



## National Bison Association

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### Weekly Update from the National Bison Association

A news and update service *exclusively* for members of the National Bison Association.  
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**September 28, 2018**

### Eligible Voters, Please Vote for Regional Directors by Sunday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>

Ballots have been emailed to all NBA members in Regions I, III, V and VII.

The candidates in this election are:

- Alan Douglass of Oregon for Region I, representing AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, UT, WA.
- Mimi Hillenbrand of South Dakota for Region III, representing MT, ND, SD.
- Jeremy Alemann of Wisconsin for Region V, representing NE, IA, MN, WI; and
- Brian Grubb of New York for Region VII, CT, DC, DE, MA, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT.

Members can also write in a candidate for election.

According to the NBA bylaws, regional directors "shall be elected by a mail in, or electronic ballot during September of each year prior to the expiration of the regions' directors' terms. If after the initial ballot, no one person in any region has more than 50% of the ballots cast, then a run-off election will occur during November, involving the two persons having the most votes cast in the September balloting. In case of a tie, a coin will be tossed to determine the winner. Only active and lifetime members residing within a region may vote in each region's election." Regional directors are eligible to serve two two-year terms.

### Monday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> Deadline to Apply for Throlson American Bison Scholarship

This Monday is the last day to apply for the 2018 Throlson American Bison Foundation Scholarship amid continued growth in consumer demand for healthy, natural bison meat.

The Throlson American Bison Foundation is named after its founder, Dr. Ken Throlson, DVM, a pioneer of the modern bison business and awards outstanding college students with an interest in the burgeoning bison industry.

"The Throlson American Bison Foundation Scholarship program has been established to recognize, encourage and promote leadership among future bison industry professionals," said Dave Carter, executive director of the NBA.

In November, the Throlson American Bison Foundation will award scholarships totaling, but not limited to, \$10,000 to outstanding college junior, senior or graduate students studying fields related to the bison industry.

A minimum of \$2,000 of the \$10,000 amount will be awarded in the memory of Richard Zahringer to a student pursuing a degree in agriculture economics, agribusiness, or accounting. Ideally this student will have future interest in livestock and specifically bison.

The online scholarship application is available at <https://bisoncentral.com/our-partners/> and must be completed by Oct. 1, 2018, which also requires a form to be completed by the student's department head, and a letter of recommendation. Award announcements will be made no later than Nov. 6, 2018. For more information, contact the NBA office at (303) 292-2833, or [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com).

## **Wholesale Prices Soften in August Report**

Prices paid for dressed bull and heifer carcasses softened slightly in August, but remain at near historic highs, according to the latest monthly wholesale bison price report released this week by the USDA Grain and Livestock Market News Service.

Processors paid an average of \$482.59/cwt. for dressed bull carcasses in August, which was \$2.51/cwt. lower than in July and \$0.51/cwt. lower than the previous year. Dressed heifer carcasses averaged \$476.64/cwt. in August, which was \$2.44/cwt. lower than in July, but still \$8.35/cwt. higher than in August 2017. Older bulls were slightly higher, and older cows slightly lower in the latest report.

Carcass weights averaged 624 lbs., for young bulls and 556 lbs. for heifers.

The 36,840 bison processed under federal inspection year-to-date were 861 less than during the same period in 2017. Young bulls accounted for 62 percent of the young animals processed year today. That is one percent higher than the average of the past nine years.

## **Members Urged to Help Spread Word on Mislabeling**

As the National Bison Association works to stop water buffalo from being labeled simply as "buffalo" in both human food and pet products, the association is encouraging members to help spread the word to enlist support from their customers in this campaign.

"What was perceived as a potential threat a few years ago is now a real threat to the bison business, and to the strong relationship we have developed with our customers," said Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association. "That's why it has to be stopped now."

“We’ve had several members, and state-regional associations step forward to help get the word out about this issue. Others are asking how they can help spread the word,” he noted.

