



National Bison Association

8690 Wolff Court, Suite 200 Westminster, CO 80031-3646
www.BisonCentral.com Phone: 303-292-2833 Fax: 303-845-9081

Weekly Update from the National Bison Association

A news and update service *exclusively* for members of the National Bison Association.
(All items copyright, and not to be reprinted without explicit written permission of the NBA)

November 3, 2017

National Bison Day is Tomorrow

Celebrations and events across the country will celebrate the annual National Bison Day, and members of Congress and congressional staff members got a jump start yesterday with a National Bison Day event on Capitol Hill.

National Bison Day has been observed during the first Saturday of November for the past five years. The U.S. Senate each year has formally passed a resolution designating that observance.

This year's resolution was jointly sponsored by Sens. John Hoeven and Marty Heinrich. Senators co-sponsoring the resolution were: Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.), James Inhofe (R-Okla.), Tom Udall (D-N.M.), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.), Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.), Jon Tester (D-Mont.), Rob Portman (R-Ohio), Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) John Thune (R-S.D.), and Mike Rounds (R-S.D.).

The Capitol Hill event yesterday Honored U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem (R-S.C.), as the 2017 U.S. National Mammal Champion. Rep. Noem was instrumental in winning House passage of legislation last year designating bison as the national mammal. The event featured bison dishes, provided by Western Buffalo Co., a bison beard selfie stations, and displays from bison enthusiasts.

Many events are planned across the country tomorrow in celebration of National Bison Day. Several of those are included in this edition of Weekly Update.

Dave Carter, NBA Executive Director, noted, "It's fitting that the National Day honoring our National mammal comes at the beginning of the season of giving thanks. This magnificent animal gives all of us many reasons to be thankful."

NBA and Montana Bison Association Work to Stop Bison Ordinances

A cooperative effort between the National Bison Association (NBA) and Montana Bison Association (MtBA) to stop a series of anti-bison ordinances enacted by local soil conservation districts in that state bore fruit this week as NBA Assistant Director Jim Matheson and a group of Montana Bison Association members met in Great Falls with Conservation District supervisors involved in the ordinances.

Three of the supervisors in the meeting agreed to work to either repeal or amend the language in their ordinances in the next election to remove any mention of domestic bison. Two other supervisors at the meeting agreed not to pursue developing similar ordinances, as they saw them as discriminatory towards bison ranchers.

The controversy first arose in March 2016, when the Fergus Conservation District passed an ordinance that prohibited the production of any bison on conservation district lands without an approved management and conservation plan approved by the Conservation district. That plan would have included testing for brucellosis. Five other Conservation Districts subsequently enacted similar ordinances.

The NBA and MtBA weighed in during the early stages of the process to try and blunt the ordinances. In a letter issued to the Fergus Commissioners in March 2016, the associations wrote, "This ordinance...would single out bison producers for extremely restrictive oversight that would be more onerous than regulations regarding other commercial livestock species that can have equal negative impacts on land and water resources. We are also concerned that this ordinance represents a regulatory overreach by the Conservation District, and could set a precedent that would establish the Districts authority to impose new restrictions on all private landowners.

"The wording of this ordinance is prejudicial against those commercial producers. Accordingly, we request that you remove any reference from domestic (commercial) bison from this proposed ordinance," the associations wrote.

The NBA and MtBA have continued to work over the past 18 months to resolve the dispute without litigation.

Matheson noted after this week's meeting, "All in all it was a great success for bison producers, but we need to follow up to make sure the amendments or repeals get on the ballot next year." Matheson said that there is still ongoing discussion regarding references to "indigenous" bison in the resolutions, but all supervisors saw including "domestic" bison as problematic.

"I explained that since all bison in MT are indigenous, then all bison would be impacted. We'll have to work on this one," Matheson said.

MtBA President Craig Denny and past president Andrew Bardwell represented the MtBA at Tuesday's meeting in addition to NBA member Dr. Don Woerner.

Carter Addresses Society for Range Management

Bison, Nature's Original Mob Grazers, was the title of a presentation NBA Executive Director Dave Carter made at the annual conference of the Colorado Society for Range Management in Pueblo, CO on Tuesday.

This year's SRM meeting focused heavily on holistic management rotational grazing, and regenerative agricultural practices. Carter's presentation opened the meeting with a historical perspective on how much of the North American ecosystem evolved under intensive grazing by tightly bunched herd animals, with bison being the keystone species.

The audience of about 150 people at the meeting included USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Forest Service officials, Colorado State University faculty and students, tribal representatives, and cattle ranchers.

