. The information is very valuable. I went through the website and learned a lot.

Online Emu Scammers. Be Careful, They're Out There

There is a scammer on Facebook who is using a photo from SugarMapleEmu.com, and possibly other AEA member's farms, to scam money for egg deposits. He has photos from farms in India, too. Once he gets the money, he blocks the person who sends it to him and then he disappears. He has been preying on the various Emu Pages on Facebook

Here is the profile link: https://www.facebook.com/don.poka.37

He's changed the name a couple of times but, it's always similar. His writing is not in the best English.

This is the website. <u>https://donexoticfarm.company.site/</u>

As of last week they were pestering people to buy ostriches, size large and medium and some live adult emu.

Don't text them! You will never get rid of them.

They want PayPal money and they won't send an invoice. They have scammed many thousands of dollars from members of the various emu group pages on Facebook and, even though they have been reported, they are, unfortunately, still going strong.

ZOOM Meetings

ZOOM Meetings have proven to be fun and enlightening. Subjects have ranged from feed and facilities to emu egg fertilization. There is always some chit chat mixed in, to round out these 40 minute sessions.

If you have thought about joining the ZOOM meeting but, you don't have a 12 year old handy to talk you through it, this video may be just what you are looking for.

This 40 minute AARP instruction video is easy to understand and is designed especially for senior citizens. It explains ZOOM Meetings very well.

https://videos.aarp.org/detail/video/6166730498001/ how-to-use-zoom-to-stay-connected

FaceTime On Your Smart Phone

Have you ever wondered how to see the person you are talking to, and have them see you, when talking on a "smart phone". You've thought that it might be a nice way to stay in touch with family and friends but, you had no idea how to do it. This just might be the answer for you.

This short video explains the "how to" for "FaceTime" or "Duo" phone calls (Duo is the app that comes with Samsung android phones). This video is aimed at senior citizens and explains it in simple language.

It is much easier than you think!

https://videos.aarp.org/detail/video/6144185771001/ how-to-video-on-facetime

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Roadside Farm Signs

If you are thinking of making a sign for your farm, you might find the following information helpful.

The following was posted on the Wisconsin University Extension website several years ago. It is meant for roadside produce stands but, the information would also be very helpful for planning signs for your farm or National Emu Week (N.E.W.) events.

Roadside signs are a particularly important information source once travelers are near your business or event. They help your customers to find you. Roadside signs can be hindrances if, they are not done professionally and kept well maintained. If signs are unattractive, hard to read, home painted and unkempt, your operation is likely to start with a bad impression.

The entrance to your business should be clearly marked with a parking lot or a pull-off area on each side of the road. A road sign should, as a rule, be placed at least 2,500 feet before the entrance of your business, to allow travelers a safe stopping distance. Keep in mind that it takes a 1/4 mile to safely slow down at 40 mph.

Place several road signs in advance of your farm, out from your initial sign, that state the distance to your business; JONES' PRODUCE, 2 MILES. Signage should start from the nearest Interstate or major Highway and clearly direct visitors to your business location.

NOTE - Check local zoning restrictions in your area BEFORE placing signs along a roadway.

Roadside signs should contain six words or less, with a 1 or 2 word focal point to catch the traveler's interest.

To be visible at 50 feet, letters should be at least 1 3/4'' high.

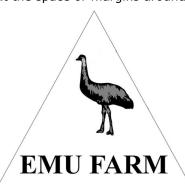
To be seen at:

100'	feet,	paint	them	-	3 1/2" high.
200'	feet,	paint	them	-	7" high
300'	feet,	paint	them	-	11" high
					14" high
500'	feet,	paint	them	-	18" high.

Brush strokes should be 1/5 as wide as the letter's height. This means a 7" high letter should have a brush stroke 1 1/2" wide.

Use 7" to 12" letters and a good contrast of colors where travelers are going 50 MPH or faster. The most easily read color combinations are black, dark blue, bottle green or scarlet red on white, yellow, orange or light green. It is not always the size of the letters that make them readable, but the space or margins around them.

Create a simple logo that provides easy recognition. A sample sign might be - a triangle with an emu inside, with FARM TOUR, EMU FARM or EMU OIL / EMU MEAT underneath like this.



AD DAY GUIDELINES

Emu related ads are free to AEA members but, you need to be aware of these Ad Day guidelines for the AEA Members email list, <u>members@aea-emu.org</u>.

1.) Ad day is one ad per week, your choice of days. If you choose to post on Monday, please do not post again until the following Monday.

2.) You may NOT post items for sale for non-AEA members. If a non-member has an incubator for sale, encourage them to buy an ad in the AEA EMUpdate newsletter.

