



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 Assn. Leaders head to K.C. Conclave

Leaders of State-Regional Bison Associations and the National Bison Association are headed to Kansas City today to discuss ways they can coordinate activities and resources for the benefit of their members.

“There are several changes taking place throughout the bison business, both in terms of issues, and the leadership within some of our associations, that’s why it’s important to bring together the leaders from the state-regional associations and our national association to determine how we can continue to work effectively to achieve the goal of expanding the bison business,” said Jud Seaman, chair of the NBA State-Regional Committee.

Meeting participants are scheduled to gather this evening for an informal discussion on the challenges facing state-regional associations during transitional periods.

Then, on Saturday morning, the group will spend the morning looking at succession transition and bylaws development. The afternoon session will focus on mentorship development, and steps that can be taken to enact state laws to assure truthful labeling.

On Sunday morning, the group will develop an action plan before departing for home.

Gold Trophy Show and Sale Now Taking Consignments

The NBA is now taking consignments for its 2019 Gold Trophy Show and Sale today at <https://bisoncentral.com/gold-trophy-show-and-sale/>

For bison breeders, the Gold Trophy Show and Sale is the opportunity to compete with other industry leaders for recognition that will translate into higher value for your stock. For buyers, Gold Trophy offers a selection of the best breeding stock in the world.

The GTSS Committee has been working hard over the past year to update the show classes, judging criteria, the catalog, the promotional plan, and other elements for 2019.

New for 2019 are class limits for the 2 year old bull class - capped at 12 animals, and for the yearling bull class - capped at 16 animals. First come, first served. They have also reinstated the Ranch Ready Pen of 5 yearling heifer class weight range requirement, which mandates that only pens that average between 635-875 lbs. will be eligible for judging, though all entries can be sold on sale day.

And, don't overlook the market class competition, which has emerged as a premier competition for judging superior carcass quality. The market class sale prices have been particularly strong, as local food aficionados join ranchers in the sale arena to bid on these quality carcasses.

We are again offering an Early Bird discount of 10% on all entries received before December 7th. And consignors submitting seven or more entries will receive complimentary registration at the NBA 2019 Winter Conference, a \$225 value!

We have just posted consignment forms for the 2019 Gold Trophy show and Sale on our website, www.bisoncentral.com, and are now accepting registrations until December 14th.

Please take this opportunity to look over your herd to consider some animals that can be part of the 2019 Gold Trophy Show and Sale.

FFA National Convention Coming Up - Urge Chapters to Visit NBA Booth

The National Bison Association will again be reaching out to the next generation of agricultural leaders with a booth promoting the bison advantage at the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, IN October 24 – 26.

“NBA members who have contacts with their local ag advisors should reach out and encourage them to stop by booth No. 870 at the FFA convention trade show,” said Jim Matheson, NBA assistant director. “We have teachers’ resource packets that have plenty of tools to use in the classroom, and we have information for any student who may be interested in pursuing a career in bison.”

The Most Exclusive Thing to Do in This State Involves Off-roading With 1,300 Thundering Bison

(From Forbes)

It's 5:50 in the morning and it's time to load up our cars and head from our warm, now snow-covered cabins (thanks for that, middle-of-the-night September snowfall) to a different part of Custer State Park, a vast and wildly popular state park here in southwestern South Dakota, because today is the day I get to help herd buffalo in the 53rd Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup.

It's a tradition here in South Dakota. And somewhat of a prestigious event to be a part of. Now, in its 53rd year, the roundup (which is always held the last Friday in September) is when an impressive group made up of cowboys, cowgirls and park crew set off across the park's 71,000

acres to round up the 1,300 bison that call the park home. No easy feat on this rough Black Hills terrain.

The herd is the largest publicly-owned herd in the world and the roundup is the one time a year when the state administers vaccinations, brands the new calves of the herd and checks the cows for pregnancies. They also separate out a group of bulls and cows to be auctioned off later in the year (about 285 bison will go in this year's auction). All of this is done to maintain a healthy and maintainable herd in the park. And it's working – the herd is the largest publicly-owned herd in the world.

My invitation to be a part of this – what I'll now call a phenomenon – came by way of the state. And it's the most exclusive and coveted invite you can get. You can't buy your way into this access at the roundup – unless of course you happened to be a major donor to the state's governor, Governor Dennis Daugaard, who has also invited a hand-picked group of guests to be front and center at this year's signature event. The only people closer to the herd during the roundup than us being the actual cowboys, cowgirls and park crew driving the herd. All other spectators – usually about 20,000 in total – are situated in one of two designated viewing areas (a north viewing area and a south viewing area – both offering what I was told would be equally great views).

