



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 14, 2018

Today is the Last Day to Consign in GTSS

Today, December 14th, marks the official close of consignments for the 2019 Gold Trophy Show and Sale. We still have one slot open in the 2 year old bull class, if that's of interest to anyone. We also have plenty of room for heifers, cows and calves. See below for current consignments by class, and don't forget about the always-popular Market Class, which rewards quality carcasses by local consumers, chefs and marketers shopping for bison meat.

Consign quickly and securely online at <https://bisoncentral.com/2019-gold-trophy-show-sale-live-animal-market-class-entry-form-2/>, or download a consignment form and get all the GTSS details, at <https://bisoncentral.com/gold-trophy-show-and-sale/>.

Don't forget, we have some great spots available to advertise in our very affordable GTSS catalog that is not only printed and handed out to hundreds of attendees at the sale at National Western Stock Show, but also published online for further exposure. Please see ad rates and specs [here](#) and contact karen@bisoncentral.com about availability.

Current consignments:

2 year old bred heifers - 7
Yearling heifers - 7
Pen of 5 Ranch Ready yearling heifers - 5 pens
Heifer calf - 10
Pen of 5 heifer calves - 3 pens
2 year old bulls - 11 - One slot left!
Yearling bulls - SOLD OUT
Bull calf - 10

Market class bulls - 10
Market class heifers - 7

Please contact the NBA with any questions by emailing jim@bisoncentral.com, or by calling the office at 303-292-2833, and visit <https://bisoncentral.com/gold-trophy-show-and-sale/> for all the details.

Tomorrow is the Last Day to Nominate Member of the Year

This Saturday, December 15th is the last day to nominate the 2018 National Bison Association Member of the Year! Please complete this online nomination form by then. Nominations are welcome from current NBA members only, one nomination per membership.

The National Bison Association's Past President's Council will announce the 2018 NBA Member of the Year at the Winter Conference on Friday, January 25th at the annual Gold Trophy Banquet Dinner. The member of the year award recognizes one NBA member each year who has gone above and beyond to promote our collective business and the American bison.

- The nominee should be a rancher, farmer, or citizen whose efforts enhance the bison industry for all.
- The nominee should support and promote the NBA and state and regional organizations.
- The nominee should be a role model to persons in the bison industry. Role model status will be weighed heavily in the decision process.
- State and regional involvement is encouraged

The Council is now accepting nominations from the NBA membership through December 15th.

To nominate an outstanding NBA member who has gone above and beyond to promote bison and move our industry forward, please take a moment to complete a nomination form quickly online at <https://bisoncentral.com/documents-record/member-of-the-year-nomination-form/> by December 15th

Renaissance Hotel Block Full – Overflow Lodging Arranged

Just three weeks remain to [register](#) for the 2019 NBA Winter Conference! Don't miss out on the biggest bison gathering of the year in Denver, Colorado as we celebrate another great year in the bison business!

Three days of education, networking, fine-dining and fun! See an agenda [here](#), and see why you won't want to miss out on this once-a-year opportunity. Presentations to include the renowned Bison Mentor Session featuring four veteran ranchers, a 3-hour intensive session from Ranching for Profit creator Dave Pratt, updates on efforts to eradicate M. Bovis from South Dakota State University, parentage testing options from TEI's Bob Wesley, the brand-new North American Bison Registry online program from Dr. Connor Elliott, a bison conservation report from the IUCN's Bison Working Group Chair, Dr. Glenn Plumb, and so much more.

Please note, the conference host-hotel, the [Renaissance Stapleton](#), has sold out our room block, though rooms may be available outside of the room block at a higher rate by calling them at 303-399-7500 and inquiring about the National Bison Association room block. We do have overflow lodging available just up the street at the newly renovated [Holiday Inn](#), which is offering comparable room rates. Reservations must be made by January 4th.

Guests may also call Central Reservations at 1-866-380-6850 to make reservations if they prefer. Please have them reference the Group Name, “National Bison Association Overflow” or the block code “NBA”.

One Week to Submit Your Best Bison Stew for Winter Conference!

The National Bison Association is pleased to announce the return of our winter conference recipe contest, which will be the Best Bison Stew this year!