Carter noted that it is important to have a unified, clear message from throughout the bison business.

“We’ve developed some resources that can be used by our members as they communicate with their customers, including local retail stores and restaurants,” he said.

An updated fact sheet of the issue—and the NBA’s work to address it with federal regulators—is has been posted on the association website. Additionally, the NBA has developed some suggested talking points to be included in any communication on the issue. There is also a sample message that members can post on their social media sites. Those resources are available [here](#).

## **Membership Directory Updates Needed by October 31<sup>st</sup>**

This is your chance to update any contact information you'd like included in the 2019 NBA Membership Directory, which is published as a supplement to our January Bison World magazine. Please have your updates to the NBA no later than October 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you have had a change of address, phone or email, or have updated any of your information in the last 12 months, please be sure to notify the NBA by emailing [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com), so we can update our internal records accordingly. If you'd like to check on your listing, please email [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com), or give us a call at 303-292-2833 to check.

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## **Pleistocene Park Abandons Plans to Import Alaska Bison**

*(From The Fairbanks Daily News Miner)*

A Siberian bio-engineering experiment has abandoned plans to export 12 plains bison from near Delta Junction because of insurmountable obstacles in finding an air cargo company capable of making the journey.

The 500-pound juvenile animals from Stevens Village Bison Farm spent the spring and summer in quarantine, costing the Pleistocene Park \$1,500 a week, while the park’s Alaska filmmaker-turned-logistics man Luke Griswold-Tergis worked to persuade air cargo companies in Russia, Alaska and Canada to consider flying the bison. Each potential company ended up backing out because of issues including visas and mechanical problems.

“We had no viable way of getting them to Russia. We tried everything and were planning on giving up several times and there’d be some new glimmer of hope and we’d decide to pursue it,” Griswold-Tergis said. “At some point, you’ve gotta quit.”

Founded in, 1996, the Pleistocene Park is an attempt to test a hypothesis that restoring the Arctic to the more than 10,000-year-old mammoth steppe ecosystem can slow the acceleration of global warming. Restoring the mammoth steppe landscape involves importing lots of large mammals, such as horses, yaks, reindeer and bison to a 4,000-acre enclosure.

Read more. [http://www.newsminer.com/news/local\\_news/pleistocene-park-abandons-plans-to-import-alaska-bison/article\\_699c5cda-bfbe-11e8-a790-17ff0c53cad4.html](http://www.newsminer.com/news/local_news/pleistocene-park-abandons-plans-to-import-alaska-bison/article_699c5cda-bfbe-11e8-a790-17ff0c53cad4.html)

## One Size Fits None

*(From Resilience.org)*

*Ed. note: This post is excerpted from the forthcoming book *One Size Fits None* from the University of Nebraska Press and is reproduced here with permission. You can find out more about the book [here](#).*

I'm in western South Dakota, rolling across the prairie in a blue 1970s-era pickup truck, when I first see them. Buffalo—faraway brown dots on a hillside that become massive bodies outside the passenger window as we approach them, their faces accented with beards and curved black horns. They are primeval, ancient, mammothlike. They have a wise look about them, but also a wildness, as when they flash the whites of their eyes, spin around, and gallop off, showing us, they'll never be completely tamed.

I'm at Great Plains Buffalo Company, a ranch where Phil and Jill Jerde and their children raise more than a thousand grass-fed buffalo. These buffalo will eventually be slaughtered, providing consumers with meat, but they are much more than food sources. They are the keepers of this grassland. With their hooves they aerate the soil and push seeds into it. With their waste they fertilize it. Through their grazing habits they encourage the growth of grass instead of woody plants. They maintain symbiotic relationships with birds and insects. They make the prairie function in a way it hasn't since their ancestors walked it, before we converted the Great Plains to corn and soybeans.