7:00 am: We've arrived at the corrals where the buffalo will be herded into later that morning. It's where the cowboys and cowgirls – the 60 who were chosen from a lottery system from the hundreds that applied to be a part of this year's roundup, somewhat of a bucket list item within the equestrian and cattle driving community – have parked their trucks and trailers and begun preparing for the morning. Selected riders bring their own horses – some of the most beautiful equines you'll see anywhere – and tack. Horses need to be shod (shoed), able to handle the park's rough and uneven terrain and most importantly, they need to be able to remain calm around the herd.

Full story here. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/breannawilson/2018/10/10/the-most-exclusive-thing-to-do-in-this-state-involves-off-roading-with-1300-thundering-bison/#1ddafbe39884>

Annual bison roundup at refuge

(From The Lake County Leader)

The National Bison Range corral was open to the public last week, providing an opportunity for visitors to see how personnel monitor the beasts.

Neil Shook, acting project leader at NBR, said that the animals rounded up and guided to the corral where staff and volunteers manage for genetics purposes.

This year, about 195 animals were processed, Shook said.

If a bison is a little more ornery and doesn't want to be bothered, staff let the animal roam.

He estimates that there are between 200 and 250 bison at the range.

The NBR is situated on 18,766 acres, housing bison as well as other animals.

According to the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, the refuge can support between 300 and 400 bison.

Extra bison are removed during the annual roundup and distributed to other bison herds, donated to Native American tribes, or sold to individuals.

Read more.

https://www.leaderadvertiser.com/local_news/20181011/annual_bison_roundup_at_refuge

Bison Hunting Closure One of Many Topics on Fish and Wildlife Commission Oct. 17 Agenda

(From the Ravalli Republic)

A proposal to close Beattie Gulch, north of Yellowstone National Park, to state bison hunters is one of the issues on the agenda for the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission when it meets on Wednesday, Oct. 17, at FWP Headquarters in Helena.

The meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. and will be streamed live via video to all FWP regional offices. The meeting will also be audio streamed online at fwp.mt.gov.

The agenda includes final decisions on: 2019 fishing regulations; Clark Fork River closure for Department of Environmental Quality cleanup of Grant-Kohrs Ranch area; Missouri River and Toston fishing access site closure rule; North Sunday Creek conservation easement; White Deer Meadow conservation easement; Canyon Creek Wildlife Management Area addition fee title acquisition; Dome Mountain Ranch WMA inholding assignment of conservation easement and fee title acquisition; and the brucellosis annual work plan.

The commission will hear the following proposals: amendments to current No Wake Zones and adoption of new No Wake Zones on Canyon Ferry Reservoir; Draft Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan; and the Fishing Access Site Biennial Rule.

Full story here.

https://ravallirepublic.com/lifestyles/recreation/article_82adf0f4-3c2e-5b71-a70a-aef07970d365.html

No Farm Bill Until After the Election

(From High Plains Journal)

The U.S. House of Representatives went out of session Sept. 28, eliminating any possibility that Congress would finish the conference report on the farm bill and vote on it before the Nov. 6 election.

The House was scheduled to be in session parts of two weeks in October, but Republican members fearful of their election prospects convinced the House leadership to let them go home to campaign.

The 2014 farm bill expired Sept. 30, leaving 39 farm programs unauthorized and inactive. Some of the programs were big, like the Foreign Market Development program used to promote sales of United States commodities overseas.

Others, as Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts has said, are mostly small “orphan” programs left without funding and others without implementing authority. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has taken steps to wind down some of these programs and lay off some office staff temporarily, both at USDA’s Washington headquarters and in the field.

For example, USDA’s Farm Service Agency has issued a directive to state and county offices to stop finalizing new contracts or accepting applications for the Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, since they are only authorized to operate for fiscal years 2014 through 2018, which means that though these programs have over \$1 billion in funding for fiscal year 2019, USDA does not have the legal authority to use it absent a short-term farm bill extension.

Programs to aid military veterans entering farming, and various rural development programs—such as small business loan servicing—have been shut down with the farm bill’s expiration.

