



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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Bison Business Notches Record Strength, Growth in 2017

(NBA News Release)

With a record year of profitability and stability coming to a close, bison producers are mapping out plans for continued growth in 2018 by expanding efforts to connect with consumers and bringing new producers into the fold, according to Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association.

“Six months ago, the National Bison Association and partners in the InterTribal Buffalo Council and the conservation community announced an ambitious goal to restore one million bison to North America, effectively more than doubling the size of today’s herds,” Carter said. “For bison ranchers, that means we must continue to introduce deliciously healthy bison to more people, and we must expand our production from coast to coast.”

The bison business is riding a sustained wave of profitability as sales of the meat continued to grow. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the prices marketers paid for dressed bison bulls averaged higher than \$4.80/lb. throughout 2017. Dressed prices refer to the amount paid to ranchers once the animal is harvested.

“We anticipate that prices will remain strong as demand for bison meat continues to grow,” Carter said.

Carter said that the National Bison Association is planning several programs to reach out to new producers in 2017. The association’s winter conference and live bison show and sale at the National Western Stock Show in Denver January 17-20 provide an opportunity for prospective producers to investigate the business.

“Roughly 500 ranchers will gather for the winter conference to discuss issues and share information,” Carter said. “And the association’s Gold Trophy Bison Show at the National Western Stock Show has the largest number of entries in nearly 20 years, so there’s plenty of opportunity for people to purchase great animals to build—or to start—their herds.”

Over 500 to Gather in Denver for NBA Winter Conference

The estimated 500 bison ranchers, marketers and enthusiasts headed to Denver January 17-19th may make the upcoming National Bison Association winter conference the largest annual gathering of the association's membership in nearly a decade.

The conference theme, *Roaming to Success*, reflects the optimism that bison producers have in looking forward to 2018 and beyond.

This year's winter conference comes six months after the launch of Bison 1 Million, a campaign to bring back one million bison to North America. Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association, said the attendees headed to Denver will be discussing strategies to accomplish that goal by increasing herds, and by continuing to build customer demand for bison meat.

Several facets of the association's winter conference--scheduled at the Denver Renaissance Hotel--are aimed at helping producers increase their herds and to build successful businesses.

Following the Wednesday luncheon, Todd Rawlings and Mark Freeman of Microsoft Corp will provide a presentation entitled "Technology meets Tradition: An Overview of technologies, with opportunities to partner and collaborate for the Bison 1 Million goal." Freeman is the senior Manager of Global Dining Services and Rawlings is a Multi-Patented inventor and Green Datacenter Researcher for Microsoft.

Later that day, a panel of NBA producers will discuss Finishing Protocols: Many Methods, Many Reasons. That discussion will explore the reasons why producers use a variety of grain and grass finishing techniques on bison.

On Thursday, attendees will enjoy an overview of the activities planned for the 2018 Summer Conference in Kansas City, MO with the rest of the morning will be devoted to a Buffalo Producer Panel – Wisdom Old and New. Individual presentations Thursday afternoon will talk about the importance of flexibility in bison operations, low-stress handling, and parasite control.

On Friday, a panel discussion on *Mycoplasma bovis* will precede the annual membership meeting. There will also be the always-popular Buffalolero Q&A in the yards where attendees can visit with the bison handlers and preview the animals there for the Gold Trophy Show and Sale.

There will be plenty of great food and fellowship at the conference as well. Log on to <https://bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/> for a full conference agenda.

Don't miss out on Gold Trophy Quality Bison

Producers looking for good stock to expand their herds and prospective ranchers looking to find animals that will provide a foundation for success will all find plenty to choose from at the 2018 Gold Trophy Show and Sale, scheduled January 16-20 at the National Western Stock Show in Denver.

Nearly 140 live bison have been consigned for the show and sale, with offerings ranging from 28 yearling bulls to three pens-of-five heifer calves and much more. See a full list of consignments at <https://bisoncentral.com/gold-trophy-show-and-sale/>

"This is the largest line-up, with the greatest selection of animals, that we've seen for nearly 20 years," said Jim Matheson, assistant director of the NBA. The 37 consignors registering animals include six first-time consignors, so there will be plenty of 'new blood' at this year's Gold Trophy Show and Sale."

Live bison will begin arriving in the Yards at the National Western on Tuesday, January 16th. Judging will take place on Thursday and Friday, with the results announced at the NBA Winter Conference Banquet on Friday, January 19th. The live animal auction will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. on January 20th in the National Western Livestock Center Arena. Online bidding will be available as well through liveauctions.tv.

