



## 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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**November 10, 2017**

## National Bison Day Celebrated Across the Nation

Private ranchers, public park managers and other buffalo enthusiasts celebrated national Bison Day last Saturday with a variety of events and announcements. Here's a smattering of the news coverage:

Wild Idea Buffalo Co. Celebrates National Bison Day

<http://www.kotatv.com/content/news/Wild-Idea-Buffalo-Co-celebrate-National-Bison-Day--455213453.html>

National Bison Day!

<http://kelo.com/news/articles/2017/nov/04/national-bison-day/>

MN State Parks Celebrate National Bison Day

<http://www.fox9.com/news/mn-state-parks-celebrate-national-bison-day>

It's National Bison Day!

<http://www.defendersblog.org/2017/11/national-bison-day/>

## NBA Hits the Airwaves at Farm Broadcaster Convention

National Bison Executive Director Dave Carter and Vice President Dick Gehring spread the word about Bison 1 Million, Bison Hump Day, and The Bison Advantage yesterday as they conducted roughly 30 interviews with agricultural journalists attending the annual convention of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters in Kansas City, MO.

Carter and Gehring Hosted the NBA's booth at the annual Trade Talk, an annual event at the NAFB meeting in which the reporters at the conference circulate throughout the hotel ballroom to conduct interviews with representatives from roughly 100 companies and associations.

"Trade Talk is 6 ½ hours of non-stop interviews and conversations with agricultural journalists from every corner of the country," Carter said. "It's a great opportunity for us to spread our message, and to cultivate relationships that benefit us throughout the year."

Carter added that the NBA booth has become a popular destination for several farm broadcasters over the past five years.

“This is our fifth year at Trade Talk,” he said. “We know have several reporters who make a point to swing by every year for an update on bison. Several of the broadcasters tell us that they appreciate the positive, upbeat message from the bison sector.”

The NBA’s participation in Trade Talk is made possible through support from the Association’s Growth Fund.

## **Matheson Attends ITBC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference**

NBA Assistant Director, Jim Matheson, attended the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the InterTribal Buffalo Council in Las Vegas this week. The Council celebrated 25 years of restoring buffalo herds to tribal lands and buffalo to Native American diets.

Matheson presented the Bison 1 Million campaign to attendees and urged continued cooperation among the two organizations while highlighting the crucial need for Native Americans to assist in the restoration of 1 million bison to North America.

Also in attendance was NBA board member, and NBA liaison to the ITBC, Mimi Hillenbrand, who presented on holistic management practices on her 777 Ranch.

The InterTribal Buffalo Council represents 63 tribes across the country that are raising over 20,000 buffalo on their lands.

## **NBA to Exhibit at Ag Bankers Conference Next Week**

The National Bison will be reaching out to ag lenders with information about the Bison Advantage next week, with a booth at the annual Agricultural Bankers’ Conference in Milwaukee, WI.

Tom Barthel, NBA regional director, and Tom Riemann of the North American Bison Co-op will help host the booth, which will provide attendees with information regarding the economic stability, and the strong financial outlook of the bison business. More than 600 bankers are registered to attend the conference.

The NBA booth at the conference is made possible through funding from the association’s Growth Fund. Donate here. <https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-growth-fund-program/>

## **Do You Have Photos of Your Farmers’ Market and/or Agritourism Business? Send ‘em Along**

Do you have photos or video of your farmers' market booth, or agritourism enterprise from the past two years? If so, please send them along to the NBA for inclusion in the new Farmers' Market and Agritourism Resource Guide now in final development.

"We are wrapping up a comprehensive curriculum and resource guide that will provide valuable information to prospective marketers, and established operators alike," said Dave Carter, NBA Executive Director. "In addition to publishing a hard copy version of the resource guide, we are also putting it on-line. We need artwork and videos that will provide visual examples to accompany the written text."

Photos and videos can be send to Carter at [david@bisoncentral.com](mailto:david@bisoncentral.com). Or, if the materials exceeds the size for email, they can be loaded into Dropbox or other cloud-based storage vehicles.

The NBA is administering a three-year Farmers Market Promotion Program grant that with funding provided by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. The resource guide and curriculum are one portion of that grant. Next year, that curriculum will be used in a series of five workshops to be conducted around the country.

## **2018 Throlson Scholarship Recipients Announced**

The Dr. Ken Throlson American Bison Foundation this week announced that it will be awarding ten \$1,000 scholarships to students pursuing studies in agricultural related fields over next year.

Brain Ward, chairman of the foundation, announced, "We had an extremely well-qualified slate of applicants for support this year. We hope to provide as many students as possible with funding that will support their studies, and help them become part of the next generation of agricultural leaders."

Seven of the scholarships are being awarded from the foundation's Dr. Ken Throlson Fund, named in honor of one of the pioneers in bison heard health management. The other three are being awarded from the Richard Zahringer Fund, which recognizes Mr. Zahringer's long-time contribution to the financial management of the NBA and other bison industry organizations.