The buffalo show us what the prairie once was and how humans have changed it—to some, destroyed it—and this in turn is a reminder of all the landscapes we've changed. "Wrong side up," said a Sioux Indian who watched a white sodbuster rip the grassland open with a plow. The Native Americans knew why soil was best left undisturbed: roots, twenty-five miles of them in a single square yard of prairie turf just four inches deep, held the soil in place, had done so for thousands of years.<sup>2</sup> With a single plow swipe the settlers set it free to blow. Result: The Dust Bowl. Later result: desertification turning the Great Plains into a desert. Less than 4 percent of the original tallgrass prairie remains, and those defiant acres are rigorously protected. Still, it is feasible that the tallgrass prairie could be gone before I die. A human being's lifespan is roughly how long it took to destroy 96 percent of it, which does not bode well for the last 4.

But it doesn't have to be this way. The buffalo before me represent a new agriculture that can help restore the prairie and other landscapes without sacrificing the amount of food produced. These animals show us that there are many ways to farm and ranch, that we can change how we define those terms, that we can reverse the damage we have done and create a better agricultural future. The buffalo are walking, breathing proof that human beings do not have to destroy the earth in order to eat.

Years ago, I would not have seen the buffalo as keepers of the range. I grew up about twenty miles from Great Plains Buffalo on a conventional ranch outside of Bison, South Dakota, where my parents raise cattle, wheat, corn, and hay. Had I not discovered a love for writing that drew

me to college, I probably would have stayed there the rest of my life, working alongside my father until I could start my own operation. I'm serious about this.

Read more here. <https://www.resilience.org/stories/2018-09-26/one-size-fits-none-excerpt/>

## **FWP Proposes Closing Piece of Bison Hunting Area North of Yellowstone**

*(From The Bozeman Daily Chronicle)*

Wildlife officials are considering closing a portion of an often-crowded bison hunting district on the border of Yellowstone National Park for hunters licensed through the state of Montana.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is proposing a closure of Beattie Gulch, a sliver of U.S. Forest Service land on the edge of Yellowstone National Park near Gardiner where hunters flock in high density. The closure would apply to 40 hunters who obtain bison licenses through the state — hunters licensed through Native American tribes would not be affected.

The closure would block hunting in a small but significant portion of bison district 385. It would run north from the park border on the west side of the Yellowstone River, covering 274 acres of public land. FWP is taking public comment on the proposal, which officials will present to the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission in October.

Mark Deleray, FWP's regional supervisor, said the closure is meant to address safety concerns in the area, which has long been a source of trouble for bison managers. It's an easily accessible spot along a county road where the animals are known to migrate. For years, nearby residents have complained of constant gunfire and an exorbitant number of trucks parked on the side of the road.

Bison are hunted both west and north of the park each winter, when they migrate out in search of food. More bison are typically killed on the north side, and many of those are killed in Beattie Gulch, where hunters converge in a relatively flat area and wait for the animals to walk toward them.

Read more. [https://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/fwp-proposes-closing-piece-of-bison-hunting-area-north-of/article\\_455ea336-af67-593f-95e0-fd273cc1a029.html](https://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/fwp-proposes-closing-piece-of-bison-hunting-area-north-of/article_455ea336-af67-593f-95e0-fd273cc1a029.html)

## **Farm bill to get lame-duck treatment**

*(From Politico)*

**FARM BILL TO GET LAME-DUCK TREATMENT:** With less than four days for Congress to pass a new farm bill before the current law expires after Sunday, top ag lawmakers now readily admit they'll likely have to finish their work after the Nov. 6 midterm elections.

That timing isn't surprising — there's been more sniping among House and Senate negotiators than there's been signs of progress over the last month. But failure to meet the Sept. 30 deadline would still be a defeat for ag leaders who said they were determined to finish a new farm bill on time and provide some needed certainty to farmers and ranchers.

Hoping for better luck in November: Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) said he hopes negotiators will make enough progress to vote on a final farm bill, H.R. 2 (115), the first week after the election, Pro Ag's Helena Bottemiller Evich and Catherine Boudreau reported Wednesday night.