In addition to the live animal auction, 20 carcasses have been entered into the GTSS Market Class competition. Those carcasses will be auctioned at 10 a.m. on Saturday the 20th, immediately preceding the live animal sale.

Carter in Montana for MBA Winter Conference

Members of the Montana Bison Association are gathering in Helena, MT today for a couple of days of education session, organizational business, and fellowship.

NBA Executive Director Dave Carter will be joining the gathering this evening, and will provide an update on NBA activities during the formal sessions tomorrow. Presentations during the conference will include a brucellosis update, a presentation on bison management practices, and a discussion on the latest developments in working to address a recent string of county ordinances restricting bison management.

Tomorrow evening, the Montana members will hold their banquet dinner, and host the first-ever auction by Turner Ranches. Information on that auction is available at <http://bradeenauction.com/upcoming-auctions/11-upcoming-auctions/534-TurnerEnterprises1stAnnu-171017091615.html>.

2018 NBA Junior Judging Event to be Held in Denver Stockyards

Flyer...

Custer State Park Burros Recovering After Legion Lake Fire

Some of the most beloved animals at Custer State Park are continuing their recovery after surviving the Legion Lake wildfire.

The park's eight remaining burros are becoming healthier, park officials announced Thursday.

The animals are being kept inside an enclosed and heated facility so the outdoor temperatures do not affect their recovery. They are beginning to eat and drink more consistently, but the park veterinarian said the next two weeks in their recovery will be critical as infection and organ failure can play a factor.

One burro died due to the wildfire, along with an elk and several deer. Many of the surviving burros were injured due to the fire.

Park officials are asking anyone wishing to donate hay or fencing to the park following the fire make their donations through Farm Rescue. The organization will allocate donations to surrounding ranchers and farmers who were affected by the wildfire. Anyone wishing to make donations to the park directly can do so [here](#).

Officials say the Legion Lake fire started on December 11 and was caused by a downed power line. It burned more than 53,000 acres, making it the third largest wildfire in Black Hills history.

Read more. <http://www.ksfy.com/content/news/Custer-State-Park-burros-recovering-after-Legion-Lake-fire-466965793.html>

Legion Lake Fire Impacts Region

(From the Rapid City Journal)

The fire was 95 percent contained Sunday and was expected to be 100 percent contained by end of day Monday.

Scott Wheeler knew the wind had come up Tuesday night when cellphones began chirping at the Legion Lake Fire command center in Custer State Park.

A division supervisor, he said, noticed an increasing glow from the southeastern sky where none had been seen earlier in the evening.

As the night went on, that glow would turn into one of the largest wildfires in modern Black Hills history, threatening homes, animals and everything else in its path.

More reports of a jump in fire activity came in to the fire command center, located at the park shop complex west of the State Game Lodge on U.S. Highway 16A.

“We could see a spot fire was really established and was really going to make a run toward our desired lines,” said Wheeler, from the Black Hills National Forest Hell Canyon Ranger District.

Then came the winds. Picking up with a vengeance earlier than expected, gusts of up to 33 mph blew nearly straight through French Creek Natural Area, already heavy with fire activity on Tuesday, carrying hot embers and igniting spot fires nearly a half-mile away to the west of the Wildlife Loop Road.

The growing spot fire jumped the Wildlife Loop Road and shot through private ranch pasture land between the park and S.D. Highway 79. Another spot fire by French Creek Horse Camp

moved south-southeast through Custer State Park and Wind Cave National Park, coming within two miles of the town of Buffalo Gap.

When the sun came up Wednesday morning and fire crews had a chance to survey the devastation, what they found was staggering: The Legion Lake Fire had grown from around 4,000 acres on Tuesday to more than 35,000 acres, or roughly 55 square miles. By Thursday afternoon that number had jumped to more than 53,000 acres or 80 square miles with 50 percent containment. The weekend brought yet another increase in acreage, with 54,023 acres scorched by the blaze, though containment had increased to 80 percent Saturday morning.

Read more. http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/local/communities/hot-springs/community/legion-lake-fire-impacts-region/article_84a2c554-e4ff-11e7-af5d-c31913d8b576.html

Applications Available for Armed to Farm in California

(From NCAT)

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is bringing the week-long Armed to Farm (ATF) training to California for the first time. ATF gives veterans an opportunity to see sustainable, profitable small-scale farming enterprises and examine farming as a viable career.