"FREE ITEMS" or **"Wanted to buy"** posts (such as birds, incubators, supplies, etc.) are the only "exceptions" to not posting for non-members. **Those**

items from non-members ARE allowed. 3.) We urge all members to be a part of the AEA

Members email list so they will be able to see the activity across the country.

4.) What can I sell? Basically, anything emu related. NO photos. Your advertised items may include items you have to sell or items you are looking for, such as livestock, fat, sales aids, services, farming equipment, supplies, etc. It may also include offers to render/refine fat, bird hauls (affiliate or other programs) and any other services that would directly help the emu farmer. If you are concerned that your item may 'not be acceptable', email, info@aea-emu.org and ask.

5.) Subject line - to make it easier on members who are not interested in wading through ads, we suggest that you **put "Ad Day" in the subject line of** your email. This courtesy will enable members who are interested in reading or not reading the ads to sort them quickly. We also suggest that you state the item you are interested in selling or buying right after that think of it as the header to your ad.

Example: Subject: Ad Day - GQF incubator for **sale.** Use subject headers such as emu oil products, farm equipment, hatching equipment or sales aids.

6.) Number of emails allowed is one (1) per member per week - If you have numerous items to list, please consider listing everything in one email and put "Ad Day - various items" in the subject line.

7.) Contact information - remember to put your name, address and phone number, as well as, your email address at the bottom of the ad. Remember that our group is spread across the U. S. (and farther) and we may not know where you are located - especially if we only have an email to go on.

8.) Do NOT send photos through the list. Some of our members have great difficulty in retrieving large emails. If you have a photo, just say "photo available on request" in your ad.

9.) A good description of the item for sale or wanted to buy will be appreciated by your potential customer.

10.) Only "family oriented" subject matter will be allowed. And, nothing political. Offending subject matter will be removed and whoever posted it will be removed from list privileges.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, contact your regional director or any board of director. Their email addresses and phone numbers are on the back of your newsletter and are also listed on the "Contact Us" page of the AEA Website at http://www.aea-emu.org .

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WHY RAISE EMUS?

Emus are ecologically friendly. Their manure does not contain high levels of urea or ammonia. Their manure breaks down quickly and



does not harm plants when applied directly to them for fertilization. Composted emu manure can be sold to gardeners for extra income. Some farmers report using their old feed sacks and selling their bagged emu manure for \$5-10 per bag.

Emus are a totally usable bird. Meat, fat, hide and feathers can all be sold.

When asked how raising emus compares to raising cattle, an older emu grower replied, "How many calves per year does your cow give you? An emu can give you 20-30 chicks per year. Each one of those chicks can give you a gross yield of \$1,000.00 in retail product sales after they are processed.

Retail (selling to customers) (\$1,200.00 - \$2,800.00) 20 lbs. of fat = \$1,000.00 (\$500 per gallon)

20 lbs. of fat = \$1,500.00 (\$50.00 per 8 ounce bottle

20 lbs. of fat = \$2,560.00 (\$10.00 per 1 ounce bottle)

 $25 \text{ lbs. meat} = \$250.00 \ (\$10.00 \text{ per pound})$

One pair of emus, including all of their offspring for two years, can be **raised on one acre** of land, if all chicks are processed by 16 months of age.

The **fat from the emu** is rendered and refined into emu oil. Emu oil mainly contains Omega 3, 6 & 9 fatty acids. Omega 3 and 6 are essential fatty acids which means that our bodies can't produce them, so we must rely on getting them from our diets or through absorption through our skin. This makes emu oil a perfect source for these important fatty acids that our bodies use for many functions.

Emu meat is a dark red meat. It is very mild tasting, much like beef. Since it is high in nutrition with no harmful fats marbled through the muscle, it is recommended on the American Heart Association (AHA) website as a heart healthy meat. Emus are raised without daily supplementation with steroids or antibiotics and they receive no additional growth hormones.

The **hide is tanned** into a soft and supple leather with a distinctive quill pattern. This leather can be used in designer clothing, yet durable enough for boots and wallets.

Emus have a **distinctive double feather** with two vanes coming out of one guill. Feathers are used for crafts and, in the floral industry, as fillers for flower arrangements. The soft body feathers are used in the automotive industry worldwide to dust vehicles before painting in the auto assembly plants. Emu feathers have a high oil content, so they do not make static electricity. Because of this they are also used as feather dusters for electronics.

Emu eggs are edible and highly nutritious. The blown egg shells are sought after by artists to be decorated, painted or carved.

AEA Convention Survey

On the following page you will find a Convention Survey. At this time, due to COVID, we are not sure when the next AEA Annual Convention will be held but, when it is, we want to be ready.