Winter Conference Agenda Now Available – Registration Open

The National Bison Association this week released a tentative agenda for its 2018 Winter Conference, themed "Roaming to Success". The three-day conference is full of learning and networking opportunities, which in recent years has attracted nearly 600 bison enthusiasts from across North America. See the agenda here. <https://bisoncentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/WCAgenda11.01.17.pdf>

Said conference manager, Jim Matheson, "As usual, our amazing planning committee put together an eclectic conference agenda that touches on all facets of today's bison business. Producers are not going to want to miss out on these informative sessions that will help them improve their operations at home."

And that's not to mention the fun... While attendees are kept plenty busy during the conference, there is our great 3-item raffle, a first-ever wine tasting foundation fundraiser, our best bison chili contest recipe, and even an art contest featuring buffalo art from children. Get all the details at <https://bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/>

We also have select sponsorships available that support and enhance the conference! If you're looking to get your name in front of today's bison business, please consider a Winter Conference sponsorship – details and availability here. <https://bisoncentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/2018WCSponsorship11.03.17.pdf>

Don't miss out on the biggest bison gathering of the year and register online safely and securely at <https://bisoncentral.com/2018-nba-winter-conference-registration-form/>

Just Over One Month to Save 10% on GTSS Consignments

As NBA members start to work their animals during roundup this fall, please be sure to consider a great opportunity that is the Gold Trophy Show and Sale, this January 16 – 20 in Denver, Colorado, which also concludes our annual Winter Conference. In fact, consign 7 or more entries, live or market class, and receive one free Winter Conference registration – a \$225 value. The deadline to receive 10% off of your Gold Trophy Show and Sale consignments is December 8, 2017.

Take a moment to check out the results from our 2017 GTSS here, <https://bisoncentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/2017GTSSResultst.pdf> and see why you should consider consigning

your top breeding stock to earn top dollar. Get all the details, forms and consign online at <https://bisoncentral.com/gold-trophy-show-and-sale/>

We also have trophy sponsorships available with whole class sponsorships available for \$500 and individual awards available for \$250, both of which include your ranch, farm or business name on the custom belt buckle awards and trophies. Please inquire about availability by emailing jim@bisoncentral.com, or calling the office at 303-292-2833.

Roundups are Underway: Be Sure to Sort out Some Support for NBA Growth Fund

The National Bison Association's Checkoff Program has been retooled, and renamed to help garner resources needed to continue to build consumer demand, and the bison herds to meet that demand.

Dave Carter, NBA executive director, explained, "As a part of our long term strategic plan, we want to get more people involved in supporting the growth of our business. Our checkoff program has consistently generated nearly \$50,000 annually over the past several years, with almost all those funds coming from a few large producers, processors and marketers. Those funds have helped underwrite many of our educational and outreach activities. But we can do more."

Carter said that controversies surrounding many of the commodity checkoff programs have given some producers a bad impression of anything labeled "checkoff."

"Our program is completely voluntary, and is focused on building our business for all of our members," Carter said. "That's why the board has renamed our program as the NBA Growth Fund, and will be harnessing the resources there to help us move toward our goal of restoring one million bison to North America."

"Bison roundups are just getting underway on ranches across the country, so we want to encourage members to set aside \$1 for every animal sold to contribute to the Growth Fund," Carter said. "Doubling the size of our fund will go a long way in building our presence in the marketplace, and in the pastures."

More information on the NBA Growth Fund is available here:

<https://bisoncentral.com/?s=Growth+Fund>

Attention NBA Life Members

Bison World Editor Marilyn Bay Drake is interested in talking with you about your experience raising bison and being an NBA member. If you would consider participating for a future article in *Bison World*, please contact her at marilynbaydrake@gmail.com

U.S. Senate Passes Resolution: Saturday is National Bison Day

(From KVRR)

Saturday has been designated as National Bison Day.

The U.S. Senate passed the bipartisan resolution to celebrate the cultural and historical significance of the North American Bison.

Senator John Hoeven introduced the resolution and says, "The bison's incredible story includes one of the most remarkable and successful examples of conservation efforts as they were brought back from the brink of extinction to flourish again."

Many Native Americans hold the bison as an important spiritual symbol.

The animal has also been designated as our national mammal.

Source: <http://www.kvrr.com/2017/11/01/u-s-senate-passes-resolution-saturday-national-bison-day/>

Celebrating National Bison Day with a Bison Hike

Three hundred years ago, there were upwards of sixty million bison roaming North America. By the late 1800's, there were fewer than a thousand. With the efforts of national, state, and private conservation efforts, the symbol of the rugged American plains has risen to half a million.