Waiting until the lame duck is a gamble — political leverage would shift significantly if Republicans lose the House or Senate. Some farm bill conferees are warning that waiting until November will add a whole new level of complexity to the negotiations. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) said Wednesday there “may not be a political will to get it done” after the midterms, as your host wrote on Wednesday.

Minnesota Rep. Collin Peterson, top Democrat on the House Ag panel, says he's not interested in writing a new farm bill if Democrats sweep into the House majority and he takes over the gavel from Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas). “I want it done now, and Roberts wants it done now. We're not the ones holding this up,” Peterson told POLITICO this week.

A long to-do list: Not a single farm bill title had been finalized as of Wednesday, Conaway said. And it's not just the well documented standoff over stricter work requirements for millions of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients that's bogging down the talks. Issues like commodity and energy policy, and how to pay for various proposals, are also to blame.

Read more. <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-agriculture/2018/09/27/farm-bill-to-get-lame-duck-treatment-354234>

## **Domino's Pizza, Arbor Research Both Constructing New Office Space at Domino's Farms**

*(From Secondwavemedia.com)*

Two new construction projects at the Domino's Farms office park in Ann Arbor Township may help ease the Ann Arbor area's [office space crunch](#).

[Domino's Pizza](#) is launching a major expansion, building a 33,000-square-foot new building on the north side of Domino's Farms, near the complex's iconic bison pasture. [Arbor Research](#) is also building a brand-new corporate headquarters on the east side of Domino's Farms.

Domino's Pizza is already considered Domino's Farms' signature tenant, as the complex's largest single tenant and the reason Domino's Farms was originally built and opened in 1985.

John Petz, director of real estate and public affairs for Domino's Farms Corp., says Domino's Pizza wanted to expand, but the company was unable to cobble together enough square footage of existing Domino's Farms office space for its needs. Only about 5,000 square feet out of nearly 1 million square feet in the entire complex are unoccupied. The pizza company decided to build on a space close to the north end of its main building, and broke ground in early September.

Full story. <http://www.secondwavemedia.com/concentrate/devnews/dominoarbor0473.aspx>

## **Alaska Native Nonprofit Acquires Bison Herd**

(From Anchorage Daily News)

KODIAK — An Alaska Native nonprofit recently acquired a herd of bison as part of its plan for economic development.

The Old Harbor Alliance — a nonprofit organization made up of local Old Harbor residents, members of the Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor and shareholders and descendants of the Old Harbor Native Corporation — acquired the bison for the Sitkalidak Island Bison Herd project, the Kodiak Daily Mirror [reported](#).

"We're a fishing community," said Melissa Berns, a board member of the Old Harbor Alliance. "We're not ranchers."

"But, we're learning," she added.

The project is part of a larger, five-pronged endeavor that includes an airport extension, the construction of a small boat harbor and a new city dock. The next step is a planned hydro-electric dam.

Full story here. <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/rural-alaska/2018/09/23/alaska-native-nonprofit-acquires-bison-herd/>

## **Antibiotic-Resistant *E. Coli* Found in U.S. Retail Meat**

(From Sustainable food News)

A new study is the first report of antibiotic resistant genes in *E. coli* isolates detected in U.S. retail meat samples.

The [study from Daniel Tadesse of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and his colleagues from the FDA, Texas Tech University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was recently published in the journal \*Microbial Drug Resistance\*.](#)

The study used extended spectrum beta lactamase (ESBL)-producing *E. coli* isolates from cattle for food production and from various retail meat products, including five from cattle; five from chicken breast; six from ground turkey; one from ground beef, and one from pork chops, which were collected by the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS).