Submissions will be judged by the culinary professionals at our host hotel's kitchen with the top two to be served for the Thursday conference lunch. Conference attendees then get to dine on the top two finalists' recipes during the Thursday conference luncheon, prepared by the professional kitchen staff, and then vote for this year's winner. See full contest rules here, and please submit your recipe to jim@bisoncentral.com by December 21, 2018.

Conference attendance is not required, but encouraged! So please take a look at your recipes and consider submitting a hearty bison stew recipe for this year's contest!

See all the rules and details here. <https://bisoncentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Bison-Stew-Recipe-Contest-rulesJM.pdf>

NBA VP to Be Inducted Into Texas Newspaper Hall of Fame

When NBA Vice President Donnis Baggett leaves the association's winter conference early in January, his departure can certainly be listed as an excused absence.

The Texas Press Association announced this week that Baggett is one of three journalists being inducted into the Texas Newspaper Foundation Hall of Fame. Baggett and the two other honorees will be officially inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Texas Press Association's annual convention January 25th, in Denton, TX.

Baggett is executive vice president of the Texas Press Association. His career included *The Dallas Morning News*, *The Eagle* and the *Waco Tribune-Herald*. He and his wife, Beverly Brown, own and operate Lucky B Bison Ranch near Bryan, TX.

NBA Joins Connect Americans Now Coalition

The National Bison Association this week formally joined the Connect Americans Now, a Microsoft-led coalition of organizations, Native American tribes, companies, local governments, and others working together to eliminate the digital divide by leveraging a mix of affordable broadband technologies, including TV white spaces, which utilizes unused spectrum in the UHF television bands.

Dave Carter, NBA executive director, noted, “We have been working with friends at Microsoft to explore how technology can be utilized to help us manage our herds, and our businesses. The Connect Americans Now Coalition brings together a wide range of interests that share a

common commitment to making sure that rural Americans have access to the latest technology.”

Bison Association Praises Senate Farm Bill Leaders

National Bison Association Executive Director Dave Carter this week thanks key U.S. Senators for their work in making sure that key bison business priorities were included in the 2018 Farm Bill, which passed with overwhelming majorities in the U.S. Senate and House.

Carter particularly cited the effort by U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) to include provisions in the Farm Bill managers report to assure that USDA’s Farm Service Agency continues to update the disaster assistance program compensation levels to reflect actual bison market prices.

“Last year, we discovered that the compensation values offered under the USDA Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) for bison losses were unreasonably low. Senator Bennet not only led the effort on behalf of bison producers to assure that USDA adjusted the LIP payment levels for 2017 to reflect actual market prices, but successfully enlisted his colleagues to include provisions in the new Farm Bill to make sure that future payment protection for bison losses are equitable with those for other livestock sectors,” Carter said.

Bennet also joined with U.S. Sens. John Thune (R-SD) and John Hoeven (R-ND) to include in the Farm Bill new resources to help producers monitor drought conditions, and to have access to programs that may be triggered by those conditions.

“We are fortunate to have a bipartisan group of Senators willing to step forward to make sure that the priorities of bison producers are not lost in the mix of the debate among other sectors of agriculture,” Carter said.

Election of Officers Scheduled at NBA Conference

Members attending the National Bison Association annual meeting at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver on January 25th will be electing officers to guide the organization for the coming year.

The current officers, Dick Gehring of Kansas as president, Donnis Baggett of Texas as Vice President, and Tom Barthel of Minnesota as Secretary-Treasurer, are all eligible for re-election and have announced their willingness to serve an additional one-year term. Any member

Section 5.1 of the NBA Bylaws states, “The Officers of the Corporation shall be a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary/Treasurer, each of whom shall be elected by the members at the annual meeting for a term of one (1) year and until their successor shall be elected and qualified.”

Any regular, multi-year or life members may file as a candidate for an officer position of the NBA. The election will be conducted during the NBA membership meeting, scheduled for 9 a.m., Friday, January 25th.

Step Up to Sponsor Winter Conference

The NBA is offering an array of sponsorship opportunities for the 2019 winter conference and Gold Trophy Show and Sale, scheduled for January 23-26 in Denver.