Full story here. http://www.hpi.com/ag_news/no-farm-bill-until-after-the-election/article_67e142a8-c8cd-11e8-8dd4-cb73564f7bcb.html

States' Roles in Species Conservation Explored

(From AgriPulse)

States need to play a larger role in protecting and recovering endangered species, the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee said at a [hearing](#) Wednesday that looked at federal, state and local efforts to collaborate on wildlife conservation.

“We have to let Wyoming and other states do their job,” [said](#) John Barrasso, R-Wyo., who has released draft [legislation](#) to rework the Endangered Species Act that would allow states – instead of the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – to take the lead in recovering species.

Part of the impetus for the hearing came from a Sept. 24 [decision](#) by a federal judge in Montana to reinstate federal protection for the Greater Yellowstone population of the grizzly bear. Chief U.S. District Judge Dana L. Christensen said FWS had failed to look at how delisting the Yellowstone grizzly would affect other populations of the bear that are not as robust.

Barrasso said the opinion “is not based on the reality on the ground,” where more than 700 grizzlies exist, an increase from 136 grizzlies in 1975, when they were first listed. The judge’s decision means FWS, not Wyoming, now has authority to manage Yellowstone grizzlies.

Practically speaking, the decision means Wyoming cannot conduct a fall hunt for grizzlies, which Barrasso, ranchers and others in his state see as essential to reducing conflicts between livestock or humans with grizzlies. Christensen, however, said that the case “is not about the ethics of hunting, and it is not about solving human- or livestock-grizzly conflicts as a practical or philosophical matter.” Instead, it was simply about whether FWS had violated the ESA when it delisted the Yellowstone grizzly.

“Wyoming citizens are extremely frustrated by this decision and the resulting transfer of management authority back to the federal government,” John Kennedy, deputy director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, said in [testimony](#) to the committee. “This decision is proof positive that the (ESA) is in need of reform.”

Legislation, however, was not the subject of the hearing. Indeed, with Congress focused mostly on the mid-term elections, it’s virtually certain that ESA bills will not get anywhere in this session. Instead, Barrasso and other senators, such as top EPW Democrat Tom Carper of Delaware, were more interested in hearing about how federal officials can work with their state counterparts.

Mike McCormick, president of the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, [outlined](#) efforts in his state and others in the Southeast – to help Mississippi beekeepers and farmers work together to protect honeybees, for example. Other programs he highlighted dealt with reducing the population of black vultures in Kentucky and helping recover the American alligator in Mississippi.

USDA Partners to Improve Community Infrastructure for 1.1 Million Rural Americans

(From USDA Press Release)

GILLETTE, Wyo., Oct. 8, 2018 – Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$181 million in 88 projects (PDF, 173 KB) that will build community infrastructure and facilities in 27 states.

“Infrastructure is a foundation for quality of life and economic opportunity in small towns across our country,” Hazlett said. “Under the leadership of Secretary Sonny Perdue, USDA is committed to being a strong partner to building prosperity in rural America through modern infrastructure.”

Hazlett announced the funding during a forum co-sponsored by the National Association of Counties and the National Association of Development Organizations Research Foundation. USDA is making the investments through the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program. The funding helps rural areas make infrastructure improvements and provide essential facilities such as schools, libraries and day care centers. For example:

- In Kansas, the city of Neodesha will use a \$1.8 million loan to upgrade a city-owned natural gas system. All cast iron gas lines will be replaced, and gas meters will be relocated. The system improvement will serve about 2,500 residents.
- In North Carolina, the Thomas Jefferson Community Education Foundation will use a \$27 million loan to construct a new high school and pay off existing debt. The new school will include a gymnasium and 29 classrooms to accommodate up to 440 students.
- In Ohio, the Monroe County Commissioners will use a \$117,000 loan to purchase equipment to maintain 370 miles of rural roadways. The county will buy three trucks with snow plows, a backhoe, a tractor ditching head and a brush/tree chipper. This equipment will provide safer roads for the county’s 14,642 residents.

The projects announced today will help improve the quality of life for 1.1 million rural residents in Alaska, Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont, Washington and West Virginia.

Read more. <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAOOC/bulletins/212d0d1>

USDA Website Puts Soils Information, Tools at Your Fingertips

(From USDA Press Release)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5, 2018 – USDA has re-designed its Soil Tools web page, to now serve as a one-stop source for new, leading-edge tools and technologies to help farmers, ranchers, and other land users understand, evaluate and conserve soils.

