



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 5, 2018

2019 NBA Regional Directors Elected

In a season of divisive electoral races, all of four of the incumbent National Bison Association regional directors were re-elected unanimously in balloting conducted last month. Re-elected to two-year terms on the NBA Board of directors were:

- 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.
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“Alan, Mimi, Jeremy and Brian all work hard to represent the interests and concerns of the MBA members in their region. The members—in turn—have voiced their support for these four directors by returning them to our board for another two years,” said Dick Gehring, president of the National Bison Association.

NBA Files Additional Mislabeling Complaint with FDA, FSIS

The National Bison Association this week sent additional material to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) top support the association’s request that immediate action be taken to stop water buffalo meat from being labeled simply as “buffalo” on retail meat packages.

The supplemental complaint was filed this week after the NBA received photos of products in the retail meat case at a Weis Market retail store in Pennsylvania. Weis is an East Cost retail chain with more than 200 stores.



The photos show two products packaged under the Weis “Naturals” label. One item is Bison Natural Steaks, which is accurately labeled, and which carries the USDA FSIS mark of voluntary inspection. The other product, with a very similar label, is identified only as “Ground Buffalo,” can carries no mark of inspection.

“This is clear evidence of the intent to mislead consumers with deceptive labeling, and we urge that FDA take prompt action to stop this practice,” wrote Dave Carter, NBA executive director.

NBA asks Retail Trade Group to Support Mislabeling Fight

The National Bison Association today asked the nation’s largest food retailer trade organization to assist in the effort to assure accurate labeling of water buffalo meat in grocery stores across the country.

In a letter sent to the President of the Food Marketing Institute today, NBA Executive Director Dave Carter wrote, “(W)e ask your assistance in informing your membership of this mislabeled product.

“North American bison producers and marketers have worked diligently during the past two decades to build a strong relationship with their customers based upon the great taste and nutritional benefits of the meat, along with sustainable practices utilized in raising the animals. We intend to protect the integrity of our products, and our relationship with our customers.”

Carter noted that the NBA has filed a formal complaint with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to stop water buffalo products from being labeled simply as “buffalo.”

“We ask you to support our effort by informing your members of this misleading practice,” he wrote.

Senate Moves to Designate November 3rd at National Bison Day

National Bison Association members and friends are encouraged to beginning planning educational, outreach and promotional activities for the first weekend in November to help engage the public with our National Mammal during National Bison Day.

U.S. Sens. John Hoeven (R-ND) and Marty Heinrich (D-NM) are circulating a resolution throughout the Senate to designate November 3rd as National Bison Day, 2018. The resolution is expected to pass by unanimous consent. Senate rules prohibit designation of standing events, thus requiring an annual vote to designate the first Saturday in November as National Bison Day.

Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association, noted, “We appreciate the commitment of Sens. Hoeven and Heinrich to enlist their colleagues in passing this annual resolution. And, we thank our friends at the Wildlife Conservation Society in Washington, D.C., who take the lead in working with the Senators each year to circulate the resolution.”

Carter added, "National Bison Day provides a valuable stage for us to promote 'all things bison.' Ranchers should consider events to invite in the public to see their herds, and markets should think about kicking off the Holiday entertaining season with some Bison Day specials."

A National Bison Day Reception is planned on Capitol Hill for the evening of November 13th.

2019 Winter Conference Registration Now Open

Registration is now open for the 2019 NBA Winter Conference. With a theme of "Gaining Ground", the conference features three jam-packed days of education, fun and networking. The culmination of the week will be the Gold Trophy Show and Sale.

Why should you attend the conference? There are plenty of reasons. Our main speaker this year will be Dave Pratt sharing his *Ranching for Profit* presentation, more than a dozen bison-specific presenters and sessions on tap and five amazing bison feasts, including the Best Bison Stew Recipe contest! Networking, spending time with friends and checking out the trade show are other perks of attending this annual event.

A tentative agenda has been posted on our website at <https://bisoncentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/WCAgenda9.28.18.pdf>. Register online at <https://bisoncentral.com/2019-nba-winter-conference-registration-form/> or call the NBA office at (303) 292-2833 to register by phone. Registration deadline is January 4, 2019.

