



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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December 8, 2017

Today is the Last Day to Consign Animals to GTSS and Save 10%

Today is the last to consign in GTSS and Save 10% on entry fees. The last day to consign otherwise is December 16th. Further, if you consign 7 or more entries, you'll receive on free Winter Conference registration, a \$225 value. See this year's auction results [here](#) and see why you should consider consigning animals to GTSS!

- [Consign online quickly and securely here.](#)
- [See all the details, official rules and a hard copy registration form here.](#)
- [Reserve your GTSS Catalog Ad here.](#)

The 38th annual Gold Trophy Show and Sale (GTSS) will offer premium breeding stock as well as carcass/market animals to buyers. Increased consumer demand, a shortage of market ready animals, record crop yields and cheaper feed all point to herd expansions this coming year. Don't miss out on this excellent opportunity to sell some of your premium breeding stock, or to take home top-performing bison. We'll again start the sale at 10 am with the market class, followed immediately by the live animal consignments.

The deadline to consign animals is December 16th. However, those who consign by December 8th, receive 10% off of their consignment fees, and if you consign 7 or more animals, you receive a free conference registration to the NBA's annual Winter Conference that same week – a \$225 value.

Returning GTSS judges Dick Gehring of Kansas will serve for his second year and will be accompanied by Nate Scott of Saskatchewan, also serving his second year of GTSS judging. Both of these individuals have a strong history as judges and are excellent, well regarded bison stewards.

Market Class consignors can expect to get top dollar for their carcass animals, while gaining great exposure to the industry. Market Class entries are also judged by Colorado State

University and USDA professional meat graders and are processed at the state of the art Brush Meat Processors in Brush, Colorado.

Another great way to gain enduring exposure is to sponsor a 2018 GTSS trophy. Whole class sponsorships (1st through 3rd or 5th depending on class size) are available for \$500 and include beautiful trophies for the top winners. Contact the NBA for sponsorship availability at 303-292-2833 or jim@bisoncentral.com.

2018 GTSS - January 16 – 20, 2018

[National Western Complex](#): Denver, CO

Bison Arrive: Tuesday & Wednesday, January 16 & 17.

Show: Friday, January 19, 8:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Banquet and Dinner: Friday, January 19, 5:30 p.m. Denver Renaissance Hotel (Tickets available [here](#).)

Judges Comments: Saturday, January 20, 8:30 a.m. in the stockyards.

Market Bison Sale: Saturday, January 20, 10:00 a.m. in the NWSS Livestock Center Auction Arena.

Live Sale: Saturday, January 20, Immediately following the market class sale in the NWSS Livestock Center Auction Arena.

Where: [Livestock Center Auction Arena](#), NWSS, Denver, Colorado

Questions? Please contact Jim Matheson at jim@bisoncentral.com, or (303) 292-2833.

New and Improved E-Reader for NBA Members Now Available

The National Bison Association recently upgraded its online publications significantly with the addition of an interactive digital publishing platform.

Life, Active, Allied Industry and Junior NBA members can now view past copies of Bison World magazine with the program. See the bookshelf of issues available here:

<https://bisoncentral.com/publication/bison-world-magazine/>

The same members can also view the Bison Producer's Handbook 2nd Edition using the same technology, which includes a search function that allows readers to research a topic in the book as they would using a search engine.

Other publications in the Online Publications sections of bisoncentral.com include the NBA's DVD – The Insider's Guide to Bison Management, and archived copies of the weekly update. Learn more at <https://bisoncentral.com/publications/>.

Less Than 2 Weeks to Submit Your Best Bison Chili Recipe

December 20th is the deadline to submit your best bison chili recipe. The 2018 Roaming to Success Winter Conference sees the return of the NBA Best Bison Chili Contest.

The top two recipes, to be judged by a local culinary professional, will be served at the Thursday Winter Conference luncheon, with attendees voting for the top winner. Top winners will receive a commemorative prize and inclusion of their recipe on the NBA's social media channels, as well as Bison World magazine and its website.

Must be a current NBA member to participate. Attendance is not required, but encouraged.

Base protein should be ground bison. See detailed contest rules here,

<https://bisoncentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Bison-Chili-Recipe-Contest-rulesJM.pdf>.

To submit your best recipe, please email to jim@bisoncentral.com by December 20th.

