



## 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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**October 4, 2019**

#### NBA Carries Bison Message to Eco-Bloggers at Shiftcon

Bison ranchers Mimi Hillenbrand of South Dakota and Carrie Bennet of Colorado, along with NBA Executive Director Dave Carter and Communications Director Karen Conley are in Atlanta, GA this week to spread the message of *Bison: Nature's Original Plant Based Protein* with the roughly 400 social media influencers attending the annual Shiftcon conference.

Shiftcon is the nation's largest conference of "Eco-Influencers," who are primarily young women who have websites and blogs dedicated to food, family, health and the environment.

"I'm excited to be here, sharing the health benefits with these key social media influencers," Bennet said. "They love the story of bison, and are also interested in learning about raising a family on a buffalo ranch."

With resources made available through the NBA Growth Fund, the association signed on as a keynote luncheon sponsor at Shiftcon. The luncheon tomorrow will feature tender tips donated by Great Range Bison, and attendees received free bison snack sticks that were donated by Pearson Bison Ranch and Adams Natural Meat. Hillenbrand, Bennet and Carter will speak to the luncheon attendees tomorrow. In addition, that association has a booth in the conference exhibition hall, where the NBA members are connecting one-on-one with the bloggers.

The NBA is formally launching *Buysome Bison* at Shiftcon. That mobile app easily allows consumers to locate nearby ranches and farms offering bison meat, byproducts and agritourism opportunities. And, the NBA is distributing to the attendees a leaflet featuring *Women & the Business of Bison*. That flyer contains brief biographies and contact information about several female leaders in the NBA.

Carter noted, "the attendees at Shiftcon are the trusted voices for the emerging generation of shoppers. The relationships we develop with these social media influencers will help us communicate with those potential customers and their families."

## **NBA Plots Fall Outreach to Consumers and Producers**

With the advent of Fall, the NBA kicked into high gear as it tours the country promoting bison to both consumers and producers. Here are activities being conducted by the NBA, and made possible by resources in the association's Growth Fund:

*Shiftcon* – This is the largest gathering of social media influencers who are focused on eco-health. Mimi Hillenbrand and Carrie Bennet, along with Karen Conley, will provide a luncheon keynote presentation. This is a major opportunity to promote our consumer app, and our new trademarked slogan: “Nature’s Original Plant-Based Protein.”

*Impact Unleashed* – This event next week is being hosted by the Pet Sustainability Coalition, a Boulder-based non-profit that works with pet food companies to increase their environmental responsibility. The NBA is hosting an evening event at the gathering, and Executive Director Dave Carter will provide a presentation (patterned after a Ted Talk) at the event.

*InterTribal Buffalo Council Annual Meeting* – NBA Assistant Director Jim Matheson will represent the NBA October 25th at the annual meeting of the ITBC in Las Vegas, NV.

*FFA National Convention* – Once again, this is an opportunity for the NBA to connect with ag students and their advisors regarding a future in the bison business. NBA Assistant Director Jim Matheson and Past President Peter Cook of Indiana will be hosting the NBA booth at this event, October 28-31 in Indianapolis.

*American Bison Society Conference* – Carter and NBA member Ken Klemm of Kansas will participate in the ABS conference, scheduled for October 28 - November 2, in Santa Fe, NM. Carter and Klemm will be joining representatives of conservation organizations and tribal organizations at this conference.

*National Association of Farm Broadcasting* -- The NBA is hosting a booth at Trade Talk on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Trade Talk is an annual event in which the broadcasters attending the NAFB annual convention in Kansas City circulate through the room conducting interviews with the exhibitors. NBA President Dick Gehring and Carter will likely conduct more than 30 radio and television interviews during Trade Talk.

*National Agricultural Bankers Conference* – Past President Roy Liedtke and Vice President Donnis Baggett will host a booth at the conference, for November 10-13 at the Hyatt Regency in Dallas, TX. The two will promote bison as a sound business investment that offers a bright spot in today's agricultural economy.

*National Bison Day Events*– The NBA will be working with the Rocky Mountain Bison Association on a special National Bison Day celebration at the Denver Zoo on November 8<sup>th</sup>, and Matheson will be in Washington, D.C. on November 14<sup>th</sup> to participate in a Bison Day reception on Capitol Hill.