ATF combines engaging classroom sessions with farm tours and hands-on activities. Participants learn about business planning, budgeting, recordkeeping, marketing, livestock production, fruit and vegetable production, and more. Participants gain a strong foundation in the basic principles of operating a sustainable farming enterprise. In addition, ATF attendees join a nationwide network of supportive farmer-veterans and agricultural advisors.

Veterans can visit ncat.org/atf_CA to complete an application by **March 2, 2018**. The program is available to military veterans in California, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona and Washington who are interested in starting a farm or who have recently begun farming (less than 10 years). Spouses and farming partners are also invited to apply. **NCAT will notify selected participants by March 12th, 2018.**

Read more. <https://www.ncat.org/armed-to-farm-events/>

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Offers Farmer-Support Trainings

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will offer "Down on the Farm: Supporting Farmers in Stressful Times," free three-hour trainings in six locations across the state during January, February, and March. The professional development workshop is designed to help people who work with farmers on a regular basis recognize and respond when they see farmers experiencing stress, anxiety, depression, and other challenges.

MDA invites agency staff, bankers, veterinarians, crop consultants, clergy, social service and health care professionals, agriculture educators, and others who work with farmers to attend. Participants will learn to recognize signs of mental and emotional distress and crisis, use active listening skills, and find local and regional resources available to farmers, and will improve their confidence in delivering difficult information to farmers in stressful situations. Continuing education credits are available.

Read more. <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/news/releases/2018/nr20180102downonfarm.aspx>

Microsoft Coalition Pushes for Wireless Broadband

(From AgriPulse)

Microsoft has helped organize a coalition of rural education and development advocates who will be pushing the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that there is sufficient unlicensed low band spectrum in the country to enable broadband connectivity across rural America.

The [Connect Americans Now](#) coalition wants the bandwidth below the 700 MHz frequency range, known as TV white spaces, to be made available on an unlicensed basis.

Wireless signals in that range can travel over hills and through buildings and trees, which could enable broadband access in hard-to-reach rural areas, the group says.

“Congress and the FCC must stand with rural America by allowing internet service providers to deliver broadband via white spaces spectrum,” says Richard Cullen, the coalition’s executive director.

Meeting on Hunting Rules Set for Jan. 15 In Choteau

(From choteauacantha.com)

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks will hold a meeting in Choteau on Jan. 15 to discuss the tentative hunting regulations for the next two years.

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. in the Alice Gleason meeting room in the rear of the Choteau/Teton Public Library.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission earlier this month approved tentative rules and regulations, including statewide and regional regulations for antelope, black bear, bighorn sheep, bison, deer, elk, moose, mountain goat, mountain lion and upland game birds.

Among FWP Region 4 recommendations for the 2018 and 2019 seasons are adding a regional white-tailed deer B license, increasing mule deer B licenses in several hunting districts and making the dates and licenses of the Region 4 elk shoulder seasons more uniform.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission will consider public comments before making final decisions at its February meeting in Helena.

Other meetings in Region 4, all starting at 7 p.m., are: Jan. 3 in Chester at the Chester High School auditorium, 511 Main St.; Jan. 4 at Marias River Electric Cooperative, 910 Roosevelt Highway, Shelby; Jan. 9 in the Judith Basin County Courthouse meeting room, 91 Third St. N., Stanford, and in Pondera Community Center, 311 S. Virginia, Conrad; Jan. 11 at the Wolf Creek School in Wolf Creek; Jan. 11 at the WSS Training Center, 104 W. Crawford, White Sulphur Springs; Jan. 16 at the Ambulance Barn, 810 15th St., Fort Benton; Jan. 17, Fergus County Sheriff’s Complex, 121 8th Ave. S., Lewistown; and Jan. 18 at the Paris Gibson Education Center, 2400 Central Ave., Great Falls.

Source: http://www.choteauacantha.com/regional_news/article_c45192ce-f02c-11e7-8219-3f0358435310.html

Bison among the Top 29 Proteins for Weight Loss

(From Eat This, Not That)

You already know that eating protein is key when it comes to feeling satisfied with your meals and maintaining a weight loss effort. Protein helps build flubber-frying lean [muscle mass](#), after all. But it seems that many of us have gotten into a rut, relying on just a few primary sources of the stuff. Not only can this cause taste bud fatigue, it can also deny your body of health-boosting nutrients found in protein-rich foods you're overlooking.