All the isolates were resistant to ampicillin, ceftiofur, ceftriaxone, and cefotaxime. Three of the five cattle and two of the 13 retail meat *E. coli* isolates were resistant to cefquinome, a fourth-generation cephalosporin. In addition, one of the cattle *E. coli* isolates and two of retail meat isolates showed resistance to aztreonam, a monobactam subgroup of antibiotics.

"This interesting and well-documented paper by Daniel Tadesse and colleagues provides convincing and alarming evidence of the 'arrival' to the dining room table of meat products contaminated by multidrug resistant *E. coli*," said the journal's editor-in-chief, Alexander Tomasz of The Rockefeller University in New York City, the nation's oldest biomedical research institute. "This paper brings home the seriousness of the issue of antimicrobial drug resistance."

## **Perdue Says USDA Will Know by January Where ERS And NIFA Are Going**

*(From AgriPulse)*

Employees of the Economic Research Service and National Institute of Food and Agriculture should know by January where their new offices will be, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue told the top lawmakers on the Senate Agriculture Committee in a letter obtained by *Agri-Pulse*. Responding to questions from Ag Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., Perdue also said the offices would be moved by next summer.

“We hope that this timeline provides enough notice to employees to allow families to make considerations regarding spousal employment and to accommodate our employees with school-aged children,” Perdue said in the Sept. 20 letter. “It is important to limit the window of uncertainty for our employees, which is why I have instituted what some believe to be an aggressive timeline.”

“(T)o avoid as much work disruptions as possible, we anticipate a rolling transition from D.C. to the new location,” he said in the letter, which makes clear that ERS and NIFA could end up in the same place or in separate locations.

The [proposal](#), which would affect some 600 to 700 employees, has been subject to severe criticism from a host of stakeholders, including agricultural economists and scientific researchers who fear that relocating the agencies outside of the National Capital region would lead to budget and staff reductions, and ultimately, a loss of influence. Dozens of groups, including the American Seed Trade Association and the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, have questioned the reasoning behind the proposal and predicted that few employees would elect to leave their homes to continue working at the agencies.

Asked by the senators for “evidence” that ERS and NIFA have difficulty recruiting and retaining employees – a claim disputed by those critical of the proposal – Perdue said, “the high cost of living and long commutes of Washington D.C. are well documented and empirically understood, and a new location with more affordable housing will allow employees to live closer to their workplace, lower commute times, and improve their quality of life.”

## **Walmart, Sam's Club to put food products on blockchain**

*(From Reuters)*

Walmart ([WMT.N](#)) and its unit Sam’s Club said on Monday leafy greens suppliers will be asked to implement real-time, farm-to-store tracking using blockchain technology by next September, as the retailer tackles food-safety incidents.

Walmart is among several other retailers such as Nestle SA ([NESN.S](#)) trying to tap blockchain, a shared record of data kept by a network of computers to track food supply chain and improve safety.

Walmart said on Monday that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has consulted with the company to improve traceability of food products to help public officials investigate and find the source of food-borne disease outbreaks.

The United States has seen several disease outbreaks in the past few years related to food products.

At least five people died and dozens were taken ill earlier this year due to an outbreak of E.coli linked to Romaine lettuce, the CDC said [here](#) in June.

In 2016, Walmart collaborated with IBM and Tsinghua University to track food products movement using blockchain technology in China.

Full story here. [https://www.reuters.com/article/us-walmart-blockchain/walmart-sams-club-to-put-food-products-on-blockchain-idUSKCN1M42AW?utm\\_source=Agri-Pulse+Daily+Harvest+2018&utm\\_campaign=cf252d3fb7-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_09\\_25\\_09\\_14&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_6978e27d37-cf252d3fb7-48795109](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-walmart-blockchain/walmart-sams-club-to-put-food-products-on-blockchain-idUSKCN1M42AW?utm_source=Agri-Pulse+Daily+Harvest+2018&utm_campaign=cf252d3fb7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_09_25_09_14&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6978e27d37-cf252d3fb7-48795109)

## **Craft Beer Could Be the Model for the Future of the U.S. Livestock Industry**

(From Bloomberg.com)

One of the most renowned voices in the world of meat production says there's a battle taking place for the future of the livestock industry.

