



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 18, 2019

Center of Excellence Establishment Underway at SDSU

Key leaders of the National Bison Association's Science and Research Committee and the National Buffalo Foundation are meeting administrators and researchers at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD today to initiate steps to formally establish a Center of Excellence in Bison Studies.

NBA Executive Director Dave Carter, Science and Research Committee Chair Dave Hunter of Montana, Dr. Vern Anderson of North Dakota, and National Buffalo Foundation board member John Flocchini of Wyoming are meeting with more than a dozen key SDSU leaders at the University's Animal Sciences Center to discuss current and emerging research on a variety of topics, including:

- Parasites;
- Microbiome;
- Production systems and meat quality;
- Infectious diseases; and
- Vaccine development.
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The group is also outlining logistical issues for the Center of excellence, including the physical and virtual locations, funding sources, and priorities for research and outreach. A larger gathering of stakeholders is being planned at SDSU in mid-November.

Registration is now open for the NBA's 25th annual Winter Conference!

The NBA is celebrating its 25th anniversary this January and we want you to be a part of the celebration! The NBA Winter Conference committee, again chaired by Beverly Brown, has been working overtime to offer an action-packed conference that will educate and inspire attendees. From renowned speakers, to exciting contests, to unique commemorations, this one is not to be missed. Please register today and help us celebrate this monumental event! See just some of conference highlights here.

Sponsorships are excellent ways to get your business noticed and say "I support the bison industry!". This year's sponsorship opportunities include a variety of advertising options to utilize throughout the year, as well as smaller, conference-specific sponsorships. All include extensive recognition at the conference as well as in follow up print, digital and social media exposure to the most targeted bison-specific audience in the bison business. Peruse our many sponsorship opportunities here.

Get all the conference details at bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/.

Commemorative 25th Anniversary Veryl Goodnight Sculptures - 15 Discounted for NBA Members!

In honor of the NBA's 25th anniversary, Winter Conference Committee chair Beverly Brown approached renowned sculptor, Veryl Goodnight to inquire about a sculpture to commemorate the milestone to which she agreed. "The Sage" depicts a mature bull in command of his surroundings. Goodnight wanted to convey the pure power of a bull bison as he clears a trail through the sage brush of his native land.

The bronze measures 12"x14"x4" and will be a limited edition, numbered bronze. The NBA will be offering bronze number one at the Winter Conference Benefit Auction, and up to fourteen additional bronzes will be available for first come, first purchase exclusively offered to NBA members.

The cost to the membership will be \$3,800 with pick up at the conference at no charge, or shipped in the continental U.S. for \$100. Goodnight will honor the price for one month after the Winter Conference and then the price for the bronzes will increase to \$4,200. The sculpture will be released to the public in February of 2020. If interested in purchasing in advance, please contact karen@bisoncentral.com or call 605-381-3738. Orders must be placed by November 15th.

GTSS Now Taking Consignments

The NBA is pleased to announce that consignments have opened for the 2020 Gold Trophy Show and Sale. Please consign animals online quickly and securely at the NBA website [here](#), or go to bisoncentral.com/gold-trophy-show-and-sale/ to download an entry form. The deadline to consign is December 13, 2019.

New for 2020 are updated class limits for the 2 year old bull class - capped at 14 animals, and the yearling bull class - capped at 20 animals. Consignors are permitted to enter up to two animals in each class, however for these classes one will be consigned and the 2nd will be placed on a waiting list as to allow as many consignors the chance to consign at least one bull in these two classes as possible. After consignments have closed, those bulls on the waiting list will be added on a first come first serve basis. If your second entry is not added to the class, you will be refunded your entry fee for that animal.

Please be sure to review the 2020 GTSS [rules and regulations](#) thoroughly *before* consigning.

Also, don't forget about the market class competition, which has emerged as a premier competition for judging superior carcass quality. This year the NBA is promoting the market class competition to potential buyers in the vast Denver market place and will be doing significant outreach to local chefs, processors, individual consumers, the Denver Slow Food chapter, Denver Chef's Collaborative and more.

