

---

# WIDEST

---

## CANADIAN MOOSE EVER

---



*Harley Busse of Swift Current, Saskatchewan, holds the antlers from the bull moose he took near Kindersley, Saskatchewan, in 2009. It would be hard to imagine seeing a bull like this walking across the wide open terrain that these moose call home. The spread on Harley's moose is a whopping 74 6/8 inches, which is the widest on record for a Canadian moose. The antlers gross 214 4/8 and net 210 inches.*

My hunting buddy Lon and I decided to enter the draw for farmland moose last fall. He lives in Kindersley, which is a short drive for me from Swift Current, and we thought it would be a good area to try to get a tag. As luck would have it, we both drew tags in Zone 26. My buddy's neighbour, Grant, had also put his name in for moose but wasn't successful, so he took us out the night before the season opener and showed us some areas we could hunt.

With much optimism and excitement, Lon and I headed out on opening morning and started checking out some spots. We were seeing moose, but only cows and calves. A change of

strategy was in order, and we figured that pushing some bluffs might improve our chances for a bull. Lon pushed the first one, and sure enough, there was a bull in it, but he cleverly circled around Lon and went out the back. We took turns pushing a few more bluffs, but didn't see any more moose.

Moving on to our next spot, we found a bull out in a field with a cow and calf. He was quite a distance away, so we checked him out with the binos and spotting scope. However, we needed to get in for a closer look.

Once within range, we took another look to make sure that his antlers weren't broken and to estimate his width. I had a

---

BY HARLEY BUSSE



**Harley with the big bull just after he anchored the gigantic animal. Now the work begins.**

goal of 50 inches wide. When I looked at him again, his right paddle looked like it was only half the width of his left one. This, however, turned out to be an optical illusion because of the way it dished back, but it had us questioning if we should try for him. That question was soon answered when he turned away from us, revealing his true width. I immediately turned to Lon and said, "I'm going to take him!"

After a poor first shot, I managed to get my adrenaline under control and make a good second shot. As we walked up to the bull, I asked Lon why he hadn't taken a shot. He replied, "All I could think of is that it's opening morning and I don't want it to be over yet." In my 20-some years of hunting, it was the first time I had shot something on opening day.

When we approached the moose, I knew he was a pretty good one, but I had no idea how wide he was. Only when we got him loaded onto the trailer did I start to realize that he was wider than I thought because my trailer is five feet wide and his antlers stuck out past it on both sides. Putting a tape on him, I couldn't believe what I saw: the rack was almost 75 inches wide!

This incredible bull dressed out at 812 pounds with an estimated live weight of 1,500 pounds. The local conservation officer estimated his age between seven and 10 years. His official Boone and Crockett score is 214  $\frac{4}{8}$  gross with a final score of 210 even. His greatest spread is 74  $\frac{6}{8}$  inches, making him the widest Canadian moose in the B&C record book.

I realize that this is a moose of a lifetime, and my lifelong desire to get my name in the B&C record book is a dream come true. For that, I give gratitude to my late best friend, Kelly Busse, who was tragically killed in a work accident in the fall of 1996. If not for him, I wouldn't be hunting today, for he is the one who got me hooked. I know he was watching down on me that morning of October 1, 2009, saying, "Way to go, buddy!"

Our hunt wasn't quite over yet. My friend Lon shot a 53-inch bull the next morning that scored around 171. Thanks to Lon for letting me take the shot on opening morning, and also to his friend Grant for showing us the area.