On the one hand, there are people including Tom Hayes, the outgoing chief executive officer of Tyson Foods Inc., who represents a side of the meat industry that may be considered more "progressive," according to Temple Grandin, a professor of animal science at Colorado State University. Hayes and others are working to change livestock production to account more for animal welfare.

On the other side are veterans of the industry, Grandin said. They have produced meat for decades with time-tested methods and don't see why things have to change. Some feel that their integrity is being questioned when ideas for new methods are discussed, she said Monday at a press briefing at the Women in Agribusiness Summit in Denver.

Full story here. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-09-25/meat-visionary-grandin-says-there-s-a-fight-brewing-in-livestock>

## **U.S., Japan Agree to Bilateral Trade Talks**

(From Meatingplace.com)

President Donald Trump announced on Wednesday he and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe have agreed to begin bilateral trade agreement talks.

"This is welcome news, since we know that export income is critical to the financial health of agriculture and is a key contributor to rural prosperity," said Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue in a statement. "Japan is an important customer for our agricultural products and we look forward to the great potential this breakthrough represents."

In a joint statement, the two countries addressed the issues of U.S. agricultural exports to Japan and Japanese auto exports to the United States. The talks, they said, “will respect positions of the other government.”

The statement continued: “For the United States, market access outcomes in the motor vehicle sector will be designed to increase production and jobs in the United States in the motor vehicle industries. ... For Japan, with regard to agricultural, forestry and fishery products, outcomes related to market access as reflected in Japan’s previous economic partnership agreements constitute the maximum level.”

The move is good news for the meat industry, which feared a competitive disadvantage when the United States pulled out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in January 2017. Australia had already garnered a competitive advantage by negotiating a lower tariff rate for beef exports to Japan under a bilateral agreement that went into effect in January 2015.

Japan's current tariff rate on most U.S. beef cuts is 38.5 percent. Under the Japan-Australia Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), the tariff rate on frozen Australian beef is currently 26.9 percent, and the rate for chilled is 29.3 percent.

So far, Australia is the only major beef supplier to gain relief from the 38.5 percent tariff, but under the terms of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, similar relief will be extended to beef imports from Canada, New Zealand and Mexico, and the rate for those beef suppliers, including Australia, will eventually drop to 9 percent.

U.S. pork currently enters Japan under the same terms as all major competitors, but this would change significantly if and when the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement and TPP enter into force.

## **Farmers Group Keeps Up Pressure for Formal Definition of Meat**

(From Meatingplace.com)

The National Farmers Union (NFU) has sent a [letter](#) to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) pressing its call for federal officials to formalize the definition of protein products that are not derived from livestock and currently are labeled as cell-cultured “meat.”

The group is asking FDA to develop a consistent “standard of identity” for “meat and related products to prevent mislabeling of food in the marketplace.” In the letter NFU President Roger Johnson said the common names given to meat and animal products are widely understood by consumers to be the tissue or flesh of animals that have been slaughtered for food. Therefore, the NFU “opposes labeling of foods produced using cell culture applications as ‘meat’ and as related products such as ‘beef,’ ‘poultry’ and ‘seafood,’” he wrote.

Johnson said the topic is a concern for the NFU because of “extreme consolidation in the beef, pork and poultry industries, which has diminished family farmers’ and ranchers’ market share.”

The letter to the FDA is the NFU’s second request calling for a U.S. government agency to clarify how to distinguish products derived from food animals from those created in a laboratory. Earlier this year, the [NFU, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association](#), U.S.

Cattlemen's Association and [Nebraska Farm Bureau](#) sought clarification on the issue from USDA. In May, [Missouri lawmakers passed](#) legislation prohibiting products not derived from harvested animals from being marketed as meat.