Carter noted, “Our participation in several of these upcoming activities—particularly Shiftcon, Impact Unleashed, the FFA, NAFB and Ag Bankers Conference, would not be possible if we didn't have the resources of our Growth Fund. It's important that everyone step up and contribute at least \$1 per animal sold this fall so that we can be active in promote our message,

and our meat. Donate to the Growth Fund here. <https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-growth-fund-program/>

## **Regional Election Results Announced.**

Two new directors will be joining the NBA Board of Directors in January, while a thirds will be switching from director at large to a regional director, and a fourth was reelected to his current position in results of balloting conducted in September.

Ken Klemm of Kansas is the director-elect for Region IV, which represents, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. He will replace Keith Yearout of Kansas, who was term limited.

Campbell Burgess of Texas is the director-elect for Region VI, which includes New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Mississippi. He replaces Gerald Parsons of Oklahoma, who was term limited.

In Region II, representing Colorado and Wyoming, Boyd Meyer of Colorado will replace Debbie Thieman of Colorado, who chose not to seek re-election. Meyer currently serves as Director at Large.

And, Kristopher Kelley of Kentucky was reelected for another two years from Region VIII. His region includes, Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

## **Board Recommends Slate of Officers for 2020**

In its regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, the NBA Board of Directors unanimously voted to recommend the following slate of candidates to be elected as officers and as director at large during the NBA's annual convention in January:

- President – Donnis Baggett of Texas
- Vice President – Alan Douglass of California
- Secretary-Treasurer – Joe Graham of Texas; and
- Director at Large – Chad Kremer of South Dakota.

Section 3.2. of the NBA Bylaws specifies, in part, "The Board of Directors may nominate a proposed slate of officers and other directors (the "Executive Committee") to be elected at each annual meeting of the members; additional nominations with respect to one or more positions may also be made either in writing in advance of the voting meeting or from the floor at the meeting by any voting member."

## **Comments Due Monday on Hours of Service Proposed Rules.**

Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, is the deadline for filing public comments on the Department of Transportation's proposed modifications in the "Hours of Service" Rules for livestock haulers.

In a Federal Register Notice published August 22<sup>nd</sup>, the agency proposed five changes to its controversial new regulations.

1. The limits for short-haul operations would increase from 12 to 14 hours and from 100 air miles to 150.
2. The adverse driving provision would allow a driver up to a 16-hour window within which to complete up to 13 hours of driving if the driver encounters adverse conditions.
3. The 30-minute break requirement would be modified, prohibiting driving for more than eight consecutive hours without at least one 30-minute change in duty status. This would allow 30 minutes of on-duty, not driving time, off-duty time, or sleeper-berth time to qualify as a break.
4. In addition to splits of 10/0 and 8/2, drivers would be allowed a split-sleeper option of 7/3.
5. Drivers would have the option of stopping the clock a minimum of 30 minutes and up to three hours consecutively once per duty period.

NBA members wanting to file public comments on these changes can read the full proposed rule here: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-08-22/pdf/2019-17810.pdf>  
Comments can be filed on-line here. <https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=FMCSA-2018-0248-5454>

## **American Bison Society Conference Set for Santa Fe.**

Representatives of conservation organizations, Native American tribes, and private bison ranchers will convene October 28-November 2 for the American Bison Society Conference, entitled: Bison on the Edge.

The invitation to participate notes “Join bison conservation & management experts in strategic discussions about ecological recovery, explore the value of plains bison to economies and North American society.”

Presentations during the conference, scheduled for the Buffalo Thunder resort near Santa Fe, include, Continental Perspectives on Bison Recovery, Exploring Women’s Leadership and Creativity in the Buffalo, and Renewal and Restoration Status and Future Directions of Plains Bison Recovery and Conservation in Mexico

NBA Executive Director will participate in a panel discussion on National Bison Recovery Efforts.

Information on conference registration and lodging is available here.  
<http://www.ambisonsociety.org/>

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## **Bison Round-Up Scheduled At Theodore Roosevelt National Park** *(From Valley News Live)*

Rangers at Theodore Roosevelt National Park say they plan to conduct a bison roundup in the South Unit next week in order to thin the herd.

They say the park has about 550 bison and would like to get the number down to about 350. Most of the round-up will take place between Oct. 6th and the Oct. 11th.