Still Time to Submit Your Kids' Best Bison Art Work

HO HO HO Everyone,

SANTA here!!! Just a little request during this busy time of year. The NBA winter conference is fast approaching and I want to remind everyone that there is a SUPER cool Art Contest for kids with cash prizes and recognition. It would really make this Ol' SANTA happy if you would enter. This is something you could work on during the holiday break when it too cold outside. DETAILS BELOW..

As for all you wonderful cooks out there, we know there are some great chili recipes. Please consider entering the CHILI Contest for the NBA winter conference. Not only do you get bragging rights, you get a wonderful plaque and recognition in several publications. DETAILS BELOW..

CHEERS to all and many blessings!

 SANTA (still loving those 🍪 cookies!!!)

NBA Instagram Member Promotion Program

The National Bison Association wants your great bison shots to help promote our business and yours! The NBA's Instagram account features quality bison photos from NBA members, which reaches thousands of consumers and enthusiasts.

But quality bison images are in short supply and we'd love to get some of your great shots from the ranch to share.

Please email your bison shot to jim@bisoncentral.com for consideration and please include the photographer's name for recognition, as well as your Instagram and/or Twitter handle, for example #nbisona for the National Bison Association's Instagram handle, which allows the NBA

to “tag” you when we post your photo, ensuring further recognition and attention.

Says current NBA social media manager, Jim Matheson, “We’ve shared a variety of bison related items on our social media channels, and at the end of the day, good photographs of buffalo always get the most “likes” and “shares”. The thousands of folks who follow us on social media are in awe of this magnificent animal and there is no shortage to awesome bison photos among our membership”.

Management-intensive Grazing on the Snowcrest

By Aaron Paulson, President, Montana Bison Association

(From The MBA November 2017 Newsletter)

Editor’s note: Mr. Paulson will be presenting on the topic of low stress handling at the 2018 NBA Winter Conference, January 17 – 20th). <https://bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/>

This past year we made some changes in grazing practices on a portion of the Snowcrest Ranch. We have one center pivot that was historically used for hay production. The price of bison and the cost to put up hay helped inspire change.

With the full support and encouragement of our upper management in the Bozeman office we took a step in the direction of intensifying our grazing on a portion of the ranch. The term that best describes it is Management-intensive Grazing coined by Jim Gerrish. The emphasis is on the Management. And there is certainly a requirement for a dedicated person to ensure the system works. We also strive to implement the foundations taught by Holistic Management and incorporate this into the overall planning process. So I’m sure you are asking what did we do?

The fenced pasture that includes the center pivot is 151 acres. The majority of this is under sprinkler irrigation and the periphery is under flood irrigation. We planned the installation of permanent division fences in strategic locations, and the ability to further subdivide with temporary electric fences with stock water in each paddock. We used 2 wire high tensile fences for permanent divisions. Single and 2 wire bungee electric gates, and 2 and 3 wire poly wire temporary subdivisions.

Ultimately we were able to utilize 22 different individual paddocks that we grazed for 2-4 days each. We put 215 yearling bison bulls in this system to graze starting May 18 and they stayed in the pasture until November 12. In the early fall we exceeded the forage regrowth and had to remove the herd from the pasture for 35 days to allow for fall regrowth. And we supplemented the animals for the late October and November period to prepare them for finishing and to extend the pasture.

Read more. https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/95f524_21690055fa094d719efe0522d6e42241.pdf

Montana Wildlife Reserve to Offer Bison Hunts on the Prairie

(From The US News and World Report)

BILLINGS, Montana (AP) — A conservation group attempting to piece together the largest private wildlife reserve in the United States says it will allow eight hunters a chance to kill bison on the grasslands of north-central [Montana](#).

American Prairie Reserve spokeswoman Becky Lonardo said Tuesday its bison herd has almost 900 animals. Also known as buffalo, they roam on portions of 623 square miles (1,615 square kilometers) that the group controls along the [Missouri](#) River.

The reserve for the first time next year will offer bison hunts to four people from surrounding communities, two hunts to be auctioned online and two to be given to other organizations.

Since 2001, American Prairie has raised more than \$100 million with a goal of creating a nearly 5,500 square-mile (14,000 square-kilometer) reserve — an area larger than Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks combined.

Read more. <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/montana/articles/2017-12-05/montana-wildlife-reserve-to-offer-bison-hunts-on-the-prairie>

Bison-car crashes too common in Wind Cave

(From KEVN)

WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK, S.D. (KEVN) - So far this season, three bison have been injured and one killed in collisions with vehicles traveling through Wind Cave National Park. The recent crashes happened along U.S. Highway 385.