Our host hotel will be the Renaissance-Stapleton Hotel on Quebec Street. Call the hotel at (303) 399-7500 and request the National Bison Association block for discounted room rates of \$133/night or \$138/night which includes a hot buffet breakfast. The room reservation deadline is January 2, 2019.

2019 Gold Trophy Show and Sale Entries Will Open Next Week

Producers need to start scanning their herds and making their selections for the 2019 Gold Trophy Show and Sale. Entry forms and regulations are being finalized and will be posted on the NBA website next week to signal the opening of entries.

Classes being offered are as follows: Two-Year-Old Bred Heifers; Two-Year-Old Bulls; Yearling Heifers; Pen of Five Ranch Ready Yearling Heifers; Yearling Bulls; Heifer Calves; Pen of Five Heifer Calves and Bull Calves. Market Class Bull and Heifer classes will also be available for interested consignors.

New this year is a weight range for the Ranch Ready Pen of Five Yearling Heifer class. Entries will need to have a cumulative average weight between 635 and 875 pounds. Another new item this year is a cap on the number of entries in the Two-Year-Old Bulls at 12 head and the Yearling Bull class at 16 head. Entries will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis with all the details included in the entry forms and information.

The entry deadline is December 14 and payment must accompany all entries. Consignments received by December 7 will receive a 10% discount on entry fees and consignors with seven or more entries will receive one complimentary Winter Conference registration.

NBA 2019 Junior Judging Contest Open for Entries

The 2019 Junior Judging Contest will once again be held in conjunction with the Winter Conference and Gold Trophy Show and Sale. The competition will take place on Wednesday, January 23 with a tentative starting time at 11 a.m. at the Pepsi Barn on the National Western Stock Show grounds.

There will be two age classes for individual contestants. The Junior class is comprised of participants 8 - 13 years old, with the senior class those 14 to 21 years of age. Additionally, there will be a team competition for the senior age group. Each group will judge various groups of bison, place them accordingly and then give oral reasons to support their placings. Plaques will be awarded to the top three finishers in each age group and the team competition. All individual participants will be eligible to compete for the overall high score awards. The top three overall winners will receive a college scholarship.

Participants do not have to be involved in the bison business to be eligible to participate. The competition is open to any interested youth who meet the age guidelines.

Please contact jim@bisoncentral.com if you would like an electronic copy of the Junior Judging flyer to share with youth in your area, or if you are interested in volunteering to assist judges and scorekeepers or would like to sponsor awards or scholarships.

Those interested in entering the contest can do so by sending an email to jim@bisoncentral.com.

Help support our youth and encourage them to participate in this fun and educational program.

Submit Youth Photo Contest Entries Now Through January 4, 2019

It's time to have the kids get out their cameras and start taking photographs of the bison! Contest organizers have finalized plans for the 2019 Gaining Ground Bison Photo Contest and it should be a lot of fun for everyone.

The contest is open to all children and grandchildren of NBA and InterTribal Buffalo Council members. Bison-themed photographs need to be submitted by January 4, 2019 to have a chance to be displayed at the Winter Conference and in future *Bison World* magazines. There will be three age groups: Grades 5-6; Grades 7-9 and Grades 10-12. The top three entries from each category will win cash prizes (\$100; \$75 and \$50 respectively). Each first-place winner will be featured in *Bison World* magazine. The print submitted for the contest will be auctioned off during the NBA Winter Conference Benefit Auction with proceeds returned to the photographer. Children in grades K-4 are welcome to participate and may have a chance to have their photos displayed at the conference but they will not be judged nor have any awards presented.

Entry forms and guidelines will be posted on www.bisoncentral.com next week.

Fall Bison World Magazine Available Online

One of the perks of NBA membership is access to the Bison World magazine before the printed copies arrive in the mail! Production on the October/November/December issue has wrapped up and it is now available on the website at: <https://bisoncentral.com/publication/bison-world-magazine/>.