Managed by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the web page offers single-site access to soil data and maps, soil databases, digital soil applications, climate data, descriptions of soils, ecological sites, statistical packages and soil-property calculators. The USDA maps and information are free with no user ID or password required.

“Along with air, sunlight and water, soil is one of the four building blocks of life on earth,” said Dave Hoover, Director of the National Soil Survey Center. “Soil is tied, in some way, to everything we use as a society. This new web portal makes it easy to find and use soils data, and provides unique, interactive tools for all customers of soils information.”

Highlights include:

- Access to download up-to-date soil data and maps used for comparing soils over broad areas, make conservation planning and soil evaluation easier.
- Access to Web Soil Survey and other tools that provide the ability to search for soils maps and data by location.
- Access to soil apps that display and allow users to access data and view interactive maps.
- Access to calculators for soil texture and water budgeting.

The new resources are made available thanks to the joint effort of the National Cooperative Soil Survey partnership, which includes Federal and State agencies, universities, and professional societies, and exists to cooperatively investigate, inventory, document, classify, interpret, disseminate, and publish information about soils.

Source.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1423430>

'Dirt to Soil' chronicles a soil health pioneer's journey to regenerative agriculture

(From The High Plains Journal)

Few books I've read would be considered life-changing.

"Dirt to Soil," by soil health evangelist and North Dakota farmer Gabe Brown is one of them.

Brown, who farms in Burleigh County, North Dakota, is legendary in the modern soil health fraternity. He and his wife, Shelly, began farming alongside her parents in 1981. The land was farmed conventionally at the time—limited crop rotation and full tillage. Gabe started a Gelbvieh cowherd, grazing the herd similarly to his neighbors. He realized that farming and ranching conventionally wasn't going to pay the bills. He began no-till farming in 1994, incorporating practices proven by no-till guru Dwayne Beck, from South Dakota.

Brown began farming regeneratively, learning that no-till could help him decrease input costs for fertilizer and weed control. But it wasn't a panacea.

In the mid-90s, Gabe lost all his cash crops, four years running. Drought, hail, blizzard—all wrecked his yields, causing him to seriously question his choice of careers. But Brown didn't give up, and the lessons learned changed the way he farmed.

"Dirt to Soil" is part biography, part textbook. Brown details his journey to a regenerative agriculture system, which includes eliminating tillage; growing diverse cash and cover crop species, sometimes in mixes; and incorporating livestock into the system. Make no mistake, it is a system. Each of these components is vital to the system's success. And interestingly, Brown continues to add components to further diversify the operation and help the system succeed just a bit more. For example, he has added grazed pork and chickens, sells honey, is developing fruit and nut orchards and has an on-farm store through which he markets these products.

Read more. http://www.hpi.com/opinion/dirt-to-soil-chronicles-a-soil-health-pioneer-s-journey/article_4adf2395-74c1-5bf6-9d24-cf269b8ef86c.html

6.5 million pounds of beef recalled due to salmonella outbreak

(From The Columbus Dispatch)

JBS Tolleson, Inc., a Tolleson, Ariz. establishment, is recalling approximately 6,912,875 pounds of various raw, non-intact beef products that may be contaminated with Salmonella Newport, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced.

The raw, non-intact beef items, including ground beef, were packaged on various dates from July 26, 2018 to Sept. 7, 2018.

The products subject to recall bear establishment number "EST. 267" inside the USDA mark of inspection. These items were shipped to retail locations and institutions nationwide.

Fourteen patients from this outbreak have been hospitalized, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. No deaths have been reported.

Full text:

<https://www.dispatch.com/news/20181005/65-million-pounds-of-beef-recalled-due-to-salmonella-outbreak>

Alabama opens livestock shelters ahead of Hurricane Michael

(From AL.com)

Several temporary shelters will open to house livestock evacuating Florida ahead of Hurricane Michael, the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries announced Monday.

The storm is set to make landfall on Florida's gulf coast sometime Wednesday.

"This storm has the capability of causing strong winds and heavy rains which could produce severe flooding and endanger livestock in the area where it makes landfall. We stand ready to assist our neighbors in Florida, by providing a place for those who need shelter for their livestock," said Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries John McMillan.

