



National Bison Association

8690 Wolff Court, Suite 200 Westminster, CO 80031-3646
www.BisonCentral.com Phone: 303-292-2833 Fax: 303-845-9081



Weekly Update from the National Bison Association

A news and update service *exclusively* for members of the National Bison Association.
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November 16, 2018

Happy Thanksgiving from the National Bison Association

The staff of the National Bison Association extends warmest wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving to bison producers everywhere.

“As we begin the Holiday season, it’s important to take a few moments to reflect on all of the blessings we enjoy,” said Dave Carter, NBA executive director. “Whether you are sitting down to a bison standing rib roast, or the more traditional turkey dinner, we hope that you enjoy time together with family and friends.”

Although the NBA office will be closed on Friday, we will have an abbreviated Weekly Update that day.

Carter Headed to Canadian Bison Assn. Meeting

NBA Executive Director Dave Carter is headed to Regina, Saskatchewan this weekend to join the bison ranches and marketers gathering for the Canadian Bison Association’s annual meeting, and live animal show and sale.

Carter will be providing an update from “South of the 49th Parallel” during the annual meeting.

“Our working relationship with the Canadian Bison Association is an important part of the success that the North American bison sector has experienced over the past 20 years. We recognize that cooperation and coordination is critical to building successful markets, and to assuring profitability for produces on both sides of the border,” Carter said.

NBA Connects with Agricultural Lenders

The National Bison Association again this year hosted a both during the National Agricultural Bankers’ Conference in Omaha, and connected with a good share of the roughly 600 lenders attending the conference.

“Many lenders are receiving inquiries from producers wanting to get into the bison business, and want information that will enable them to work with those borrowers to structure a viable loan packages,” said NBA Executive Director Dave Carter, who hosted the booth during the conference. “Those lenders were pleased to find out that the NBA has a wealth of resources for both borrowers and lenders.”

“Connecting with the ag lender community is another important step in developing the infrastructure required to continue to grow our business,” Carter added.

Wholesale Bison Market Prices Off in October

Prices paid for dressed bison carcasses slipped in October, according to the latest monthly wholesale bison report issued by the USDA Grain and Livestock Market Reporting Service.

Dressed young bull carcasses brought \$479.69/cwt. in October, which was \$7.42/cwt. lower than in September, and \$7.58 lower than in October 2017. Dressed heifer carcasses averaged \$464.02/cwt. in October, a drop of \$15.70/cwt. from the previous month and \$2.24/cwt. from the previous year. Older bull carcasses were slightly higher and older cows were lower.

Year-to-date processing of bison under federal inspection has totaled 43,310 head, which is a decline in 1,396 head in the comparable period in 2018. To date, bulls comprised 60 percent of the younger animals processed. That compares to the nine-year average of 61 percent.

The USDA monthly price report can be located here.

https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw_ls526.txt

The NBA five-year tracking chart is in the members' Section at www.bisoncentral.com.

Inaugural Youth Photo Contest Welcomes Submissions by Jan. 4th

This Thanksgiving will be a great time to take some great photos at the ranch with your kids and grandchildren! The first-ever NBA Youth Photo Contest is underway and taking submissions until January 4th. Submit an entry form, available at <https://bisoncentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/NBA-Photo-Contest-Entry-Form-2019-LD.pdf>, and photos by emailing to coordinator Lauren Dobson at lksdobson@gmail.com.

There will be three classes: Grades 5-6, 7-9, and 10-12. The top three entries from each class will win cash prizes, and each first-place winner will be featured in the Bison World Magazine! For younger children (Kindergarten – 4th grade) that wish to participate – please submit photos for a chance to have your artwork displayed at the conference!

ELIGIBILITY: The NBA Winter Conference Art Contest is open to children and grandchildren of NBA members and InterTribal Buffalo Council members. See all the details, and how to submit photos for consideration [here](#). Also, please download and complete [this entry form](#) when you submit your photos.

Special thanks to the Texas Bison Association for sponsoring this event!

See all the details at <https://bisoncentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/NBA-Photo-Contest-Rules-Flyer-2019-LD.pdf>

Rebounding From the Brink: A Look into the Successes of the MN Bison Industry

(From Minnesota Grown)

American bison have roamed the Midwest plains for more than 4,000 years. Like cows, these large animals are ruminants, meaning they access nutrients from plants by fermenting it in their stomach before digestion. They eat a plant based diet largely made up of grasses found on a prairie landscape. These herbivores are the largest terrestrial animals in North America and can weigh more than 2,000 pounds.