The flipbook version of the magazine can be viewed right on your computer. Handy links allow you to open it into a new window, make it larger, magnify certain features and even print pages if desired. The realistic page turning sounds make it feel like you are reading the printed version of the magazine.

The hard copy magazine is currently being printed and will mail later this month.

Winter Issue Bison World Advertising Now Available

To accommodate the new printing schedule for Bison World, production is now underway on the Winter issue of the magazine. This will be our membership/conference issue that will include the annual membership directory. There are a variety of advertising options available, from 1/8 page all the way to full page. Lifetime and Active NBA members will enjoy discounted rates as part of their membership perks.

For those interested in conference sponsorships, we have developed new sponsorship opportunities that include advertising in the magazine.

The advertising deadline is October 22 and the magazine is slated to be mailed in late December or early January. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time.

For more information about editorial submissions or advertising your ranch, business or events, contact Karen@bisoncentral.com or call (605) 381-3738.

Membership Directory Updates Needed by October 31st

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 31st.

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, so we can update our internal records accordingly. If you'd like to check on your listing, please email jim@bisoncentral.com, or give us a call at 303-292-2833 to check.

Denver Zoo Plans national Bison Day Event

The National Bison Association will be at the Denver Zoo. On Nov. 3rd, as the zoo hosts its first-ever National Bison Day event at the Zoo.

According to Erica Garrouette, conservation outreach coordinator at the zoo, “This event will engage our guests in interactive activities focused on the ecological, socioeconomic, and cultural value of bison.

“For the ecological aspect of this, we will be highlighting our Field Conservation Department’s research and management related to Bison at Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge in northern New Mexico and our partnership with Denver Mountain Parks focused on understanding the value of bison in grassland restoration. For the cultural aspect, we are working with our partners from the Pueblo of Pojoaque to highlight the cultural value of bison and their bison program.”

The National Bison Association will present information on the socioeconomic and nutritional aspects of bison recovery.

City of Wilmington: Bison Crawl - On National Bison Day!

(From the Will County, IL Gazette)

Celebrate National Bison Day with a Bison Crawl on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018. In honor of bison, America’s National Mammal, the USDA Forest Service’s Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and the Forest Preserve District of Will County are co-hosting a community-wide bison outreach with Two Hounds Antiques, the Manhattan-Elwood Public Library and the Wilmington Public Library. At the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie stop, meet the volunteers and staff that will be on hand along the Iron Bridge Trail where you can explore the prairie and look for the Midewin bison herd.

A small herd of bison roams over a thousand acres at Midewin. The herd was established in 2015 as 20-year conservation experiment. Volunteers and staff are monitoring to see if the herd’s grazing pattern, which creates more varied grass lengths, is encouraging the return of native Illinois prairie plants, insects, birds and other species.

The Iron Bridge Trailhead at Midewin is located on the east side of Hwy. 53, between Elwood and Wilmington. The trailhead is about 2 miles north of the Gemini Giant.

The Midewin Welcome Center will also be open and you can visit with staff and volunteers there about bison and watch a film that shows the Midewin bison herd arriving at Midewin in 2015. You will be able to get up close and touch a bison pelt. Those that are interested in educational items for presentations – “Bison Bags” – are available to be checked out year-round from the Midewin Welcome Center. The Midewin Welcome Center is located at 30239 S. State Route 53, Wilmington, IL 60481.

The Forest Preserve District of Will County stop on the Bison Crawl will be at Sugar Creek Administration Center, 17540 W. Laraway Road in Joliet.

District staff will be on site to talk all things bison and to lead prairie ecology hikes that will highlight the bison’s role in the magnificent prairie ecosystem.

Then you can throw it old school by trying your hand in a “Little House on The Prairie-style” bison chip throwing contest. The person who throws a chip the farthest will win a prized bison skull generously donated by Ruhter Bison Farm in Newman, Illinois, www.RuhterBison.com.

A representative with Ruhter Bison Farm, Prairie Rim Ranch will be at the Forest Preserve District stop to speak to the farm's history, practices and products related to bison.