We have just posted all sale forms for the 2019 Gold Trophy show and Sale on our website, bisoncentral.com, and are now accepting registrations until December 13th. Don't forget to complete your animal background sheets, as to further promote your entries in the GTSS catalog. We also have cost-effective advertising in the catalog available, distributed both digitally and in print edition to the hundreds that attend the Gold Trophy Sale. See ad rates [here](#).

Please take this opportunity to look over your herd to consider some animals that can be part of the 2020 Gold Trophy Show and Sale.

Sponsorships Available for 25th Anniversary Convention

With the 25th anniversary winter conference shaping up as a historic celebration, that NBA has announced a new series of sponsorship opportunities that will provide supporters with an opportunity to reap the benefits throughout the year.

“Our sponsors allow us to put together conferences that include great speakers, informative programs, great meals and entertainment, and that are affordable for our members,” said Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association. “We recognize that our sponsors deserve recognition, not only at the conference, but throughout the year. We’ve put together a new approach that will help them receive that recognition.”

Sponsorship levels available this year range from the Gold Trophy Show and Sale Presenting Sponsor at \$12,500, to NBA Supporting Sponsorships for \$1,000. Each sponsorship level will come with a commensurate level of “Bison Bucks,” which the sponsor can use throughout the year for advertising in Bison World and Weekly Update, membership renewal, and other NBA services.

A complete list of sponsorship opportunities is available here. <https://bisoncentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/25thSponsorshipFlyer.pdf>

Harper Cattle, LLC to Be 2025 Conference Presenting Sponsor

Harper Cattle, LLC has stepped up to serve as the Presenting Sponsor for the NBA's 25th Anniversary conference, scheduled for January 22-24th, 2020 at the Renaissance Hotel, in Denver, CO.

“We are particularly grateful to Stan Harper and everyone at Harper Cattle LLC for the strong support for the NBA,” said Dave Carter, NBA executive Director. “That strong support allows us

to develop a conference program that will make our 25th anniversary conference a truly memorable event.

Bull Prices Higher, Heifers Slightly Lower in September

Prices paid for dressed bull carcasses jumped in September, while heifer prices slipped, according to the latest monthly wholesale bison price report issued today by USDA's Grain and Livestock Market News Service.

Prime bull carcasses averaged \$431.53/cwt. in September, which was \$12.78/cwt. higher than in August, but \$55.58 /cwt. lower than the previous September. Dressed heifer carcasses averaged \$418.72/cwt. in September, which was \$3.33/cwt. lower than in August and \$61.00/cwt. lower than the previous September. Cull bull and cull cow prices were both higher in September.

Bull carcasses averaged 679 lbs. in September, and heifer carcasses averaged 567 lbs.

Year-to-date processing of bison under USDA inspection was 41,567 head, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. That is five percent higher than during the same period last year, and represents the highest YTD processing level on record.

The monthly USDA price report is available here.
https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw_ls526.txt

The NBA's five-year tracking report is available in the members' section at bisoncentral.com.

Bison Rancher Barrett Confirmed as Next Air Force Secretary

(Adapted From Air Force Magazine)

National Bison Association member and bison rancher Barbara Barrett was confirmed on an 85-7 vote in the U.S. Senate this week to serve as the new Secretary of the United States Air Force.

She will take over as the Air Force's top civilian in the midst of a drastic rethinking of how space assets fit in with the rest of the military, and as the service figures out its place and its investments in the digital age—faced with aging aircraft, a pilot shortage, and an evolving relationship with the private sector.

The Barretts also own Triple Creek Ranch in Montana, a luxury Old West-style resort that lets guests pan for sapphires and has been ranked among the world's best hotels, and nearby CB Ranch, a working cattle and bison ranch.

"I do not hold a position with either of these entities," Barrett wrote. "I will continue to have a financial interest in these entities, but ... I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of either entity, unless I first obtain a written waiver."