Their large size and thick coats make bison incredibly hearty and well suited for Minnesota's climate. Our member, Steve Schalwig with Grazing Acres in Elko New Market, noted that the tough nature of bison was one of the main reasons he started raising them. Able to live outside all year long, bison do not require any barns or shelter. Gail Griffin of Rockie Hill Bison Farm in Winona spoke to this point as well saying, "Our bison live on pasture 365." Once a year, Gail and her husband Dave roundup the herd for health evaluations and ear tagging.

Bison's long life spans make it easy for farmers to build up a large herd with numerous breeding females. According to Steve, "They will live twenty plus years without blinking an eye." This longevity has enabled Steve to grow his herd to more than 200 bison on his farm of a few hundred acres. His bison eat a balanced diet of grasses, fresh vegetables, and non-GMO corn silage. Steve shared that this diverse diet makes flavorful meat and uses pastureland effectively.

Despite their hearty nature, the bison population drastically decreased following the arrival of Europeans to the Americas. Intense overhunting in pursuit of hides reduced the population to around 1,000 bison by the end of the 19th century. Prior to this collapse, there had been between 20 and 30 million bison living in North America. The small remaining population at the start of the 1900s was held largely in private herds. Today, this trend continues, as farmers around the United States are raising bison for meat and hides in response to the high demand. Steve noted the strong market for bison meat in the US saying, "you can't raise them fast enough".

Read more. https://minnesotagrown.com/pick-of-the-month/bison-in-minnesota/?fbclid=IwAR2SjnOTC_tiQ9Wiw43AqQs_KDmgeB4T4VDUZXMWl7xpXqYLhwHsbNMtrqw

Racing for Your Flight but Need a Winter Coat? Try the Airport Vending Machine [edited]

(From The Wall Street Journal)

Zara Harding had a nagging concern as she walked to her gate after an airport layover in June. She had run out of time to buy a coat for the glacier hike in Washington's Cascade Mountains she was heading to and was "worrying about being cold in the snow."

There, at Hollywood Burbank Airport, she found her solution. “Lo and behold,” she says, “a Uniqlo brand vending machine appeared in my path.”

Ms. Harding, 39, a group fitness instructor from Northern California, paid \$69.90 for an ultralight down jacket made by the Japanese retailer owned by [Fast Retailing](#) Co. She recalls swiping her card and exclaiming, “Take my money!”

Uniqlo last year started placing vending machines selling jackets, vests and other clothes in airports around the U.S. Uniqlo declines to discuss its sales. San Francisco International Airport officials say the machine there brings in around \$10,000 a month. Later this year, the airport plans to add a Yo-Kai Express Inc. machine that sells ramen noodles.

Vending machines selling clothing, makeup, electronics and high-end foods are cropping up at U.S. airports where officials are competing for passengers with improved amenities. Airports have long tried with shops to get passengers to open their wallets before boarding, but they have to keep things fresh: specialty retail sales, which exclude duty free as well as convenience and newsstand items like gum and magazines, have fallen 10% since 2012 to \$1.66 per departing passenger at North America’s top 50 airports last year, according to trade publication Airport Experience News.

Now, airports are using vending machines to test the appeal of more unusual products, airport operators and vendors say. The machines can be stationed in unused corners of an airport and make sales around the clock. Some new machines have touch screens and robotic suction arms to deliver expensive products.

Other machines offer products that are hard to find elsewhere, including Buffalo Wool Co., which sells gloves, beanies, socks and other goods made from bison wool online and at trade shows. Co-owners Ron and Theresa Miskin spend a month in Alaska each year selling at the state fair, so they knew they could find customers willing to pay \$95 for bison-wool gloves at the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport.

But the company is based in Texas, and Mr. Miskin said it didn’t want to hire employees or rent a storefront. So it got two vending machines. The Buffalo Wool machines in Anchorage can make sales of as much as \$500 a day each, he says. “A lot of people fly up there and then fly out to much colder places.”

Read more. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/racing-for-your-flight-but-need-a-winter-coat-try-the-airport-vending-machine-1542208867>

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge gets new bison after 70 years

(From KSWO – ABC)

WICHITA MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE REFUGE, OK (RNN Texoma) -For the first time in 70 years, the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge has added new bison to its herd. The refuge added three male American bison that are three years old.

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge has had bison since 1907. The first 15 animals were brought in from the Bronx, New York. The last was added in the mid-1940’s from Nebraska.