“Despite their size, these animals are very difficult to see on the park’s winding roads, all the more so at night or when visibility is poor due to winter weather,” said Vidal Dávila, Wind Cave National Park superintendent.

Animals such as bison and elk can be found on or near roads during the winter months where salt is tracked in by vehicles. The park does not salt its roads.

“Bison gather in the driving lanes, especially next to the cattle guards, where salt is most easily tracked in on vehicles,” said Dávila.

According to the park, an impaired or negligent driver may be fined for the death of an animal. The park has around 350 bison and 390 elk.

Read more. <http://www.blackhillsfox.com/content/news/Bison-car-crashes-too-common-in-Wind-Cave-462563933.html>

New KLA policy supports federal legislation to improve livestock disaster programs

(From The Hays Post)

WICHITA - Members of the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) took policy positions on issues affecting their common business interests during the group’s annual business meeting

December 1 in Wichita. The process of gathering member input on these issues began in November at regional roundtable meetings across the state, continued during committee and council meetings and concluded with final consideration and approval from the general membership at the KLA Convention.

"Many KLA members were involved in forming policy for the year ahead," said KLA President Lee Reeve, a cattle feeder and farmer from Garden City. "While the entire membership may not unanimously agree on every resolution, we understand working together gives us a more powerful voice and is in the best interests of our businesses and our industry."

Among the new resolutions is one supporting modernization of the North American Free Trade Agreement in a way that protects current provisions favorable to beef and other U.S. ag product exports. Canada and Mexico are two of the largest international customers for U.S. beef. Members voted to support an exemption from Electronic Logging Device requirements for livestock haulers while modifications to the hours of service (HOS) rules are being sought. Producers and animal care specialists believe the current HOS standard is not practical and will compromise animal welfare.

New KLA policy supports federal legislation to improve livestock disaster programs, including an increase in payment limitations for the Livestock Indemnity Program and Emergency Conservation Program. This legislation addresses shortcomings identified in the wake of wildfires, blizzards and other natural disasters in Kansas the past several years.

The membership approved an amendment to existing policy supporting a mandatory national individual animal identification system for disease traceability. Language in the resolution suggests the system should minimize costs to producers, optimize the role of the private sector in administering the program and protect the confidentiality of individual animal owner records.

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/y788ukqe>

USDA Announces Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Funding Awards

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) today announced awards made to support the next generation of farmers and ranchers through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP). The BFRDP program, authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, aims to help address issues associated with the rising age and decrease in the number of U.S. farmers and ranchers.

"According to the 2012 Agriculture Census undertaken by the National Agricultural Statistics Survey, the average age of the American farmer is approximately 59 years old," said NIFA Director Sonny Ramaswamy. "The Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program provides the training and resources to attract a wide range of communities – veterans, refugees, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, women, individuals from underrepresented groups, small farmers, aspiring farm workers, and others – into farming and ranching."

[BFRDP](#) supports projects that deliver education, mentoring, and technical assistance programs to help beginning farmers and ranchers in the U.S. and its territories with entering, establishing, building and managing successful farm and ranch enterprises.

There are 36 grants totaling \$17.7 million funded through fiscal year 2017's BFRDP.

Read more. <https://nifa.usda.gov/announcement/nifa-supports-increasing-rural-prosperity-through-education-mentoring-and-technical>

Chefs predict top culinary concepts to expect in 2018

(From Meatingplace.com)

The National Restaurant Association's annual What's Hot culinary forecasts, based on a survey of 700 professional chefs, identified the top culinary concepts expected to trend in 2018, with local, natural, sustainable and vegetable-centric topping the list.

"Local, vegetable-forward, and ethnic-inspired menu items will reign supreme in the upcoming year. Guests are implementing these trends in their own lifestyles and want to see them reflected on restaurant menus. In response, chefs are creating more items in-house and turning to global flavors," said Hudson Riehle, senior vice president of research.

In reporting its results, NRA named "hyper-local" as the top concept trend, including restaurants with their own gardens, on-site beer brewing and house-made items.

Other top concepts, in order, included:

- #2 Natural ingredients/clean menus
- #3 Veggie-centric/vegetable-forward cuisine
- #4 Environmental sustainability
- #5 Locally sourced meat and seafood
- #6 Locally sourced produce
- #7 Simplicity/back to basics
- #8 Farm/estate branded items
- #9 Grazing – small plate sharing, snacking
- #10 Nose-to tail/root-to-stalk cooking
- #11 Nutrition
- #12 Vegan cuisine
- #13 Vegetarian cuisine
- #14 Gluten-free cuisine
- #15 All-day breakfast

FDA: Antibiotic use on livestock, poultry drops

(From Sustainable Foods News)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Thursday domestic sales of antibiotics used in food-producing animals fell 14 percent between 2015 and 2016, the first drop in sales since 2009 when the agency began reporting the data.