The bison chip throws will take place at the close of each prairie ecology hike. Each person participating in a hike will have an opportunity to throw a bison chip. The interpretive hikes will travel along the Sugar Creek Administration Center's prairie path. The hikes are expected to last approximately 30 minutes each, with four hikes scheduled to start at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. The time and length of each hike may vary.

You will be able to view a bison pelt, horns, jaw and shoulder bone to see what they look first-hand.

Full story here. <https://willcountygazette.com/stories/511589999-city-of-wilmington-bison-crawl-on-national-bison-day>

Wranglers Easily Handle Bison in Annual Custer State Park Roundup (From KOTV-ABC)

CUSTER STATE PARK, S.D. - People describe it as a step back in time: the Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup. Each fall, the park rumbles from the hooves of nearly 1,300 bison in one of the world's largest roundups.

"You don't see this every day and it's always nice to see so many people enjoying this event," Barry Jensen of White River said. "It's pretty rare to go someplace and see wild animals rounded up."

Thousands of people (official numbers are not in but it averages 20,000) were "herded" into two viewing areas on the park's Wildlife Loop Road to watch the 53rd annual spectacle Friday.

For John and Sherry Disher, this is their extended honeymoon. After some health problems, it's a celebration worth the 730-mile trip from Oklahoma.

"We've been married three years the 26th of this month," John said. "I had gotten sick with cancer, found out on our honeymoon, so this has been our honeymoon."

The roundup is part of the park's bison management program that helps ensure there is enough forage for the herd. Bison are checked and vaccinated, with about 250 culled from the herd to be auctioned off later this year.

Source. <https://www.kotatv.com/content/news/Wranglers-easily-handle-bison-in-annual-Custer-State-Park-roundup-494643771.html>

NAFTA Will Be Replaced by the USMCA. How Does It Affect Agriculture?

(From Modern Farmer)

NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, has long been a punching bag for the Trump administration; during his campaign, Trump declared it “the worst deal the United States ever signed.” Over the weekend, the governments of the United States, Canada, and Mexico came together to create a new, and newly named, version: the USMCA.

Much of the new agreement has to do with the automotive industry, which is not really our purview, but there are several sticking points in agriculture that USMCA changes. Most importantly, there are changes in the dairy trade between the US and Canada, one of the most fiercely debated agriculture trade issues in North America over the past decade.

The US dairy industry has for many years produced a huge surplus of milk, to the point where dairy farmers have had to [dump millions of gallons of milk](#) into the garbage, and the government has even had to [purchase huge quantities](#) of surplus cheese. The surplus keeps prices low, but is awful for dairy farmers; [an estimated 10 percent](#) of American dairy farms shut down in the last year alone. That means that American dairy producers want to export their products, and why not to our most important trade partner, Canada? But Canada has [strict import rules](#) and regulations on its own domestic dairy industry, designed to keep it healthy. Incredibly cheap and abundant American milk would undercut the Canadian market significantly, so Canada slaps tariffs on it to protect its own farmers.

Read more here. <http://modernfarmer.com/2018/10/nafta-will-be-replaced-by-the-usmca-how-does-it-affect-agriculture/>

Bison Sliders — They’re Tasty and Healthy, Too

(From The Marin Independent Journal)

I ate roasted lamb eyeballs. No, I wasn’t on CNN’s “Parts Unknown.” I was in a Middle Eastern restaurant in Massachusetts with my 12-year-old girlfriend and her dad. It was dark in the restaurant. Her dad ordered all the food in a language I did not understand.

Soon the plates started coming until the table was covered. The smells of cinnamon, cumin, ginger and cardamom were as new to me as the warm flatbreads in baskets. It smelled wonderful, though, and I wanted to try everything. With some instruction from my friend’s dad I dug in. One meat dish was covered in sauce. I liked it, until I found out what I was eating: eyeballs. Delicious as they were, I would never eat them again ... knowingly.