Since then the refuge has managed a herd of 700 bison.

"It's significant for the refuge and it's also significant for the genetic conservation of this herd and also other bison herds within the fish and wildlife service," said Wildlife biologist, Dan McDonald.

McDonald said the three new bison were brought in from Colorado.

"They are younger bulls, each three years old," he said. "And so it'll be a few years before they're able to breed and make genetic contributions to our herd."

McDonald said each year they move some bison from one refuge to another. He said it's important to add bison to manage the herd and genetics.

Read more. <http://www.kswo.com/2018/11/15/wichita-mountains-wildlife-refuge-gets-new-bison-after-years/>

Custer State Park annual bison auction on Saturday

(From KOTA - TV)

Following the annual buffalo round-up Custer State Park is hosting its annual Fall Classic Bison Auction on Saturday, Nov. 17, 2018. Approximately 330 head will be available for sale leaving 960 bison in the park over the winter.

The video and online auction will begin at 10 a.m. (MST) at the Custer State Park visitor center. This is the seventh year the park is using an online platform for its auction.

"The recent change to a video auction rather than a live auction has been positive," said Chad Kremer, bison herd manager. "It reduces the stress on the buffalo and expedites the entire process."

This year's offerings include 20 mature bred cows, 29 mature open cows, 2 two-year-old bred heifers, 19 open two-year-old heifers, 43 yearling heifers, 25 heifer calves, 117 bull calves, 62 yearling bulls, ten two-year-old breeding bulls, one three-year-old breeding bull and 2 two-year-old grade bulls.

In 2017 the park auctioned 256 bison. The park began selling its surplus bison 53 years ago. The sale provides a significant amount of revenue to the park.

Read more. <https://www.kotatv.com/content/news/Custer-State-Park-annual-bison-auction-on-Saturday-500395171.html>

Beautiful Pictures Show Bison Enjoying First Snow Of The Year At Caprock Canyons State Park

(From KFDA – CBS)

CAPROCK CANYONS STATE PARK, TX (KFDA) - These beautiful images show bison grazing comfortably, standing on a blanket of fresh snow at Caprock Canyons State Park.

Over the weekend, the Texas Panhandle received its first measurable snowfall this year. In fact, it was the first measurable snowfall in almost two years.

These images, taken by Annie Hepp with Texas Parks and Wildlife, show the bison enjoying the cold weather.

The post garnered quite a bit of attention around social media with more than 1,800 reactions and more than 4,400 shares.

The area is expecting another cold front this coming weekend, but snow is not in the forecast.

Read more. <http://www.newschannel10.com/2018/11/14/beautiful-pictures-show-bison-enjoying-first-snow-year-caprock-canyons/>

Mammoth Tooth, Ice Age Bison Bones Discovered At DFW

(From WFAA)

Before the jet age came, before mammoth planes ruled the skies, ice age animals roamed the earth where DFW Airport now stands. And this month, after thousands of years, a few of them finally made their arrival.

Two airport employees made the big discovery recently while they were working in a secure part of the airport property that's off limits to the public. Brandon Burks and Roger Duval both work in the DFW Environmental Affairs Department, a job that requires them to regularly check creek beds for erosion.

While they were working, Burks spotted what at first he thought were unusual rocks. "Completely exposed, you know, it wasn't buried at all which was interesting," Burks recalled.

He showed them to Duval, who happens to be an amateur fossil hunter. "He kind of put them together and was like, 'You know what, this could be a mammoth tooth,'" Burks said. "We kind of freaked out."

They found three different specimens altogether, two in one location and a third, larger bone in another part of the property. They were taken back to the Environmental Affairs lab where Heather Frost took photographs and eventually spoke to an SMU paleontologist. "He estimated these bones to be 11,000 years old," said Frost.

Read more. <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/mammoth-tooth-ice-age-bison-bones-discovered-at-dfw/287-614599580>

Yellowstone's Quarantined Bison Won't Be Transferred To Tribes Anytime Soon

(From The Ravalli Republic)

Montana will allow the transfer of five male Yellowstone National Park bison to the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux tribes, but tribal officials are still negotiating the details with state and federal agencies.

The five bison have reached their required “disease negative” status, meaning the risk that they may carry or transfer the disease brucellosis is unlikely, according to Marty Zaluski, state veterinarian. Fort Peck tribal chairman Floyd Azure did not return a phone message requesting comment.

The bison are a portion of about 60 animals that have been quarantined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service, or APHIS, at a Corwin Springs facility.