Helicopters will herd the bison through a handling facility. The intertribal Buffalo Council will determine who will get the surplus of the live animals.

Read more. <https://www.valleynewslive.com/content/news/Bison-roundup-scheduled-at-Theodore-Roosevelt-National-Park-561908781.html>

## **Woman Gored By Bison At Same Utah Park Where Date Had Been Attacked Months Ago**

*(From NBC News)*

A Utah woman was attacked by a bison in the same park where her date had also been gored three months ago.

Kayleigh Davis, 22, was taking a sunset hike Friday on a trail at Antelope Island State Park when she came face-to-face with the soon-to-be rambunctious bovine.

She stepped off the path to steer clear of the animal when it suddenly charged, flipping her 15 feet in the air.

"I go around the bison, like off the trail away from him, and there's actually four bikers coming down the trail and I think they had spooked him," Davis told NBC affiliate KSL from her hospital room Monday. "That's when he flipped me up in the air."

Even though the attack lasted for just a few seconds, it seemed like slow motion to Davis.

"I'm up in the air thinking, 'What's going to happen to me after this?'" Davis, who suffered a broken ankle and badly cut calf, said.

After landing, the bison hovered over her, sniffed her and briefly dug in its hooves seemingly ready to charge again — before it stepped away, she said.

Read more. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/animal-news/woman-gored-bison-utah-same-park-where-date-had-been-n1060741>

## **Bison Seized In Animal Cruelty Case Leave Washington For New Home**

*(From King 5 News)*

A group of bison who were seized in an animal cruelty case have left Washington for a new home.

Workers with Center Valley Animal Rescue in Quilcene, Wash. loaded up five bison onto a trailer Thursday and drove them to South Dakota, where they will be held until the rest of the

bison can join. Two other bison who are also part of the case were uncooperative during Thursday's efforts, and workers were not able to get them on the trailer.

"We quit well after dark when it got too dangerous to keep trying," Sara Penhallegon, director of Central Valley Animal Rescue, wrote in an email. "The last two were pretty worked up and had blown through our corral panels and one had charged some of us."

The group of five bison left Friday to beat heavy snowfall that was forecasted to fall in Montana.

Once the last two bison calm down Penhallegon said crews would come up with a plan to load them onto a smaller trailer and transport them to South Dakota as well.

Read more. <https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/animal-cruelty-bison-moved-to-south-dakota/281-61e2e3b7-6fb3-41f5-a515-69f90c6bd736>

## **Zoo News: Work Continues on Bison Exhibit**

*(From The Great Bend Tribune)*

The long-anticipated return of bison to the Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo is still months away, but signs of progress can be seen at the site of the future exhibit. Located on the west side of the zoo, the exhibit includes a hay barn and holding pen. Zoo Supervisor Sara Hamlin said the contractors should be done next month.

"There will still be more to do after that," Hamlin said. City employees will be handling some of the final touches, such as installing water hydrants.

The hay barn will include a small kitchen that zookeepers can use in addition to the kitchen on the other side of the zoo. Hamlin said that ever since the grizzly bear exhibit was expanded the bears have been much more active and as they burn more calories, they eat more produce.

The larger bear exhibit and the future bison exhibit are related. Both were announced back in 2016 when the Dorothy M. Morrison Foundation offered two major gifts, then totaling \$230,000, for the projects. The Foundation has since donated even more to help see the projects through to completion.

Read more. <https://www.gbtribune.com/news/local-news/zoo-news-work-continues-bison-exhibit/>

## **Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge**

*(From ATTRA)*

The American Farm Bureau Federation, in partnership with Farm Credit, has opened online applications for the 2020 Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge. In its sixth year, the Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge is a national business competition for U.S. food and agriculture startups. Entrepreneurs will compete for \$145,000 in startup funds.

Launched in 2015 as the first national competition focused exclusively on rural entrepreneurs, the competition continues to provide an opportunity for U.S. startups to showcase business

innovations in food and agriculture. Startup funds for The Challenge have been provided by sponsors Farm Credit, John Deere, Bayer Crop Science, Farm Bureau Bank and Country Financial.

