

live,” Williams said. “It has given its life so we may live.”

Marketable

Williams said he makes money like anyone else with livestock. Elk can be sold as breeding stock, and for human consumption and other purposes. The antlers that male elk shed in the winter fetch \$10 a pound and are made into products for dogs to chew on. “It’s a huge market on the internet,” he said. Also, the velvet or short fur that covers the antlers during their first 60 days of growth

can be cut off, freeze-dried and made into pills sold as an aphrodisiac.

The velvet sells for \$35 a pound, he noted. A male elk can produce more than 20 pounds of antler velvet a year, other sources said.

Williams uses the antlers as handles on a winding stairway in a cabin on the farm. They are arranged so the points angle away from where a person reaches for support. Antlers also can be used decoratively. The hides are useful as well and may be fashioned into blankets, clothing and belts.






■ Kevin Williams holds up a pair of antlers that a relatively young male elk, or bull, recently shed this winter. He said the older bulls grow even larger racks. Williams got the name for a restaurant he owns in Canton from such “Big Racks.” The herd on his elk farm near Breeds is too small to meet public demand to serve elk meat at his eatery, however.



■ Kevin Williams feeds oats and other nutrients with protein to a female elk, or cow, he calls “the queen of the herd.” When he wants his elk to come eat, he calls to her and they follow her lead. She is used to the routine and ready to move once he enters the field.

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