The animals are separate from the 99 being held in quarantine by the Park Service near the community of Gardiner, which is located on the north side of Yellowstone. Of that cohort, 75 are males and 24 are females, according to Tim Reid, the Yellowstone bison program coordinator who spoke to a gathering of tribal officials in Denver earlier this month.

The five bison ready for transfer will be moved when the participating parties sign off on a memorandum of understanding, according to Patrick Holmes, natural resources policy adviser to Montana Gov. Steve Bullock

Read more. https://ravallirepublic.com/lifestyles/recreation/article_1b7af8be-bbd4-53aa-acf1-a8192f9a6f27.html

Bison Are Personal For Tribal Members

(From The Lewiston Tribune)

Growing up a Jicarilla Apache, Bryan Vigil was told — quite forcefully — by his grandmother that he must return the buffalo to their people.

“I want you to bring that balance back,” he recalled her yelling while pointing a finger at him about 17 years ago. “She wanted things done.”

“Why?” he questioned, and she answered that it was important to have a buffalo robe in every tribal member’s home. He took it to heart because an elder doesn’t tell “you anything you don’t take seriously.”

“We use the buffalo hide in a lot of ceremonies,” explained Vigil, 67, of Dulce, N.M., who is president of his tribe’s elders committee. “Grandma said it keeps the family together” enabling them to see it, touch it and feel the dense, rough hair. The hide helps that family think about life, he added.

Like many of the speakers said Thursday through Saturday at the first conference in Denver on bringing buffalo back to tribal lands and cultures, buffalo are more than a symbol, a source of meat or an ecological resource that restores balance to prairie ecosystems. For them, buffalo are personal.

Read more. https://lmtribune.com/outdoors/bison-are-personal-for-tribal-members/article_2685d6fb-c0cd-5e74-9db8-d25d105b9298.html

Gift From Credit Union Helps ZooMontana Build Bison Exhibit, Prepare For Future

(From the Billings Gazette)

About 20 people from Valley Credit Union got an up-close encounter with two young bison at ZooMontana on Thursday.

The visitors got to feed treats to Bert, a 1-year-old male, and Nellie, a 6-month-old female, in their holding pens behind the exhibit.

Both bison are being trained to work with human contact so zookeepers can care for them safely and manage them in the exhibit.

The zoo plans to add a third bison to the herd soon.

The four-acre exhibit has long been part of the master plan to tell the natural history of the North American plains. It will open to the public by the end of the month.

Full story here. https://billingsgazette.com/news/local/gift-from-credit-union-helps-zoomontana-build-bison-exhibit-prepare/article_275fac60-de04-52cb-b0f4-127acca824a7.html

Roberts Blames Conaway For Farm Bill Delay

(From Politico)

Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) said Wednesday that top farm bill negotiators are close to reaching agreement on a conference report but that House Agriculture Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas) is standing in the way of it getting done.

Conaway later fired back, telling reporters that "finger-pointing" at this stage in the talks would not help to bring about a deal.

Roberts said he wants the so-called Big Four to sign a conference report on Thursday. But Conaway, Roberts said, is holding out from supporting a compromise to reconcile the House farm bill, H.R. 2 (115), with the Senate measure, S. 3042 (115), because he has lingering concerns with at least six titles, among them the commodity, nutrition and conservation titles.

Conaway has taken his time in making counter-offers related to provisions under discussion, and in one instance did not respond for twelve days, Roberts added.

"I am very troubled by the fact that we have agreement among three but we can't get the fourth one," Roberts said, referring to Senate Agriculture ranking member Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) and House Agriculture ranking member Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) as the other two in his camp.

Read more. <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/11/14/roberts-conaway-farm-bill-delay-966941>

Farm Bill Expiration Slows CRP Changes

(From The Mankato Free Press)

The expiration of the Farm Bill means farmers who want to increase Conservation Reserve Program acres won't be able to at this time.

But other modifications to conservation contracts can be made and payments will be issued for contracts that had been approved by Sept. 30.

In October, the Farm Service Agency issued program payments to more than 30,000 landowners on nearly 14,000 CRP contracts in Minnesota that had no pending contract modifications. About 1,000 contracts that require modifications remain unpaid, according to the FSA.

"Although the 2014 Farm Bill has not yet been reauthorized or extended, USDA will honor our commitment to deliver programs, services and payments to our customers, and we are currently working on getting these final payments made in Minnesota and across the Nation" Secretary of Ag Sonny Perdue said in a statement.