Prizes

Ten semi-finalist teams will be announced on Nov. 22 and awarded \$10,000 each. All 10 semi-finalist teams will travel to AFBF's Annual Convention, in Austin, Texas, in January 2020, with all expenses paid, to compete in a live competition to be the Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year. The 10 teams will compete in Austin to advance to the final round where four teams will receive an additional \$5,000 and compete live on stage in front of Farm Bureau members, investors and industry representatives.

The final four teams will compete to win:

Farm Bureau Entrepreneur of the Year award and \$15,000 (chosen by judges), for a total of \$30,000

People's Choice award and \$10,000 (chosen by public vote), for a total of \$25,000

Who Should Apply

Entrepreneurs and startups with businesses in the following categories are encouraged to apply:

Farm, ranch, greenhouse, aquaponics

Read more. <https://www.fb.org/events/afbf-annual-convention/ag-innovation-challenge>

## **Big Data On Parasites Takes Big Leap Forward**

*(From AgriLife Today)*

Parasites are more than just bites and stings - as vectors of diseases like malaria, Lyme disease and West Nile Virus, they play important roles in human, wildlife and livestock health. A new initiative created by the National Science Foundation will collect "big data" to better understand the behaviors of parasites in North America, and now Texas A&M AgriLife has joined this effort.

It can be difficult for researchers to accurately understand how parasites are distributed across regions, what hosts they feed on and what diseases they may carry. Often, researchers try to use information from specimens in natural history museums, but these specimens and accompanying data may not be easily accessible, possibly tucked away in vials or microscope slides scattered all across the country. But that's all about to change.

examples of parasites

Texas A&M is collaborating with more than 25 institutions to digitize more than 1.3 million parasites as part of a \$4.3 million National Science Foundation grant led by Purdue University and the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Ticks, mosquitoes and mites are all part of this arthropod specimens initiative, and now the Texas A&M Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences and Department of Entomology, both

part of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, are rallying to share, digitize and contribute their information to this effort called the Terrestrial Parasite Tracker.

Full text:

<https://today.agrilife.org/2019/10/01/big-data-on-parasite-behaviors/>

## **Agriculture Groups Urge USDA to Establish FMD Vaccine Bank**

*(From Bovine Veterinarian)*

A foot-and-mouth-disease (FMD) outbreak may be impossible to control in the U.S. without the rapid availability of adequate supplies of vaccine, said James Roth, professor in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Preventative Medicine at Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

During a press conference on Tuesday, representatives of the National Pork Producers Council, the National Milk Producers Federation, the National Corn Growers Association and Iowa State University today called on USDA to move as quickly as possible to establish an FMD vaccine bank.

"The U.S. vaccine bank is our best insurance policy to respond to an FMD outbreak in the United States. As with most insurance policies, we hope to never use it, but it's paramount that we have fast access to enough vaccine if we ever need it. The funding provided in the 2018 Farm Bill provides a good start toward building up a more robust FMD vaccine stockpile to help protect American agriculture," Roth said.

Although the groups recognized the steps USDA has taken to establish the bank, they urged expedient use of the mandatory funding included in the 2018 Farm Bill to purchase the volume of vaccines required to effectively contain and eradicate an FMD outbreak.

"The time to build a best-in-class FMD Vaccine Bank is now," said Jamie Jonker, Ph.D., vice president for Sustainability & Scientific Affairs at the National Milk Producers Federation. "NMPF has been active in informing our members and the dairy community of the importance of preparation, and a vaccine bank is a crucial element of protection for the entire livestock industry."

Currently, the USDA, which has prescribed vaccination for dealing with an FMD outbreak, does not have access to enough vaccine to avoid devastating economic consequences to the U.S. economy, should an outbreak occur, NPPC said in a press release.

Full text:

<https://www.bovinevetonline.com/article/agriculture-groups-urge-usda-establish-fmd-vaccine-bank>

## **USDA Situation Report Identifies New Vesicular Stomatitis Cases**

*(From TheHorse.com)*

On Sept. 26, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed (49 new vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV)-affected premises in Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming, with six confirmed positive and 43 suspect premises identified.

Colorado - One new premises in Larimer County (cattle) and one in Park County; additional suspect premises in Jefferson and San Miguel counties;

Nebraska - One new premises in Scotts Bluff County;

Wyoming - One new premises in Albany County and two new premises in Fremont County; additional new suspect premises in Big Horn, Carbon, Goshen, Hot Springs, and Park counties.