The association has developed a revised sponsorship program this year, which allows sponsors to select an appropriate level of recognition benefits, based on their sponsorship level.

“Rather than specifying fixed areas of recognition, we are offering sponsors a ‘menu’ of recognition levels that can be tailored to fit the needs of individual sponsors,” said Jim Matheson, NBA assistant Director. The full list of sponsorships available can be accessed here. <https://bisoncentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/WCSponsorOpps10.30.18.pdf>.

Or, people can contact Matheson at jim@bisoncentral.com, or NBA Executive Director Dave Carter at david@bisoncentral.com.

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How Native American Tribes Are Bringing Back The Bison From Brink Of Extinction

(From The Guardian)

On 5,000 hectares of unploughed prairie in north-eastern Montana, hundreds of wild bison roam once again. But this herd is not in a national park or a protected sanctuary – they are on tribal lands. Belonging to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes of Fort Peck Reservation, the 340 bison is the largest conservation herd in the ongoing bison restoration efforts by North America’s Indigenous people.

The bison – or as Native Americans call them, buffalo – are not just “sustenance,” according to Leroy Little Bear, a professor at the University of Lethbridge and a leader in the bison restoration efforts with the Blood Tribe. The continent’s largest land mammal plays a major role in the spiritual and cultural lives of numerous Native American tribes, an “integrated relationship,” he said.

“If you are Christian and you don’t see any crosses out there, or you don’t have your corner church ... there’s no external connection, [no] symbolic iconic notion that strengthens and nurtures those beliefs,” said Little Bear. “So it goes with the buffalo.”

Read more. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/dec/12/how-native-american-tribes-are-bringing-back-the-bison-from-brink-of-extinction>

Montana Tribe Rejects Bison Transfer Deal

(From The Lewiston Tribune)

An attorney for a Montana tribe says it’s not accepting a small group of wild bison from Yellowstone National Park because of burdensome conditions proposed by federal officials.

The Billings Gazette reports the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes rejected an agreement with the Department of Agriculture that would have allowed the transfer of the animals.

It marks another setback to efforts to relocate Yellowstone bison that would otherwise be sent to slaughter.

Many of the animals carry the disease brucellosis. The five bulls that were offered to the tribes had been tested repeatedly for the disease.

Assiniboine and Sioux attorney Majel Russell says federal officials wanted to the tribe to obtain insurance for any damage caused by escaped bison.

Russell says the tribe also wants more control over disease testing.

Read more. https://tribune.com/outdoors/montana-tribe-rejects-bison-transfer-deal/article_913e5370-7c4b-5c1b-b073-c128a633dec1.html

President Trump Expected to Sign Farm Bill Next Week

(From AgWeb)

President Donald Trump is expected to sign the farm bill next week, reported Jim Wiesemeyer of ProFarmer. The farm bill easily cleared the House on Wednesday, 369-47.

The vote included just three Democrats who voted against the bill: Ron Kind (D-Wis.), Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) and Lloyd Doggett (D-Texas).

House Ag ranking member Collin Peterson (D-Minn.) said, "After a rocky start, I'm just proud to turn a partisan bill into a bipartisan bill. That's the way Congress is supposed to work."

The five-year legislation largely continues current farm and nutrition policy. It is projected to cost \$867 billion over a decade.

USDA will take into 2019 to implement the new farm bill and incoming House Ag Chairman Peterson says he will be watching the process closely to make sure the bill's provisions are implemented the way lawmakers intended.

Wiesemeyer said Peterson's concern is that lobbyists who were not able to get their clients' wishes during development of the bill will try to shape the way the department writes the program rules.

Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Mass.) warned the Trump administration that House Democrats will scrutinize regulatory efforts by USDA to expand work requirements and make other changes to the food stamp program.

The final bill improves how states administer the program in an effort to cut down on inaccurate payments. In addition, it slightly increases funding for SNAP work-training programs and mandates that states give SNAP recipients more support when they enroll in such programs.

USDA is expected to release a proposed rule on work requirement waivers in the coming weeks, Wiesemeyer said.