Recipients of the Throlson Scholarships are:

- Jonathan Horton – Biology – University of Southern Alabama
- Natalie Hughes – Veterinary Medicine – Ohio State University
- Elisabeth Loseke - Veterinary Medicine – University of Nebraska
- Jeff Martin – PhD in Wildlife Studies – Texas A&M University
- Amy McBirney – Veterinary Medicine – University of California-Davis
- Kieran Smith – Veterinary Medicine – Ross University
- Summer Smith – Nutrition – University of Tennessee

Zahringer Scholarship recipients are:

- Anna Goode – Agribusiness – University of Georgia
- Tailer Schmuki – Animal Science – Ohio State University
- Sierra Williamson – Agriculture and Food Business Management – University of Minnesota

## **It's Not Too Early for Year-End Giving**

The days are growing shorter. Sunrise in many places now breaks over shimmering frost or fresh fallen in the mountain states and Northern Plains. The bison have grown new winter coats to protect them from the blizzards they know are just around the corner.

For millennia bison have known how to prepare for an approaching winter. A contribution to the National Buffalo Foundation can help protect them far into the future. It's not too late to think about your year-end giving, though 4th Quarter 2017 is rapidly coming to an end.

Have you considered donating to the National Buffalo Foundation, a registered 501c(3) organization devoted to preserving the heritage and legacy of American bison? All gifts no matter how large or small are most welcome.

Your gift contributes to professionally administered funding that furthers the Foundation's credible research and public education. Examples of current priority projects include maintaining and expanding the traveling BISON Exhibit and growing the Rusty Seedig Legacy Scholarship.

Why not create a memorial or honorarium in perpetual remembrance of a deserving person? Visit the Foundation's Ways to Give webpage at <http://www.nationalbuffalofoundation.org/contribute>, where you'll learn more about types of contributions, can download a printable donation form or make your gift while you're right there online.

Amazon Smile.

You can also simply mail your check to

National Buffalo Foundation  
%Bud Flocchini, Treasure  
1330 Capital Blvd. Suite A  
Reno, NV 89502

It's not too late to give for 2017. Share in the legacy.

## **Roundup Keeps the Bison Herd Thriving at Tallgrass Prairie Preserve**

*(From the ADA News)*

You hear them before you see them.

It's a loud rumbling, almost like waves of thunder clashing. Then they emerge, running, out of the thick fog.

Hundreds of bison thundered into the corral at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve early Thursday morning, as part of the 2017 Bison Roundup.

Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, near Pawhuska, is the largest protected example of tallgrass prairie in North America at about 40,000 acres, said Bob Hamilton, preservation director for the Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma.

“It’s the most aggressive attempt to try to restore that original tallgrass prairie ecosystem,” Hamilton said.

On that 40,000-acre preserve, a herd averaging 2,600 to 2,700 bison roam on about 24,000 acres during the year.

“They’re free to go where they want to go within that 24,000 acres, except for about two weeks out of the year when we ‘invite’ them to attend our roundup,” Hamilton said. We’re the ‘predator’

The annual roundup holds two large purposes: to adjust the herd size and perform an annual health checkup on the bison.

“We don’t want to have disease issues and other kinds of health issues within the herd, so roundup is a one-time opportunity to administer any kind of vaccinations we think are necessary,” Hamilton said.

Each year, 600 to 700 calves are born, so about the same amount of bison are sold after roundup, said Harvey Payne, communications director and the first preservation director of the agency. About a dozen people run the corral system during roundup.

“We have a pretty conservative stocking rate. If we didn’t sell surplus animals each year, they’d quickly run out of something to eat (and) overpopulate the area,” Payne said. “The natural predator of the bison historically was the wolf ... well, the wolf is gone ... so we’re the ‘predator.’ So we round them up each year. We inoculate the bison just like our ranching neighbors inoculate their cattle ... and then we sell surplus animals. We sell those by sealed bid.” The sold bison go to a number of directions around the country, usually to others starting or increasing their private bison herds.

Each day of roundup, a large portion of the herd — usually anywhere from 600 to 800 — are rounded up in the main corral at the break of dawn and herd maintenance is completed throughout the rest of the day.

This year is the 24th annual roundup, dating back to the first one in the winter of 1994. There were two roundups in 1994, and one every fall since, Hamilton said.

Full Story: [http://www.theadanews.com/news/local\\_news/roundup-keeps-the-bison-herd-thriving-at-tallgrass-prairie-preserve/article\\_ec9b0551-4929-5db1-ab71-1da5e173959e.html](http://www.theadanews.com/news/local_news/roundup-keeps-the-bison-herd-thriving-at-tallgrass-prairie-preserve/article_ec9b0551-4929-5db1-ab71-1da5e173959e.html)

## **Interior Alaska’s Mild Weather Makes for Happy Bison Hunters**

*(From Alaska Dispatch News)*

The ground is barely white. Trapping season has opened in the Interior game management units and early trappers are still in tennis shoes. Snowmobiles are sitting on green grass in front of the homes of optimists. Ice fishermen have no place to stand.

The only happy people are Delta Junction bison hunters.

Warm temperatures and no snow are contributing to unprecedented success for buffalo hunters. Three years ago, it was well below zero by now. The past couple of seasons it has been relatively warm, but with enough snow to make vehicle travel difficult on trails.