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Standing Rock Rancher Runs Nation's Largest Native-Owned Buffalo Herd

(From The Bismarck Tribune)

BULLHEAD, S.D. — A punishing winter piled up snow on Ron Brownotter's pastures so high that half of his cattle starved because they couldn't graze the frigid, windswept prairie surrounding the Grand River.

A four-day blizzard stacked drifts as tall as a house, blocking roads to his pastures during the winter of 1996-97. "That changed everything for me," he said. "I knew I had to diversify from beef cattle."

The hard lessons from that disaster helped persuade Brownotter to switch to raising buffalo, the rugged "Monarch of the Plains" that adapted to thrive in the unforgiving environment of the Dakota prairies.

"They take care of themselves," he said. "They're hardy; they're strong."

Today, the Brownotter Buffalo Ranch on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation sprawls over 20,000 acres, home to a herd of 600. His herd is part of a buffalo resurgence at Standing Rock that also includes native herds owned by the tribe and others.

For Brownotter, raising buffalo isn't merely about practicalities. It's about his ancestry and identity, an extension of the days when the Standing Rock Sioux were sustained by buffalo herds that once roamed the Northern Plains by the millions.

"I'm raising buffalo because I'm a Lakota-Yanktonai person on Standing Rock," he said. "We're surviving here. It's who we were and who we are."

Read more. https://bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/standing-rock-rancher-runs-nation-s-largest-native-owned-buffalo/article_91ad2839-a5f8-5cb7-ab0e-1e18b2484608.html?fbclid=IwAR0AnEAL0jahyU3_9LhQBO6ISSJ4WXbB68Kf6RvdEgMqiykxQc7ngGD30rE

The Personhood Of Bison - National Bison Day Is November 2

(From Indian Country Today)

'Today bison are again thriving with a herd total of 300,000 of these iconic animals and their return, in turn, is feeding a renaissance of Blackfeet culture'

By definition, humans and animals are bonded in a dynamic and mutually beneficial relationship influenced by behaviors essential to the health and well-being of both.

Native hunters such as the Dakota and Lakota and the Blackfoot to name a few, were a central force in the history of bison, placing the giant mammal at the center of a web of natural, social, and spiritual connections. Until governmental intervention threatened to not only upset that

equilibrium, but the survival of the Native people who revered and relied on the human-bison interaction.

University of Arizona anthropologist/archaeologist Maria Nieves Zendeno spent 15 years working with Blackfoot hunters and religious leaders to uncover the cultural landscape of bison hunting and the management of tribal bison herds, what she called the oldest of human-animal interactions in North America.

She recently shared her findings in a seminar series called Animalities—What Animals Teach Us About Being Human. “Indigenous hunters in North America had a profound unbreakable bond with bison and treated them as powerful persons and partners who shaped every aspect of life,” she said.

Read more. <https://newsmaven.io/indiancountrytoday/culture/the-personhood-of-bison-national-bison-day-is-november-2-0g3U1OMNWEqXrKnRU2fGTA/>

Bison Released In Badlands NP To Explore Expanded Territory

(From Newscenter1.tv)

BADLANDS NP, S.D. — Our nation’s mammal, now roaming through more of the Badlands. After years of planning and multiple partnerships with agencies advocating for their return, bison now have an extra 22,000 acres to explore.

It was a bitter morning turned sweet when four, 2,000 lb. bison sprinted down the hill near Pinnacles Overlook. They return to the area for the first time since 1877. The acreage now totaling over 80,000 and shared by over 1,200 bison.

Representatives from agencies who’ve worked to see this day, say this effort will help bison across the nation and help the iconic and symbolic species continue to come back from near extinction.

“What we witnessed earlier today represents a critical part of the long-term recovery and survival of this most unbelievable and important species,” said Raymond Sauvot, National Park Service Associate Director.