Read more. <https://www.agweb.com/article/president-trump-expected-to-sign-farm-bill-next-week/>

RMA Announces a New Coverage Option for Crop Insurance

(From USDA Press Release)

Farmers now have a low-cost option for insuring small parcels of land in one county by combining them into a single enterprise unit with land in a neighboring county under their crop insurance. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is offering the new endorsement known as the Multi-County Enterprise Unit for farmers interested in covering two counties in the same state under their crop insurance policy.

"Today's farmers and ranchers face tremendous challenges. Access to affordable, flexible crop insurance options shouldn't be one of them." said RMA Administrator Martin Barbre. "This simple policy change will help producers manage their overall production risk by combining acreage into a larger unit, which could also lead to lower insurance premiums for policyholders. It's a win-win."

The endorsement is available for spring crops with a November 30, 2018, and later contract change date. Initially targeted crops include coarse grains (corn, grain sorghum, soybeans), cotton, canola, peanuts, rice, small grains (barley, wheat), and sunflowers.

To qualify for the endorsement, one county must qualify independently for an enterprise unit and the other county must not qualify for an enterprise unit. Both county crop policies in the Multi-County Enterprise Unit must be with the same Approved Insurance Provider and have the same elections for Multi-County Enterprise Units, insurance plan, coverage level, and enterprise unit by practice.

Interested farmers should contact their crop insurance agent to discuss options. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the [RMA Agent Locator](#).

More information on the Multi-County Enterprise Unit endorsement can be found on the [RMA website](#). Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at <https://www.rma.usda.gov>.

Fewer Streams Covered Under New WOTUS Proposal

(From AgriPulse)

Many areas covered by the Obama administration's "waters of the U.S." rule would be removed from federal oversight under a proposal released today by the Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers.

EPA and the Corps propose to remove ephemeral streams – those that flow when the rain falls – from federal jurisdiction. In a change sure to be welcomed by the ag industry, the proposal also would exclude ditches from regulation unless they contribute flow to a perennial or intermittent stream.

Intermittent streams, according to [archived information](#) on EPA's website, "flow during certain times of the year when smaller upstream waters are flowing and when groundwater provides enough water for stream flow."

"Ditches that operate like a traditional navigable water, like the Erie Canal, things like that, they're regulated," EPA Assistant Administrator for Water David Ross said told reporters ahead of the proposal's release. Ditches draining "adjacent wetlands" – those next to a covered water – "will also be in, so long as they provide perennial or intermittent flow to a traditional navigable water (TNW). All other ditches will be out."

EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler said the proposal is designed to clear up confusion over which areas are under federal jurisdiction and which are not, noting that because of litigation around the country, the WOTUS rule is in effect in 22 states while pre-WOTUS regs are in effect in the other 28.

Wheeler also went after the 2015 rule. Echoing leaked agency talking points obtained by the Daily Caller, he said it was not about water quality but about "power – power in the hands of the federal government over landowners" and that it put land-use decisions "in the hands of distant unelected bureaucrats."

The proposal comes with a 60-day comment period, which environmental groups are certain to attack as insufficient for a proposal of this scope. The WOTUS proposed rule had a comment period of 207 days.

In rejecting jurisdiction for ephemeral streams, the proposal parts ways significantly with the 2015 rule, which relied on an extensive scientific analysis on water connectivity that [found](#) "ample evidence" to demonstrate "many wetlands and open waters located outside of riparian areas and floodplains, even when lacking surface water connections, provide physical, chemical, and biological functions that could affect the integrity of downstream waters."

EPA prepared no similar report this time around, Ross said, emphasizing instead the administration's desire to come up with legally defensible regulations "informed by science."

Ag Groups Want A Speedy Negotiation For Japan

(From AgriPulse)

When it comes to a new free trade agreement with Japan, speed is of the essence. That was the primary message from a dozen representatives of some of the largest farm and food groups and a couple food companies to a panel of Trump administration officials today as the U.S. Trade Representative prepares for talks with the Asian country next year.

U.S. producers of meat, grains and other commodities stressed at the hearing they stand to lose significant market share to European, Australian and South American countries already closing trade pacts with Japan, and the U.S. needs equal treatment.