Nearly 70 percent of medically important antibiotics sold in the United States are for use in livestock. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at least 23,000 people a year die from antibiotic resistant infections.

The agency's [report](#) also broke down sales by species for the first time, showing that most of the domestic use of medically important antibiotics is in cattle at 43 percent and swine at 37

percent, with sales for turkey at 9 percent, chicken at 6 percent, and 4 percent was for other animals.

Despite the apparent progress in the effort to reduce the overuse of the drugs in livestock, the report also showed that total sales remain 9 percent higher than they were in 2009.

How Much Will Consumers Pay For 'Natural' Steak?

(From Sustainable Food News)

Consumers who are familiar with the USDA's definition of the marketing claim "natural" do not value it as a standalone label on beef products, but will pay a premium for beef products that carry the label together with labels touting other attributes.

The consumer study carried out by researchers at Arizona State University's W. P. Carey School of Business involved an online survey of 663 beef-eating consumers to determine their willingness to pay for steak labeled with different attributes, including natural, grass fed or corn fed, fed without genetically modified feed and produced without growth hormones and antibiotics.

Half of the participants were provided with the definition of natural, while half were not. The study was recently published in the journal *Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy*. The study shows that consumers unfamiliar with the USDA's definition of the marketing claim "natural" are willing to pay \$1.26 more per pound for beef products carrying the standalone "natural" label, and willing to shell out nearly \$2.50 more per pound for beef products displaying both the "natural" and "no growth hormone" labels.

However, consumers who were told about the USDA's "natural" definition were not willing to pay a premium for the "natural" label alone, but were willing to pay \$3.07 more per pound for steak labeled as both "natural" and "no growth hormones."

Most notably, consumers who already considered themselves familiar with the USDA's "natural" definition also did not place a premium on "natural" beef, but were willing to shell out a whopping \$3.80 more per pound for steak that was labeled as both "natural" and "grass-fed," and \$2.93 more per pound for steak carrying the "natural" and "no growth hormones" labels. "Our results indicate that consumers who are unfamiliar with the definition of natural overestimate the positive effects of 'natural' production and therefore are willing to pay a premium for natural labeled beef," said Carola Grebitus, ASU assistant professor of food industry management. "Labeling food with claims that are not clearly defined can be costly for consumers and hold disadvantages for food manufacturers or producers who don't use such claims."

Will NAFTA Survive? Mexico Says Flip a Coin

(From MorningAgClips.com)

The Mexican Ambassador says there is a 50-50 chance that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will be "terminated." Geronimo Gutierrez says there are tensions hanging over the three sides in the negotiations and that's creating an air of uncertainty.

Meanwhile here in the U.S., several pro-trade Republicans met with President Donald Trump this week to discuss trade. Their goal was to let the president know on a face-to-face basis how important the NAFTA is and to keep negotiating.

U.S. food manufacturers exported \$25 billion in products to Mexico and Canada in 2015. Without NAFTA, those products would have faced an additional \$3.8 billion in tariffs.

If the coin flips to the side of getting an agreement settled, Mike Zuzolo from Global Commodity Analytics will have his eyes on the markets for a couple of U.S goods.

“If we got a new NAFTA I think that would help the hog market some, but I would really be watching our ethanol market because Canada is the number one buyer of U.S. ethanol,” Zuzolo said. “So the two commodities that would probably get the most bump to the upside if a new NAFTA agreement came to be would be ethanol and, in turn, corn.”

As the U.S., Canada and Mexico continue to hash out NAFTA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is looking for more trade opportunities outside of North America. Ted McKinney, the new USDA Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, has been busy since being sworn in. He’s visited India, Brazil, Columbia, and Panama recently with the goal of increasing trade possibilities.

McKinney spoke from a recent trip to Panama City, saying the goal is to remind trade partners that “we’re open for business, including both exports and imports.” The four countries he’s taken trips to are not the biggest U.S. trading partners but the goal is to “leave no stone unturned” when it comes to generating more business for agriculture. The U.S. signed free-trade agreements with Colombia and Panama in 2012 and trade has flourished since then.

Full story: <https://www.morningagclips.com/will-nafta-survive-mexico-says-flip-a-coin/>