To help you break free of your oh-so-boring grilled chicken and egg routine, we've compiled a list of the best-ever proteins for weight loss across every food category. Whether you're a fan of fish, can't deny your love of dairy or stick to a meat-free meal plan, we've got the best options for your waistline.

Read on to get in the know and be sure to pick a few of our suggestions up next time you head to the grocery store.

No 6 – Grass-Fed Beef

Protein Payout: 4 oz strip steak, 133 calories, 26 g protein

When it comes to steak or burgers, go grass-fed. It may ding your wallet, but it'll dent your abs. Grass-fed beef is naturally leaner and has fewer calories than conventional meat: A lean seven-ounce conventional strip steak has 386 calories and 16 grams of fat. But a seven-ounce grass-fed strip steak has only 234 calories and five grams of fat. Grass-fed meat also contains higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids, according to a study published in *Nutrition Journal*, which have been shown to reduce the risk of heart disease.

Concerned about your ticker? Keep it healthy by eating more of these [foods that decrease your heart disease risk](#).

No 7 - Bison

Protein Payout: 4 oz, 166 calories, 23 g of protein

While grass-fed beef is an excellent choice, bison's profile has been rising in recent years, and for good reason: It has half the fat of and fewer calories than red meat. According to the USDA, while a 90 percent lean hamburger may average 10 grams of fat, a comparatively sized buffalo burger rings in at two grams of fat with 24 grams of protein, making it one of the leanest meats around. But wait, taking a chance on this unexpected meat will earn you two healthy bonuses: In just one serving you'll get a full day's allowance of vitamin B-12, which has been shown to boost energy and help shut down the genes responsible for insulin resistance and the formation of fat cells; additionally, since bison are naturally grass-fed, you can confidently down your burger knowing it's free of the hormones and pollutants than can manifest themselves in your belly fat.

<http://www.eatthis.com/best-ever-proteins-for-weight-loss/>

Millennial Purchasing Decisions Vary In, Out of Segment: USDA

(From Meatingplace.com)

U.S. consumers born between 1981 and the mid-2000s are demonstrating measurably different purchasing decisions than other generations in addition to differences within the millennial segment, according to a USDA report.

Millennials now are a larger group than Baby Boomers and their purchasing behavior heavily influences the current retail landscape, the [report from USDA's Economic Research Service](#) (ERS) noted. They are more diverse, have generally higher education levels than previous generations and will be an important economic driver for years to come. Millennials also are demanding healthier and fresher food and spending less on food at home than older generations, the report noted.

This group makes the least number of visits to grocery stores to buy food for home compared with Traditionalists (born before 1946), Baby Boomers (born 1946-1965) and Gen Xers (born 1965-1980), the ERS report found. Millennials also spend the least on grains, white meat and red meat compared with other demographic segments and while they spend less on food at home in total, they allocate more proportionally to prepared foods, pasta and sugar/sweets than any other generation.

The report also found differences within the Millennial demographic: those who entered the job market before the 2007 recession with higher per-capita income were more likely to eat away from the home. Those who entered the job market after the recession purchased more food for the home even when they have similar incomes to the pre-recession millennials, the reports found.

ERS used statistics from Information Resources Inc., the American Time Use Survey and the Healthy Eating Module in addition to data from the Current Population Survey to compile the report.

Americans Will Eat a Record Amount of Meat in 2018

(From Bloomberg Businessweek)

For all the buzz about pea protein and [lab-grown burgers](#), Americans are set to eat more meat in 2018 than ever before.

To be precise, the average consumer will eat 222.2 pounds (100.8 kilos) of red meat and poultry this year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, surpassing a record set in 2004. Meanwhile, domestic production will surpass 100 billion pounds for the first time, as livestock owners expand their herds on the back of cheap feed grain.

Though the USDA's per-capita measure isn't a [true gauge](#) of consumption, it serves as a common proxy. It shows egg demand reaching an all-time high as well in 2018. Dairy items like [cheese and butter](#) have also been growing in popularity.

"If you look at the items that consumers say they want more of in their diet, protein tops the list," said David Portalatin, a Houston-based food industry adviser for NPD Group.

Full Story: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-01-02/have-a-meaty-new-year-americans-will-eat-record-amount-in-2018>