The U.S. exported \$12 billion worth of ag commodities like wheat, corn, dairy, beef, pork and sorghum to Japan last year, making it the fourth largest foreign market for U.S. farm goods. For beef, Japan is the most valuable market for U.S. exports, but Australia now has a major edge over U.S. shippers due to an FTA with Japan that has brought tariffs down sharply.

Had the U.S. joined the Trans-Pacific Partnership with Japan and 10 other Pacific Rim countries, Japanese tariffs on U.S. beef would have also begun falling. That didn't happen, though, because President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out nearly two years ago shortly after taking office.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association "strongly supports prioritizing and expediting negotiations for a U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement," NCBA President Kevin Kester told the administration panel convened specifically for the private sector to express priorities in a future trade pact. "The U.S. beef industry is at risk of losing significant market share in Japan unless immediate action is taken to level the playing field."

Former Ag Secretary Bob Bergland Dies At 90

(From AgriPulse)

Bob Bergland, a northern Minnesota farmer who served as President Jimmy Carter's secretary of agriculture from 1977 to 1981, died on Sunday in his hometown of Roseau, Minn. He was 90.

Bergland worked at USDA for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service from 1963 – 1968, now called the Farm Service Agency. In 1970, he was elected to his first of four terms in Congress as a representative from Minnesota. In Congress he served on the House Committee on Agriculture's subcommittees for Conservation and Credit, and Livestock, Grains, Dairy, and Poultry.

President Carter tapped the Minnesota Democrat to serve in his cabinet in 1977 and Bergland had the difficult job of defending Carter's unpopular 1980 decision to embargo grain sales to the Soviet Union after the invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

Bergland played a key role in trying to focus the agency on challenges ahead. As secretary, Bergland commissioned a major report on the structure of American agriculture, "A Time to Choose." He later served as vice president and general manager of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and as a regent at the University of Minnesota.

Study Notes Possible Link Between Vegetarianism, Depression

(From Meatingplace.com)

A new report outlining recent research on the psychology of vegetarianism may have uncovered a possible connection between depression and people who live mainly on a plant-based diet. Daniel L. Rosenfeld from the Department of Human Development at Cornell University noted in [Appetite magazine](#) that the level of research on the psychology of vegetarianism now includes identity issues, social experiences and culture, among other characteristics. Recent research also has opened the door for more in-depth future inquiry, he added.

Recent findings include:

- A 2018 study of 90,000 French adults found that people who gave up at least three of four animal-related food groups had a more than two-and-a-half-times greater risk to suffer from depression.
- A 2007 longitudinal study found that 30 percent of the vegetarians and semi-vegetarians among the more than 14,000 women studied experienced depression in the previous 12 months, versus 20 percent of those who ate meat.
- A German study of more than 4,000 people uncovered that more vegetarians than meat eaters suffered depressive disorders in the previous year, previous month and over their lifetimes.
- Vegetarian and semi-vegetarian students at the College of William and Mary scored significantly higher on the Center for Epidemiologic Depression Scale in a study that included more than 6,400 college-age consumers.
- While other, much smaller studies did not find a significant link between vegetarianism and depression, Hal Herzog at *Psychology Today* agrees with Rosenfeld that much more research is needed to better understand why depression seems to be higher among vegetarians versus meat eaters.

Costco Sets Tighter Standards for Antibiotics in Meat

(From Specialty Food News)

Costco has set new standards and monitoring requirements for antibiotic use in animal agriculture, making it one of the largest food retailers to take on the issue, reports *The Seattle Times*. The policy limits antibiotics to therapeutic use, meaning "the prevention, control, and treatment of disease and not for purposes of growth promotion or feed efficiency" and requires antibiotic use to be under supervision of a veterinarian.

The company's standards will become mandatory and monitored no later than December 2020. Costco updated its published animal welfare policies to include the antibiotics standards. It also signaled that a new set of "Supplier Expectations for Animal Welfare" would be introduced in 2019.

The company processes its own beef at a plant in California's Central Valley. In Nebraska, it is developing a chicken plant, looking to repeat past successes in controlling the quality and cost of its meat supply. Among major grocery retailers, only Amazon-owned Whole Foods has a stricter antibiotics policy than Costco's new policy.