There are a lot of tasty foods out there that many people find unappetizing for one reason or another. Venison is unappealing to many people because they can only picture Bambi. Boiled beef tongue was popular as sandwich meat when I was growing up. I never gave it a thought until I saw that huge tongue (sitting on the cutting board in our kitchen there was no mistaking it).

This week’s recipe for bison sliders is not as unusual as roasted eyeballs, but I cannot understand why they aren’t more mainstream. Everyone loves sliders because they are delicious and fun to eat. This version is healthier than beef because bison has much less fat and calories than beef. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3 ounces of bison meat contain 109 calories, while beef has 291. Plus, bison has much less fat, but you wouldn’t know it when you take a bite, I promise.

Eating fewer calories in the patties means you can enjoy a deliciously fattening (guilt-free) bun for that bison patty. Sometimes slider buns are hard to find. Instead of looking in the hamburger/hotdog section of your local market, try the dinner roll section. You can use dinner rolls, potato rolls; even frozen dinner rolls work. This recipe makes about eight, 2-ounce patties. The recipe can easily be doubled or halved.

Read more. <https://www.marini.com/2018/10/02/claudias-kitchen/>

Boars, Bison and Bears: A "Typical" Day for Yukon Vet Dr Michelle Oakley Is Anything but Typical

(From Cadillac News)

Dr. Michelle Oakley begins every day with a schedule, a noble attempt to organize a life filled with so many unknowns. Most days that schedule goes out the window as Oakley is the only vet covering thousands of square miles in the Yukon, a territory in western Canada that is flanked by Alaska and the Northwest Territories.

She's also the subject of Nat Geo Wild's Dr. Oakley, Yukon Vet, which returns for its sixth season on Saturday, Oct. 6. The series follows Oakley on her daily journeys, which can range from castrating angry boars and capturing wild bison to transporting bears with tractors and horses with helicopters.

"It's a roller coaster every day," says Dr. Oakley, who explains that in the Yukon, even mundane-sounding patients, like a pregnant four-pound Yorkie, can be a challenge. When the dog went into labor in the middle of a snowstorm and needed to be evacuated to an animal hospital, life got hectic. "You have to watch and see what happens," she teases.

For Dr. Oakley, the highlight of Season 6 is getting to help with the release of a herd of bison. "They're breeding the animals for release, to start a new wild herd," she explains. "So, we got to go out there, work with them, do the health checks, do the quarantine, get them ready for shipment, and they're gonna be starting a new herd of wild bison in Siberia."

Read more. https://www.cadillacnews.com/entertainment/boars-bison-and-bears-a-typical-day-for-yukon-vet/html_0ec56370-c585-11e8-8d28-b395fd05a596.html

Beef industry Traceability: Running on Borrowed Time

(From Beef Magazine)

"Up to now, the fact we don't have a national animal ID and traceability system has not kept us out of export markets," says Thad Lively, a former U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) executive. "On the other hand, we are extremely vulnerable to unforeseen developments that could put us at a severe competitive disadvantage."

Lively, who at the time was USMEF senior vice president for trade access, was speaking at this year's annual conference of the National Institute of Animal Agriculture (NIAA). The meeting focused on the need for a standardized national livestock identification and traceability system, one more comprehensive than the current mandatory Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) program.

"If you look at the major beef trading countries around the world, the U.S. stands out as a country that hasn't taken steps to implement a relatively robust approach to traceability," Lively says.

His comments echo observations of the Comprehensive Feasibility Study: U.S. Beef Cattle Identification and Traceability Systems released early in 2018 that was conducted by World Perspectives Inc. (WPI). It was commissioned by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) as part of the Beef Industry Long Range Plan.

Full text:

<https://www.beefmagazine.com/outlook/beef-industry-traceability-running-borrowed-time>

Arm in Arm, Farm Bill Negotiators 'In This Together'

(From AgriPulse)

The four lead farm bill negotiators, meeting for the first time since some bickering erupted over the expiration of the 2014 law, declared that they are working together to reach an agreement by the end of the year.

In a show of unity, the chairmen and ranking Democrats on the House and Senate Agriculture committees emerged from the meeting together and posed arm in arm for the reporters who were waiting outside.