Last year, President Obama recognized the bison as America's official national mammal and designated that the first Saturday of November be National Bison Day.

Here in Missouri, Prairie State Park is celebrating National Bison Day with a day full of activities. At 10am, there will be a guided bison hike, where a naturalist will take a group of people out on of the trails closest to a herd of bison. After the hike, around noon, there will be activities and bison chili tasting at the nature center. A timeline showing man's history with the bison will also be on display along with fun activities for kids.

If you do travel out there to see the bison, please note that these are wild animals and to not get closer than 100 yards of these animals. They are big, have horns, and can travel upwards of 35 mph.

Source: <http://www.ky3.com/content/news/Celebrating-National-Bison-Day-with-a-bison-hike-454954403.html>

Celebrate National Bison Day at Prairie Heritage Center

(From KIWA Radio)

Sutherland, Iowa — You can celebrate the National Mammal of the United States this Saturday at the Prairie Heritage Center between Sutherland and Peterson.

Prairie Heritage Center Naturalist and Assistant Director Charlene Elyea tells us what they have planned to honor the American Bison.

Listen to broadcaster here. <http://kiwaradio.com/local-news/celebrate-national-bison-day-at-prairie-heritage-center/>

National Bison Day celebration at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

(From Free Press Newspapers)

Guided expeditions will be held at 10 and 11:30 a.m.; and 1 and 2:30 p.m. Guides will be available to provide information and updates pertaining to tallgrass prairie ecosystems and restoration, land use history and bison. Participants will meet at the Iron Bridge Trailhead parking lot, approximately 2.5 miles north of the Welcome Center, on Route 53.

Registration is required to participate in the adventure by calling 815-423-6370, or e-mail Midewin_RSVP@fs.fed.us.

The Information Trailer at Iron Bridge Trailhead will also be open on Nov. 4th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., where Volunteer Rangers will be on hand to provide information to the public. The Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Welcome Center will be open as well, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Source: <http://www.braidwoodjournal.com/content/national-bison-day-celebration-midewin-national-tallgrass-prairie>

POTLUCK: Not that buffalo...

(From the Pueblo Chieftain)

Craving beef, but looking for a healthier alternative? Why not try buffalo. It's similar to beef, but much healthier and a lot less fatty. Perhaps that's why Saturday is National Bison Day.

Here are some facts about bison:

1. Bison meat has always been a highly sought-after commodity in North America. As European settlers realized the palatability and value of the animals, the buffalo population declined dramatically from irresponsible hunting and exploitation.
2. In 1894, after a quarter century of unregulated hunting, the number of buffalo in North America had dwindled to little more than 300. At this time, President Grover Cleveland made it illegal to kill buffalo in order to start to rebuild the population. The North American Bison population made a comeback and is thriving today with over 500,000 across the continent.
3. Buffalo meat has been found to help fight cancer and is an excellent choice for those trying to lower their cholesterol, fight disease, build muscle and stay healthy while still enjoying red meat.
4. Buffalo meat has an excellent ratio of Omega-3 to Omega-6 acids and contains much more CLA (conjugated linoleic acid or "good fat") than was previously known. CLA enhances the body's ability to promote a healthy metabolism and fight disease.
5. Bison meat is lower in fat, calories and cholesterol than beef, pork, turkey, skinless chicken and even some fish. In addition, buffalo meat contributes about 69% more iron

than beef, with higher levels of vitamins and minerals and twice as much Beta-carotene as strictly grain-fed meats. -- jhbuffalomeat.com

Hangover Helper: Silver's Bison Huevos Rancheros

(From Washington City Paper)

The Dish: Bison Huevos Rancheros

Where to Get It: Silver, 3404 Wisconsin Ave. NW, (202) 851-3199, eatatsilver.com

Price: \$17

What It Is: A hearty helping of hangover relief is available any time of day thanks to Silver's all-day brunch menu, which includes a take on a classic dish—huevos rancheros. Silver serves it with chorizo and bison hash mixed with rice. It's topped with goat cheese, two over-easy eggs, fresh guacamole, peppers, and salsa rojo. Three giant tortilla chips come on the side for scooping, so no silverware is required.

How it Tastes: Every miserable start to the day needs a fiery burst of flavor to awaken the body and soul, and these huevos rancheros deliver. The cool and creamy guacamole and goat cheese cut through the heat and acidity of red peppers and salsa. But the best part of the dish is at the bottom, beneath a runny egg yolk. That's where you'll find a mix of bison and chorizo hash, which delivers a spicy and slightly gamey flavor.

Why It Helps: This dish will turn your "Oof!" into an instant "Olé!" And who doesn't love a dish that allows you to eat with your hands? Simply grab one of the oversized tortilla chips and dig deep into this marvelous mess of morning-after relief.