The Badlands sit in the heart of the bison’s native lands. The expansion allows the herd to grow, strengthening the foundation laid out in the western side of the park.

“It’s going to be good for the health of the herd, for the genetics, it’ll be great for the health of the native mixed grass prairie which evolved with the bison on the landscape and it’s going to provide outstanding opportunities for visitors to see and learn about the bison in their natural habitat,” said Mike Pflaum, Superintendent of the Badlands National Park.

Read more. <https://www.newscenter1.tv/bison-released-in-badlands-np-to-explore-expanded-territory/>

The Next Yellowstone: How Big Money Is Building A New Kind Of National Park

(From Utah Public Radio)

The northern Great Plains aren't much to look at. It's the drab, boring part of a cross-country interstate drive between Seattle and Chicago.

No trees in sight. No water. But Sean Gerrity, founder of American Prairie Reserve, has always seen something more out here.

On a recent summer afternoon, he climbs a steep, grassy hill in the plains of northeastern Montana to show me.

Once we reach its top, the flat, yellow prairie opens up into a stunning panorama of deep, white canyons cut through by a wide, silty river.

"What you're seeing here is the incredible beauty of the Missouri River out in front of us," he says. "Those beautiful cliffs and the raking light coming across in the afternoon."

This is the country Gerrity wants to protect. A wild, rugged place full of steep coulees and unbroken plains. It's called American Prairie Reserve and it's a new kind of national park — one that's free to the public and privately funded by small donors and some of the world's wealthiest people.

Its goal is to rewild this swath of the Great Plains and return all the animals that lived on this landscape more than a century ago, before white settlers arrived. Wolves, grizzly bears, thousands of genetically pure, wild bison.

Gerrity points down to the valley below. "Over here would be some elk," he says. "Over here would be bison. On the riverbanks would be a mama grizzly bear with two or three little cubs walking along the mud there."

Making Gerrity's vision a reality requires piecing together an existing national monument and wildlife refuge with private properties and their accompanying grazing leases to create a giant, rewilded grassland.

Full story here. <https://www.kuer.org/post/next-yellowstone-how-big-money-building-new-kind-national-park#stream/0>

Lasting Shock: Study Finds Effects Of Buffalo Slaughter Evident In Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Today

(From the Billings Gazette)

FORT YATES, N.D. — A Standing Rock Sioux winter count remembers 1882 as the year White Beard went on a bison hunt with the Native Americans.

White Beard was the name the Lakotas and Yanktonai of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation gave to James McLaughlin, the agent who joined the Sioux in one of the last large buffalo hunts in North Dakota.

"This was a happy, though brief, interlude for the people who were now forced to eat government rations most of the time," a history written by the tribe in 1995 observed. By 1883, the northern herd, which once numbered in the millions, had been eliminated.

In fact, the sudden loss of the bison for tribes associated with Sitting Bull was a disaster that delivered an economic and cultural shock that persists today, more than a century later, according to a study by a team of economists.

The lingering adverse effects of the loss are dramatic, according to “The Slaughter of the Bison and Reversal of Fortunes on the Great Plains” by economists working for the Center for Indian Country Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

The reversal of fortunes: “Historically, bison-reliant societies were among the richest in the world and now they are among the poorest,” the researchers wrote.

The economic and social shocks were the greatest for tribes, like the Standing Rock Sioux, that relied heavily on the bison for their sustenance and lost them rapidly due to a massive slaughter by hide hunters in the 1870s and 1880s.

Today, tribes that once relied on the bison have between 20% and 40% less income per capita than the average American Indian nation, the study found.

Full story. https://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/lasting-shock-study-finds-effects-of-buffalo-slaughter-evident-in/article_a139b1ef-77d2-505a-9abe-37fa51030e04.html

A terrible pandemic is killing pigs around the world, and U.S pork producers fear they could be hit next

(From The Washington Post)

U.S. authorities have started active preparations in response to the rising threat of an outbreak of African swine fever, the deadly disease that has decimated the Chinese pig population and is spreading across Asia.