Since its last Situation Report on Sept. 19, the USDA released the following previously VSV-infected or suspect premises from quarantine:

Colorado - 15

Nebraska - three

Utah - three

Wyoming - seven

The agency quarantines confirmed positive and suspect premises for at least 14 days following the onset of lesions in the last affected animal on the premises.

Full text:

<https://thehorse.com/179399/usda-situation-report-identifies-new-vesicular-stomatitis-cases/>

## **Eat Less Red Meat, Scientists Said. Now Some Believe That Was Bad Advice.**

**(From the New York Times)**

Public health officials for years have urged Americans to limit consumption of red meat and processed meats because of concerns that these foods are linked to heart disease, cancer and other ills.

But on Monday, in a remarkable turnabout, an international collaboration of researchers produced a series of analyses concluding that the advice, a bedrock of almost all dietary guidelines, is not backed by good scientific evidence.

If there are health benefits from eating less beef and pork, [they are small](#), the researchers concluded. Indeed, the advantages are so faint that they can be discerned only when looking at large populations, the scientists said, and are [not sufficient to tell individuals to change their meat-eating habits](#).

“The certainty of evidence for these risk reductions was low to very low,” said Bradley Johnston, an epidemiologist at Dalhousie University in Canada and leader of the group publishing the new research in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Full story. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/30/health/red-meat-heart-cancer.html>

## New Dietary Analysis Challenges 'Meat-Is-Bad-For-You' Guidance

(From *Meatingplace.com*)

A group of international experts have published new dietary guideline recommendations that suggest that most people do not need to reduce their red and processed meat consumption based on their analysis that found weak causal links to negative health outcomes.

The NutriRECS Consortium, a large group of international experts in health research methodology and nutrition that aim to improve the quality of nutritional guidelines, [released their findings](#) in the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine* published by the American College of Physicians on Sept. 30.

Based on a series of five systematic reviews of the relationship between meat consumption and health, a panel of NutriRECS experts recommend that most people can continue to consume red meat and processed meat at their average current consumption levels. Current estimates suggest that adults in North America and Europe consume red meat and processed meat about 3 to 4 times per week.

"Based on the research, we cannot say with any certainty that eating red or processed meat causes cancer, diabetes, or heart disease," said lead author Bradley Johnston, director and founder of NutriRECS and associate professor at the Centre for Clinical Research, Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada.

"Our bottom-line recommendation, which is a weak recommendation based on low-quality evidence, is that for the majority of people, but not everyone, continuing their red and processed meat consumption is the right approach," Johnston added.

The study authors reviewed current scientific evidence to determine if those who ate less red meat — or those who reduced the frequency of meat consumption — could cut risks for cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and death. Their conclusion that most adults should continue to eat their current levels of red and processed meat intake is contrary to almost all other guidelines that exist, they said.

"Among 12 randomized control trials enrolling about 54,000 individuals, we did not find a statistically significant or an important association in the risk of heart disease, cancer, or diabetes for those who consumed less red and processed meat," Johnston said. "Further, among cohort studies following millions of participants, we did find a small reduction in risk among those who consumed three fewer servings of red or processed meat per week. However, the certainty of evidence was low to very low."

The group focused exclusively on health outcomes and did not consider animal welfare or environmental issues, Johnston noted.

The researchers reported that they used the Nutritional Recommendations (NutriRECS) guideline development process, which includes rigorous systematic review methodology, and Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) methods to rate the certainty of evidence for each outcome and to move from evidence to dietary recommendations to develop their guidelines.

According to the authors, this is important because dietary guideline recommendations require close consideration of the certainty in the evidence, the magnitude of the potential harms and benefits, and explicit consideration of people's values and preferences. Most nutritional recommendations are based on unreliable observational studies, they said.

However, the authors note that their recommendations are weak, based on low-certainty evidence. Of note, they added, there may be reasons other than health concerns for reducing meat consumption.

The authors of an [accompanying editorial](#) from Indiana University School of Medicine say that while the new recommendations are bound to be controversial, they are based on the most comprehensive reviews of the evidence to date. "Those that seek to dispute the NutriRECS findings will be hard-pressed finding appropriate evidence with which to build an argument,".