This year the back trails are frozen hard enough to make travel easy. The bison moved earlier than usual and are scattered throughout the Delta Junction Bison Range and agricultural district. Hunters working the state-managed range are having very good success — half of the 40 buffalo taken so far have come from the range.

Under the direction of Alaska Department of Fish & Game, the Department of Natural Resources conducted a controlled burn on parts of the range last spring. Three or four hundred acres of oats were planted along with about a hundred acres of turnips.

Bison love turnips. They don't eat the turnip, but they browse the tops to the ground. They also spend considerable time on the oats. Fish & Game plants the oats relatively late because it's not interested in having the plants go to seed. The bison want the leafy portion, not the grain. The animals were on the range early this year. Most of the herd arrived on the range and in the farm districts by mid-August, continuing the trend of the past few years.

Delta bison summer along the Delta River flats. They calve on the open bars and feed on the abundant sedges the river bars offer. The migration to and from the river is not done en masse but rather over about a month's time. Groups between three and 40 animals make their way over the Donnelly highlands and disperse into the Delta Barley Project.

**Full story:** <https://www.adn.com/outdoors-adventure/2017/11/05/interior-alaskas-mild-weather-makes-for-happy-buffalo-hunters/>

## **'I Deserved It': Yukon Hunter Becomes the Hunted** *(From ctvnews.ca)*

When Todd Pilgrim set out on a crisp, snowy morning to hunt bison north of his home in Whitehorse, Yukon, he had no idea that he would become the one hunted that day. Pilgrim has been trying to kill a bison for 14 years.

They're so hard to get because they're so smart," the retired senior natural resource officer for the Yukon territorial government said.

Pilgrim told CTVNews.ca in a telephone interview. "I have a lot of respect for them." On Tuesday, Pilgrim and his buddy Fred Mullett woke up early and drove to a hunting area located a few kilometres north of Twin Lakes. It wasn't long before Pilgrim's friend spotted a large bison standing approximately 250 metres away.

Pilgrim knelt down, steadied his .338 Remington Ultra Magnum rifle and shot his prey. The bison didn't even flinch.

The hunter said he believed the bullet might have “bounced off” the animal he estimates weighed at least 2,000 pounds. Pilgrim shot the bison two more times before it sauntered off.

“He walked into the woods as if I hadn’t even hit him. I know I hurt him,” Pilgrim recalled. They waited 20 minutes before following the injured animal so they wouldn’t startle it as they caught up. Before long, Mullett tired of tracking the bison and returned to the truck for a break. Pilgrim was determined to catch his first bison, so he continued alone, tracking the beast for another three and a half hours until he found a pool of blood in the snow.

“I was like, ‘Oh, yeah! He’s here somewhere!’” he said.

Full story: <http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/i-deserved-it-yukon-hunter-becomes-the-hunted-1.3671809>

## **Report Finds Farmers' Animal Care Continuously Improving**

*(From Augusta Free Press)*

A recent report from the Animal Agriculture Alliance found that livestock producers are making strides in animal care, environmental sustainability and food safety.

Advances in Animal Ag highlights the agriculture industry's commitment to continuous animal care improvement. "The animal agriculture industry is broad and diverse, and it can be hard to stay on top of all the progress being made," explained Kay Johnson Smith, alliance president and CEO.

The alliance is a nonprofit organization that helps bridge the communication gap between farmers and consumers by sharing modern animal agriculture practices with food industry stakeholders. The group's membership shares a commitment to protecting animal agriculture and preserving consumer choice in the marketplace and is comprised of individuals and companies, including the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation.

"Our Advances in Animal Ag report helps key influencers such as the media, restaurant and food service leaders, legislators and dietitians learn about animal agriculture's commitment to innovation and advancement."

For example, the report found that dairy farms producing more than 98 percent of the U.S. milk supply belong to the National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management program. The program oversees uniformity in dairy care.

Full text:

<http://augustafreepress.com/report-finds-farmers-animal-care-continuously-improving/>

## **Amazon Exec Named to Oversee Whole Foods Market**

*(From Sustainable Food News)*

Amazon.com's senior vice president, Steve Kessel, will lead the e-commerce giant's new Whole Foods Market subsidiary, according to a [report by The Wall Street Journal](#).

Seattle-based Amazon [acquired the world's largest organic and natural grocery chain](#) on Aug. 28 for \$13.7 billion.

In a press release Thursday, Whole Foods said that its shoppers can now shop for Amazon's Alexa-voice devices such as the new Echo, Echo Dot, Fire TV, Kindle e-readers, and Fire tablets at more than 100 Whole Foods stores.

"Whole Foods Market and Amazon will together continue innovating to provide customers with a great shopping experience, in-store offerings, and lower prices," the company said in a statement.

In addition, staffed Amazon pop-up stores will open at Whole Foods stores in select cities, where shoppers can try and buy Amazon devices and learn about services like Prime and content on Prime Video, including:

- Nov. 13 - Chicago and Rochester Hills, Mich.
- Nov. 14 - Davie, Fla., and Pasadena, Calif.
- Nov. 15 - new Union Station store in Denver, Colo.