Read more. <https://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/food/article/20980582/hangover-helper-silvers-bison-huevos-rancheros>

Wildlife Refuge Rounds Up Bison in Effort to Repopulate Herds

(From Fox 31)

Years ago, when Native Americans and cowboys roamed the lands in Colorado, there were millions of bison thundering across the mountains and prairies.

According to the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife service](http://www.fishandwildlife.gov), an estimated 30 million to 60 million bison roamed North America.

In the 1990s, there were only an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 wild bison with an additional 250,000 in private herds.

The only bison in Colorado are at places such as the Rocky Mountain Arsenal or along Interstate 70 near Genesse -- but none of those is wild bison.

But now there are efforts around the country to bring wild bison back.

At the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge on Tuesday, there was the annual roundup of their herd of nearly 150 American bison.

The wildlife refuge does this every year to evaluate the herd and collect scientific data that focuses on the genetic diversity.

The goal of the program is to repopulate bison herds as genetically pure as possible.

"This herd is very important because it has a lot of the best genetics and good genetic diversity," said Nick Kaczor, the assistant manager of the refuge. "This is where bison belong. This is the kind of place they inhabited hundreds of years ago.

"They're a great tool in the fact that they replicate a lot of the things we need to restore native prairie on the landscape here at the refuge."

The bison are a 10-minute drive from downtown Denver, located near Dick's Sporting Goods Park. There's three similar refuges around the country to try to bring the bison back.

Read more. <http://kdvr.com/2017/11/01/wildlife-refuge-rounds-up-bison-in-effort-to-repopulate-herds/>

United by Blue's New Jacket is Made with Bison Hair and It's Awesome

(From the Manual)

The [Bison Sport Jacket](#) from United by Blue is here, and it will quite possibly be your new favorite winter jacket. This rugged outerwear — coming from a [brand](#) that focuses on sustainability in addition to style — is good for both your closet and the environment. It starts with the most in-depth detail: the insulation is made from the coat of the American bison. The buffalo's hollow outer hairs are lightweight and resilient, the perfect combination for keeping warm.

The Bison Sport Jacket features a blend of bison fiber and recycled polyester called B100 Fill, which is proprietary to United By Blue. This mixture adds up to temperature-regulating, moisture-wicking performance.

The winning formula creates much less waste by harnessing a common ranching industry byproduct: the insulating quality of bison fiber. If you're interested in the process, so you can see exactly how the brand sources its textiles and crafts durable, sustainable gear for the guy on the go [here](#). Of course, the resulting jacket is durable, stylish, and tough.

Read more. <https://www.themanual.com/fashion/united-by-blue-bison-sport-jacket/>

Annual bison roundup provides beauty, insight at Tallgrass Prairie Preserve

(From Tulsa 8ABC TV)

OSAGE COUNTY, Okla. (KTUL) -- Dozens of ranchers gathered together this morning to round up hundreds of wild bison on the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve.

It's one of the most beautiful sights in Oklahoma and you may never see something more incredible.

Hundreds of bison strolling by this morning, cloaked in darkness and fog.

These huge creatures roam wild on the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Osage county. Except for once a year when Harvey Payne and the Nature Conservancy round them up. "It's special, it's very special," said Payne.

The preserve has more than 40,000 acres near Pawhuska with at least 2,500 bison.

Full story: <http://ktul.com/news/local/annual-bison-roundup-provides-beauty-insight-at-tallgrass-prairie-preserve>

Clovis Withdraws His Nomination for USDA's Top Scientist Post *(From the Washington Post)*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientist nominee, [Sam Clovis](#), withdrew his name from consideration Wednesday amid revelations that he was among [top officials on the Trump campaign who was aware of efforts](#) by foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos to broker a relationship between the campaign and Russian officials.

Court documents unsealed Monday revealed that Papadopoulos [pleaded guilty](#) in early October to making false statement to FBI investigators about his contacts with foreigners claiming to have high-level Russian connections. In August 2016, Clovis encouraged Papadopoulos to organize an "off the record" meeting with Russian officials, according to court documents. "I would encourage you" and another foreign policy adviser to the campaign to "make the trip, if it is feasible," Clovis wrote. The meeting did not ultimately take place.

In a letter to the president Wednesday, Clovis explained that he did not think he could get a fair consideration from the Senate, which was slated to hold a hearing on his appointment on Nov. 9.