Animals moving due to evacuation orders will be exempt from a certificate of veterinary inspection, officials said. Livestock owners must bring the following item:

Current list of all animals, including their records of feeding, vaccinations, and tests.

Proof of ownership for all animals.

Supplies for temporary identification of your animals, such as plastic neckbands and permanent markers

to label your animals with your name, address and telephone number.

Handling equipment such as halters and appropriate tools for each kind of animal.

Water, feed and buckets

Tools and supplies needed for sanitation.

Alabama's emergency shelter will be at Garrett Coliseum at 1555 Federal Drive, Montgomery. The shelter will open at 7:30 a.m. Central Daylight Time Tuesday morning. Please call the location before arrival to ensure space is available.

Full text:

https://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2018/10/alabama_opens_livestock_shelte.html

Temple Grandin joins veterinarians, psychologists, regulatory officials and others for AVMA Humane Endings Symposium

(From AVMA News Release)

SCHAUMBURG, Illinois - The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is hosting a symposium for experts in the methods of euthanasia, slaughter and depopulation across species November 2-4 at the Westin O'Hare in Rosemont, Illinois.

Attendees will get a first look at the highly anticipated AVMA Guidelines for the Depopulation of Animals and an upcoming 2019 interim update to the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. Prominent animal scientist and widely cited proponent for the humane treatment of livestock for slaughter, Temple Grandin, PhD will present, A Practical Guide to Determining Insensibility of Livestock and Poultry at the Slaughter Plant.

"This is a must-attend event for anyone involved with end-of-life decision making for animals," said Dr. John de Jong, AVMA President. "Veterinarians, government employees, facility directors, and representatives of animal-based industries and humane societies have the opportunity to contribute to the knowledge base and conversation that shapes the AVMA guidance on euthanasia. Humanely ending the lives of animals, whether through euthanasia, humane slaughter, or depopulation, is one of the most difficult, but necessary, tasks for veterinarians to oversee."

Experts from around the country and attendees will discuss making difficult decisions in challenging times. Breakout sessions include Laboratory Animals and Aquatics; Companion Animal and Equids; Wildlife and Zoo, and Livestock and Poultry. Highlights from these sessions include:

Companion Animal Practice

Euthanasia and treatment decisions for companion animals affected by natural disasters

Psychological Impacts of Euthanasia on you and your staff

The Importance of a Compassion Fatigue Support Program for Your Facility

Aquatics

Advances in humane fish killing

Fish: Pain, Sentience, and Euthanasia

Depopulation of Fish

Responses to recent disasters

Hurricanes

Earthquakes

Superstorms

The Humane Endings Symposium is also under approval for 15 hours of CE credit. For a complete list of speakers or to register and reserve a room, see: <http://tinyurl.com/yakay2gw>

Bovine TB Identified in Alcona County Herd [MI]

(Michigan Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development News Release)

LANSING - Bovine tuberculosis was recently confirmed in a large beef herd in Alcona County. This herd, which is the 73rd cattle herd to be identified with bovine TB in Michigan since 1998, was identified through routine surveillance testing.

Bovine TB is an infectious bacterial disease primarily affecting cattle. It is endemic in the free-ranging white-tailed deer population in Michigan's modified accredited zone, a USDA designation for Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Oscoda counties. Annual surveillance and movement testing are required of cattle producers, which helps catch the disease early and prevents it from being moved off the farm.

"In the modified accredited zone, anything shared by deer and cattle can be a potential source of bovine tuberculosis infection," said Michigan's Assistant State Veterinarian Nancy Barr, DVM. "Preventing deer from having contact with cattle feed, feed storage or watering areas is crucial for farmers in this area of Michigan and a part of wildlife biosecurity programs being implemented."

Full text:

<https://www.michigan.gov/minewswire/0,4629,7-136-3452-480387--,00.html>

Michigan Early Signup for EQIP

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Michigan has announced funding availability for a number of conservation initiatives through its Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Initiatives included in the initial selection are conservation activity plans, organic producers and producers transitioning to organic, seasonal high tunnels in Wayne and Genesee counties, honey bee habitat, on-farm energy conservation, and regional initiatives to improve water quality and wildlife habitat. The funding is available to eligible agricultural producers and non-industrial private forest owners in Michigan.

Applications are accepted continuously; however, those who submit applications by November 2, 2018, will have first consideration for 2019 funding.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mi/newsroom/releases/9fbcabe9-4266-4562-b541-b2d2134458e0/>