The Agriculture Department's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service led several functional exercises and drills late last month, working off a scenario of an outbreak of the virus in Mississippi that traveled across state lines before it was discovered. Fourteen states participated in the drill.

"We got everyone involved in terms of state troopers, diagnostic labs, private veterinarians and state officials, trying to figure out where the virus was," said Dave Pyburn, the senior vice president of science and technology for the National Pork Board. "As far as controlling it here, the closer we can get to that index case [the first identified case in an outbreak], the better we can control it."

Experts say the most likely vector for the disease arriving in North America is tainted animal feed.

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/y66g2pir>

Department of Agriculture Warns of Tainted Canadian Beef

(From Fortune)

The Department of Agriculture has issued an alert about beef products imported from Ontario, Canada to several states, after the manufacturer issued a recall over possible E. coli contamination.

The products, made by Ryding-Regency Meat Packers, Ltd., were distributed to retailers and wholesalers in Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

While it's possible some consumers have purchased the affected products, it's more likely restaurants have the meat in their freezers, due to the size of the packages. But the Agriculture Department's Food Safety and Inspection Service unit worries some consumers might have bought them in bulk.

Read more. <https://fortune.com/2019/10/17/tainted-canadian-beef-recall-e-coli/>

Regenerative Agriculture Could Help Stop Climate Change -- Can Tech Help Us Get There?

(From Forbes)

Climate change dominates the headlines and our news feeds and infiltrates our daily conversations. It's a problem that weighs heavily on our society, but a promising solution could be lying right beneath our feet — in the soil.

The practice of regenerative agriculture is an approach to farming that treats farms as part of whole ecosystems. Modern conventional farms often segment crops into separate monocultures, which one Washington Post writer explained can strip the soil of nutrients. One 2008 study showed that monoculture corn produces significantly higher nitrous oxide and carbon dioxide emissions than when corn follows soybeans on the same land. In contrast, regenerative agriculture is typically intended to take carbon out of the air and put it into the soil while replenishing and nourishing the land. The result can be more productive farms and healthier, more nutritious crops — and it might even fight climate change.

According to the European "4 Per 1,000" initiative (via Fast Company), if we increase the carbon in farm soil by 0.4% per year, it could offset the carbon dioxide humans put into the atmosphere. So, as the world grapples with dire warnings about our future, the question is: Why aren't we implementing this change on the double?

The simple solution isn't so simple.

According to a recent report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), agriculture, forestry and other land use contributed around a quarter of total net anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases from 2007 to 2016. According to the IPCC (via the EPA), in 2014, this sector was the world's second-largest greenhouse gas emitter, after the energy sector.

I believe regenerative farming practices such as no-till, compost application, livestock rotation and cover crops are promising alternatives that could create positive environmental impacts. These methods could help farmers improve soil health, increase biodiversity, retain water, decrease erosion and lessen dependence on chemical inputs.

Read more. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2019/10/17/regenerative-agriculture-could-help-stop-climate-change-can-tech-help-us-get-there/#437a6a6b594b>

New Seasons Market Launches Microloan Program

(From Specialty Food News)

New Seasons Market, headquartered in Portland, OR, has introduced the New Seasons Partner Fund, a microloan program intended to support a diverse regional food economy through low-interest jump-start loans and business mentorship. The fund is available to independent food producers who have been in business for a minimum of two years, with fewer than 25 employees, and who are looking to purchase equipment to expand product, introduce a new product to market, or develop new marketing materials.

“The New Seasons Partner Fund was inspired by our staff and partners who have been coming together in the spirit of building community through good food to support local producers with prepayments, donations, and mentorship,” says Chris Tjersland, New Seasons Market's director of brand development. “Creating a formal loan program helps entrepreneurs grow their business while furthering our commitment to support and empower a diverse regional food economy.”

Source. <https://www.specialtyfood.com/news/article/new-seasons-market-launches-microloan-program/>