Full Story. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2017/11/02/sam-clovis-withdraws-nomination-for-udsas-top-scientist-post-after-being-linked-to-russia-probe/?utm_term=.6babc0107ca2

State Grants Fund On-Farm Livestock Improvements *(From MN Dept. of Agriculture)*

Livestock producers may apply for a portion of \$1.9 million in Livestock Investment Grants. Funds are provided by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) Program and may be used for on-farm improvements.

“Livestock Investment Grants help farmers stay competitive and reinvest in their industry,” said MDA Commissioner Dave Frederickson. “Last year, 105 livestock farmers received grants to improve their operations.”

With Livestock Investment funds awarded during the 2017 fiscal year, Jordan Daugherty of Raymond purchased feeding and fencing equipment, which will enable him to raise more sheep. In Hartland, Brady Jensen used grant funds to construct a 2,400 head swine facility to increase profitability and allow a young farmer to start farming full time.

Joseph Hemmesch of Paynesville used the grant funds to update a manure pit and feeding equipment and add more stalls to his barn. These improvements will help grow his dairy herd and protect the environment.

Qualifying producers are reimbursed 10 percent of the first \$500,000 of investment, with a minimum investment of \$4,000. Qualifying expenditures include the purchase, construction or improvement of livestock buildings or facilities. Fencing, feeding and waste management equipment are also eligible. Producers who suffered a loss due to natural disaster may also apply. The grant will not pay for livestock, land purchases or debt refinancing. Projects must begin after January 1, 2018.

Past applicants who did not receive an award must reapply for the 2018 program. Applications for beginning farmers, farmers transitioning into livestock, and those with a positive environmental impact receive priority. [Details and grant guidelines are available.](#) The application deadline is December 15, 2017. [Please apply online \(PDF\).](#)

Michigan Value-Added Grant Program

The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) is offering a grant opportunity to promote the expansion of value-added agriculture production, processing, and access within the state to enhance Michigan's food and agriculture industry.

MDARD will accept proposals that are intended to establish, retain, expand, attract, and/or develop value-added agricultural processing in Michigan; expand or develop regional food systems; or expand access to healthy food. Applicants must provide a 30% cash match for grants up to the \$125,000 maximum. Funding will be focused on food hub development, food access, or value-added food processing.

Proposals are due November 7, 2017.

Read more. http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1570_51684_78393---,00.html

Codex Transfer Was Not Held Up for Lack of Talk About It

(From Food Safety News)

In most months, industry and consumer representatives, each get one meeting with USDA's top brass at the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

But in September, acting FSIS Administrator Paul Kiecker and temporary Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety Carmen Rottenberg met twice with each group, once on Sept. 7 and again on Sept. 21.

The first meetings were entirely about USDA's proposal to transfer the U.S. Codex program to trade from food safety. Planned as part of the reorganization of USDA by Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, the Codex move is currently in a holding pattern.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which contributes expertise to the FSIS-led program, is on record with concerns about the credibility of its scientists if Codex were to be moved to USDA's trade unit.

Industry and consumer groups are split on the idea. Most mainline food and agriculture organizations endorse the move, while consumer groups have expressed concerns about food safety taking a backseat to foreign market strategies.

Regular "stakeholder" issues were the subjects of the second set of consumer and industry meetings hosted by Kiecker and Rottenberg later in September.

Catfish was the subject of two meetings with top FSIS officials during September. Kiecker and assistant FSIS Administrator Roberta Wagner met Sept. 5 with Sara Brenholt of Miami-based Henderson Strategies, a federal government lobbying firm. Brenholt was representing the Wild American Catfish Coalition.

Kiecker, Carmen and two other FSIS officials discussed catfish inspection with Mykel Wedig, agricultural assistant to Sen. Richard Burr, R-NC. Catfish inspection became a permanent part of FSIS duties after an 18-month transition period that ended in September.

On Sept. 15, Rottenberg discussed beef traceability and food safety with a large delegation from the China Meat Association, including Shandong Agriculture University, and the Chongqing Heyi Import and Export Trade Co. Companies represented included Jarvis China, Ningxia Xiahua Meat Product Co., and Balikun. Others present were from East-Terra Plastics and the North American Meat Institute. The North American Meat Institute (NAMI) provided a staff interpreter for the meeting.

On Sept. 21, Rottenberg and Kiecker held separate "Meet and Greet" events with representatives of Cargill and Hormel.

On the same day, Kiecker and two other FSIS officials hosted the National Bison Association's Washington Roundup delegation to discuss the "cost of federal inspection, particularly in small and very small processing facilities," along with "interpretation of regulations of federal inspection of bison processing." Also discussed was labeling — bison versus buffalo — and cooperative interstate shipment programs regulations "as they pertain to bison."