"I think we're making progress," said Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan. "We're in this together to get this thing done."

"I couldn't agree more," added House Agriculture Chairman Mike Conaway, a Texas Republican who last Friday had accused the Senate negotiators of slowing down the talks. "Our staffs are meeting regularly, and that's good."

Roberts said the four all but closed out three of the 12 titles - trade, credit and energy. Energy was the toughest of the three, since the House-passed bill would eliminate that section of the bill.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., added an amendment to the Senate bill in committee that earmarked \$464 million over 10 years to maintain funding for USDA energy programs at the levels mandated by the 2014 farm bill and to reimburse dairy farms for premiums they paid into the Margin Protection Program from 2015 through 2017. The money came out of subsidies for cotton textile mills.

Roberts said the negotiators would stay in touch by phone and have authorized staff to finish closing out additional titles of the bill.

Roberts offered no details about where the negotiations stood on other issues under negotiation, including the House bill's expanded work rules for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

He said he and Conaway were working on a compromise to their differences over the commodity title. The House bill would eliminate payments to farmers with base acres that had

not been planted to a commodity crop for the past 10 years. That would save \$900 million to cover the cost of increasing yield averages for farmers who experienced 20 consecutive weeks of drought, a provision that would primarily benefit farmers in southern Plains states.

The top Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee, Debbie Stabenow of Michigan, said she is "confident we can work together and get this done, as soon as possible, before the end of the year."

Her House counterpart, Collin Peterson of Minnesota, added just one word, "Amen."

Register Quickly for Veterinary Scholarships

(From Beef Magazine)

Veterinary students have until November 28 to register for the 2019 Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholarship Awards.

Recipients will each receive \$2,000 for the upcoming 2019-2020 academic year. Zoetis Inc. and the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) will partner again in 2019 to provide scholarships to second- and third-year veterinary students in the United States and Caribbean.

Visit www.vetvance.com/opportunities to apply. New this year, students can also apply via the VETVANCE mobile app, which is available for download from the Google Play Store and the iOS App Store.

To date, the Zoetis Veterinary Student Scholarship program has awarded over 3,000 scholarships totaling more than \$6 million.

Eligibility criteria include academic excellence, financial need, diversity, sustainability, leadership and career interest. Scholarships will be awarded to students in all areas of professional interest, including food animal medicine, small animal clinical medicine, research, government services, public health, and organized veterinary medicine.

Full text:

<https://www.beefmagazine.com/animal-health/register-quickly-veterinary-scholarships>

USDA Assistance for Flood-Damaged Ag Land

USDA is offering assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to South Carolina farmers and ranchers who suffered damage to working lands and livestock mortality because of Hurricane Florence.

USDA is holding a special signup through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for agricultural livestock mortality and carcass disposal in Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon, Marion, Horry, Kershaw, and contiguous counties. Conservation practices also available through EQIP can address flood and wind damage, excessive runoff that is causing hurricane-related natural resource concerns and preparation to provide protection from exceptional storm events in the future. Farmers and ranchers seeking NRCS financial and technical assistance can sign up at their local NRCS office.

The first signup period ends September 28, 2018. A second signup period will end on November 2, 2018.

Read more. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2018/09/20/usda-assistance-available-flood-damaged-ag-land>

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Ohio

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for fiscal year 2019 EQIP funding in Ohio. Through EQIP, NRCS provides agricultural producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement improvements, or what NRCS calls conservation practices.

Financial assistance is available in a variety of agricultural categories such as cropland, forestry, pasture operations, and organic. Several special projects are also available which address water quality, forestry management, improving pollinator populations, applying best management practices, and more.

For fiscal year 2019 funding, applications must be submitted by October 19, 2018.

Read more. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/oh/newsroom/releases/77d17169-d740-4216-bbc4-3160a360c3da/>

Minnesota Zero-Interest Loans for Farmers Affected by Flooding

Minnesota farmers affected by the recent flooding can take advantage of a zero-percent Disaster Loan Program offered by the Minnesota Rural Finance Authority (RFA). The program helps farmers cover flood clean-up, repair, and replacement costs not covered by insurance. Loans are available to farmers in 36 counties and the Red Lake Nation.