Read more. http://www.mankatofreepress.com/news/local_news/farm-bill-expiration-slows-crp-changes/article_f3e79c94-e83e-11e8-b880-4b7554943f94.html

Management Versus Elimination Of Anaplasmosis

(From The High Plains Journal)

Dr. Jared Taylor explained the effectiveness of chlortetracycline, or CTC, in mineral for anaplasmosis protection versus disease eradication at the recent Oklahoma State University Beef Conference.

Taylor is an associate professor at the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. He teaches epidemiology and his research includes the molecular epidemiology of bacterial species involved in bovine respiratory and other diseases.

Anaplasmosis is a disease caused by bacteria named *Anaplasma marginale*. The bacteria infects the red blood cells, or the oxygen carrying cells, within the blood stream. The body then destroys the red blood cells in an effort to eradicate the infection.

"When you destroy a large amount of red blood cells, you get anemia," Taylor said. "The bacteria is actually relatively slow in proliferating disease so we'll see a range of 14 to 45 days after exposure to this organism before we see clinical signs. With such a wide variation of days it becomes difficult to determine when the exposure occurred and how we can control it."

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/ydgcl4i6>

Tyson Predicts 2019's Biggest Food Trends

(From Meatingplace.com)

Tyson Foods is forecasting the top culinary trends for 2019, and the list reflects just how carefully consumers are thinking about their food choices.

The forecasts were developed by the company's first Tyson Trendtellers Council, a team from across its businesses involved in R&D, culinary, technology, consumer behavior and sustainability. Here are the food themes the group believes people will be focusing on:

Personalized foods for health and beauty. Consumers are thinking strategically about eating foods that give them more energy, sharper thinking, better digestion and other specific benefits. Tyson said a trend toward adding bone broths to recipes will strengthen.

Transparency in sourcing and production. Thirty-nine percent of consumers say they are willing to switch to brands that use more transparent labels, according to the company. The growing role of technology will spur advancement in this area.

Adding more protein in more forms. Interest in new cuts of meat and "nose to tail" eating is growing. Demand for proteins such as crickets and seaweed are expected to expand. And 40 percent of Americans are trying to eat more plant-based foods.

Leveraging technology. Smart technology will drive brands to change products, packaging and distribution for e-commerce channels, with greater customization.

Expressing one's values through food. Consumers, particularly Gen Zers, are aligning with companies that represent similar values to their own. Fresh, sustainable and authentic are important attributes for this group.

Fusion of global cuisines at home. Flavors and preparation techniques from regional and ethnic cuisines, once found only in restaurants, are making the shift to the home.

2019 Trend: Food And Beverages Transition To 'Solutions For Healthy Aging'

(From Sustainable Food News)

Global market research firm Mintel on Wednesday predicted three food and beverage trends to emerge in 2019, bringing together issues of sustainability, health and wellness, and convenience to inspire F&B formulation, packaging, and marketing.

The [three trends](#) include:

- **Evergreen Consumption:** A circular view of sustainability that spans the entire product lifecycle requires action from suppliers to consumers.
- **Through the Ages:** Food and drink will build on today's dialogue about wellness and transition into more solutions for healthy aging. The aging population of the United States has created a "silver tsunami" of nearly 70 million Baby Boomers (1946-1964), which began turning 65 at the rate of 10,000 per day in 2012, and will continue for the next 20 years.
- **Elevated Convenience:** To match the premium expectations of consumers in the on-demand age, convenience food and drink will get an upgrade.
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“In 2019, support of and demand for more corporate sustainability programs will grow as consumers better understand what’s required to get closer to achieving a truly circular food and drink economy. These sustainability efforts will include not only improving access to recycling, but creating products with ingredients that are grown in accordance to regenerative agriculture practices,” said Jodie Minotto, Mintel Food and Drink research manager.

“Expect to also see food and drink manufacturers look to the beauty and personal care industry for inspiration for healthy aging product development. More food and drink will address longevity-related health concerns, be marketed with positive language that rejects terms like ‘anti-aging’ for its negative connotations, and appeal across ages,” Minotto said.

“Finally, we predict the rising segment of consumers who are often on-the-go, yet want to spend more time at home will increase demand for upscale, ‘speed scratch’ solutions and restaurant-quality, ready- to-consume products. As meal kits and foodservice-inspired beverages lead the way, there will also be more opportunities for brands to develop healthy, flavorful, customizable, and quick premium convenience products for breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks and dessert occasions,” she said.