Please print the survey, fill it out and return it to:

Joylene Reavis 700 8th Ave Unit 731 Monroe, WI 53566.

Thank you for participating in this survey. Your input will be very helpful in planning future conventions.

YAHOO! Email List Ends GROUPS

Our use of the AEA Members YahooGroups email list account (members-aea@yahoogroups.com) has ended. The YahooGroups account is no longer available. Please remove it from your address book.

As an alternative, we are currently adding "ALL" AEA member email addresses to our new Members Google Group email list, members@aea-emu.org . This is a private group just for AEA members with no outside Advertisements, SPAM or Phishing allowed.

You are subscribed to this Google Group automatically, as part of your membership in the American Emu Association (AEA). This group will be used by the AEA to send out EMUpdate Newsletters, Live Bird Requests from the AEA's website, and other important information and notifications to our members.

As a member, you will be able to ask questions and make comments on this list. Please remember that if you hit the reply key to respond, it will only send your email to the person who wrote the original email, NOT to the entire list. In order to respond to the entire list you must copy and paste or type in the group address, members@aea-emu.org

Keep in mind that if you "unsubscribe" from this list, it will prevent you from receiving the information mentioned above.

If you have any questions about this group, need to update your email address or remove an added email address, please contact susan.wright@aea-emu.org .

When using the AEA email list, please remember to abide by the

AEA Code of Conduct

- To be familiar with the purpose and objectives of the Association and to promote its aim actively.
- To present conduct that in all times reflects dignity and respect for the Association and other members.
- To keep inviolate any confidence that may be entrusted to said member.
- To refuse participation in questionable enterprises and to refuse to engage in any business that is contrary to law or public welfare.
- To guard against unwanted insinuations that reflect upon the character or integrity of others members, officers or staff of this Association.

By becoming an AEA member, you agreed to the above Code of Conduct.

American Emu Association (AEA) Convention Survey

Sessions I liked at the last convention I attended included:

I really didn't like: If I had the opportunity, I would like to attend sessions concerning I would like less attention paid to: I am partial to formal or informal sessions. In my opinion, our organization's major problem today is: Our biggest challenge in the next 5 years is: My opinion of leaders or topics I would like to hear at the next conference include: ______ I hope to pay no more than \$_____ per night for a hotel room, or \$_____ if my family attends Include Breakfast?_____ Other___ Time of year, month and week I prefer for convention If there was a good spouse's program, I probably would _____, or wouldn't _____ bring them along.

 I prefer the following convention sites:
 Airport Hotel - _____;
 Convention Hotel - ____;

 Downtown Hotel_____;
 Resort Hotel - ____;
 University Campus - ____;

 Other_____;
 Northeast - ____;
 Southeast - ____;

 Other_____; Northeast -____;

 Midwest -____; Southwest -____;
 ____: If I were organizing the next conference, these are the changes and innovations I would make. I would be willing to help organize and promote a convention in my area. Yes _____ No _____ How likely are you to attend a future convention? My name and contact info_____

President **Director Region 3** Dennis Anderson 2960 Oaks Ave Haverhill, IA 50120 641-751-4527 president@aea-emu.org

Vice President Amy Hall 2020 Red Bench Road Paris, AR 72855 479-847-0352 gofarm2020@outlook.com

Treasurer

Brian Smith 6913 Timberlake Dr Murfreesboro TN 37129 931-980-7503 snakeman52006@hotmail.com

Secretary Joylene Reavis 700 8th Ave #731 Monroe, WI 53566 608-897-8224 secretary@aea-emu.org

Director Region 1 & 2 Kymara Lonergan 50 Hardenburgh Rd. Ulster Park, NY 12487 207-286-7399 kymaralonergan@yahoo.com

Emu Processing Plants

Larue Meat Processing USDA 1908 Water Level Rd Somerset, PA 15501 811-445-7229

Krehbiels Specialty Meats, Inc. USDA 1636 Mohawk Rd McPherson, KS 67460 620-241-0103 / 620-241-0106 J&S Meat Processing 180 Fm 833 E Fairfield, TX 75840 903-389-6169

Craig's Meats N9064 Hwy 162 No. Mindoro, WI 54644 608-486-2212

B and D Meats 5370 Grange Rd Roseburg, OR 97471 541-677-7283

Lemay & Sons USDA 116 Daniel Plummer Rd Goffstown, NH 03045 603-622-0022

Special "D" Meats USDA 30637 Lake Street Macon, MO 63552 660-385-2141

Value Added **Emu Products**

Uvalde Meats 508 S wood Street Ulvalde, TX 78801 830-278-6247



AEA Board of Directors Contact Information

MN

ND

2020/2021

MT

WA

AEA Regional Areas