The loans can be used to help clean up farm operations, repair or replace farm structures, and replace seed, other crop inputs, feed, and livestock. The loan may also be used to repair and restore farm real estate that was damaged by flooding. RFA participation is limited to 45% of the principal amount, up to a maximum of \$200,000.

Read more. <https://attra.ncat.org/calendar/funding.php/minnesota-zero-interest-loans-for>

Scholarships for Growing Farm Profits Short Course

Southern SAWG (Sustainable Agriculture Working Group) is offering a limited number of \$500 travel scholarships along with free tuition for farmer-mentor teams to participate in the January 23–24, 2019, Growing Farm Profits Short Course in Little Rock, Arkansas. This short course will precede the SSAWG 2019 Annual Conference.

Interested applicants must apply as two-member teams, one member being a diversified horticulture or livestock farmer and the other from an organization seeking to provide support to

the farmer member. Selected teams will agree to participate in the Growing Farm Profits training program that teaches practical methods for understanding and tracking profitability on the farm and provides a variety of tools to manage the farm for profit.

Application forms must be submitted by November 1, 2018.

Read more. <https://www.ssawg.org/2019-growing-farm-profits-short-course>

Ag Barometer Drops to Lowest Level in 2 years

(From Morning Ag Clips)

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. and CHICAGO — Agricultural producer sentiment dropped to its lowest level since October 2016 as producers expressed concern over worsening farm financial conditions, according to the latest **Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer** reading. The September barometer reading was 114, down 15 points since August. The barometer is based on a monthly survey of 400 agricultural producers from across the country.

Large declines were also seen in the barometer's two sub-indices, the Index of Future Expectations, which fell 10 points and the Index of Current Conditions, which fell 25 points, both compared to their respective August readings.

“The barometer readings have been unusually volatile over the past few months,” said **James Mintert**, the barometer's principal investigator and director of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture. “Concerns about the ongoing impact of trade conflicts, and especially China's tariffs on imports of U.S. ag products, continue to reverberate throughout the U.S. agricultural sector.”

Producers indicated that financial conditions on their farms deteriorated significantly as 2018 unfolded and their expectations for the future also weakened. In September, 54 percent of farmers surveyed said their farm's financial condition was worse than a year earlier, up from 38 percent who felt that way in June. The September survey also indicated that 33 percent of producers expect their farm's financial condition to be worse a year from now, up 15 points compared to responses received to the same question in June.

Trade conflicts and tariffs continue to be a source of angst among U.S. farmers. When asked whether they expect trade conflicts to lower their farm's net income, more than 70 percent of producers surveyed said they expect lower income in 2018 because of trade disruptions with a large majority of respondents saying they expect an income decline of more than 10 percent.

Full story here. <https://www.morningagclips.com/ag-barometer-drops-to-lowest-level-in-2-years/>

U.S. Not Invited to Canada's Upcoming Trade Meeting — Only 'Like Minded' Nations Allowed

(From Global News, Canada)

Canada has not included the United States in an upcoming meeting aimed at saving the international trading system because it doesn't share the views of the 13 invited countries, says the new Canadian trade minister.

Canada will host senior ministers from 13 "like-minded" countries for a two-day discussion in Ottawa later this month to brainstorm ways to reform the World Trade Organization, said Jim Carr, Canada's newly appointed international trade diversification minister.

Carr said the group of countries he's convened ultimately wants to persuade Washington of the continued usefulness of the WTO, but for now the best way forward is without the U.S. in the room.

"Those who believe that a rules-based system is in the interests of the international community will meet to come up with a consensus that we will then move out into nations who might have been more resistant."

Read more here. https://globalnews.ca/news/4515734/canada-world-trade-organization-meeting-u-s-invite/?utm_source=Agri-Pulse+Daily+Harvest+2018&utm_campaign=eb662510e9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_10_05_09_09&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6978e27d37-eb662510e9-48790993