



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

Happy Holidays from the NBA!

As another strong year for the bison business nears an end, the National Bison Association staff, officers and directors wish everyone the best for this Holiday season. This year has brought continued strength and prosperity to producers across North America.

The NBA office will be closed next week so that Dave, Jim and Barb can spend time with their families, and catch a quick breather before the hectic pace leading up to the 2019 Winter Conference and Gold Trophy Show and Sale. Accordingly, there won't be a Weekly Update next week. We'll be back keeping you posted on all of the developments in the association—and the bison business—on January 4th.

More Than 100 Head of Quality Breeding Stock Consigned to GTSS

The National Bison Association has 104 live head and 17 quality carcasses consigned for the 2019 Gold Trophy Show and Sale! If you're looking for top-notch breeding stock, look no further than the GTSS. These animals will be judged and sold the week of January 21st at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado! If you're looking to start, update or expand your herd, don't miss out on this great opportunity. You can bid live on Saturday, January 26th at NWSS, or bid online at liveauctions.tv. Sale starts promptly at 10 am MST.

Final consignments:

2 year old bred heifers - 7

Yearling heifers - 8

Pen of 5 Ranch Ready yearling heifers - 5 pens

Heifer calf - 11

Pen of 5 heifer calves - 3 pens

2 year old bulls - 11

Yearling bulls - 17

Bull calf - 10

Market class bulls - 10

Market class heifers - 7

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.

Also, we still have the Pen of 5 Heifer Calf class trophy sponsorship still available if you'd like to be recognized for your support for the GTSS and the bison industry! \$500 gets you your business/ranch name on our all new GTSS trophies for 1st - 3rd as well as your logo included in the GTSS catalog and in the National Western Stock Yards! We also have the Market Class Producer of the Year sponsorship available for \$250. Please contact jim@bisoncentral.com to reserve.

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.

Just Two Weeks Left to Register for Winter Conference!

Just a few 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 learn 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 (pictured above), updates on efforts to eradicate M. Bovis by South Dakota State University, parentage testing options from TEI's Bob Wesley, the brand-new North American Bison Registry online program by 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".

Wholesale Prices Steady in November

Prices paid for dressed bison carcasses held steady in November, according to the latest monthly wholesale bison price report released this week by USDA's Grain and Livestock Market News Service.

Young bull carcasses averaged \$486.90/cwt. in November, which was \$7.21/cwt. higher than the previous month and \$5.76/cwt. higher than in November 2018. Heifer carcasses averaged \$469.44 in November, which was \$5.42/cwt. higher than in October, and \$1.52/cwt. higher than the previous year. Aged Bulls and cows were lower than in October. And, young bulls accounted for 59 percent of the younger stock processed through November.

According to information compiled by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, 48,215 head of bison have been processed under federal inspection through the first week of December. That is 1,124 head fewer than the same period last year, and the lowest level since the same period in 2013.

Give for Growth! Support the Bison Business, and Get a Deduction

Don't miss a chance to support the growth of the bison business, and to receive a tax deduction, with a year-end check to the National Bison Association's Growth Fund.

"The Growth Fund underwrites many of our outreach efforts that exceed the capacity of our normal operating budget," said Dave Carter, NBA executive director. "As we look forward to 2019, we will be relying on our Growth Fund to provide us with the capacity to continue to build customer demand for bison meat."

The NBA encourages members to donate at least \$1 per every head sold or weaned over the course of the past year. Funds sent to the Growth Fund are not a charitable contribution, but can be deducted on your 2017 taxes as a business expense. Contributions can be made on-line at <https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-growth-fund-program/>, or by mail to the NBA office at 8600 Wolff Ct., Westminster, CO 80031.

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Don't Be Buffaloed: Some Companies Identifying Water Buffalo As Bison

(From Tri-State Livestock News)

A recent report released by Tyson Foods revealed that Americans want greater transparency in their foods.

According to Tyson's predictions, "39% of consumers say they are willing to switch brands that use more transparent labels. New technology is providing everyone, not just experts and professionals, with background information about their food. The concept of tracking food from farm to table, which first took hold with some smaller brands, will become a focus for big food in 2019."

Despite this push for greater transparency, those who purchase North American Bison products may be unintentionally buying water buffalo.

When Americans shop the meat case and read the term 'buffalo,' they are likely thinking of North American Bison; however, importers of water buffalo products are 'buffaloing' consumers into believing their products are bison," said Dave Carter, National Bison Association (NBA)

executive director. "If it's water buffalo, it needs to be labeled as such. Without that clear distinction, it is obviously misleading, which leads to greater customer confusion."

The trouble started with one premium pet food label that said the product was made with bison and roasted venison. Turning over to read the ingredient panel, the ingredient list included buffalo and not bison as promoted on the front panel.

"We started noticing other pet brands doing the same thing," said Carter. "This becomes a concern because one thing that has improved bison producers' stayability and profitability has been effectively marketing the entire carcass."

Read more. <https://www.tsln.com/news/dont-be-buffaloed/>

2018 Farm Bill Signed Into Law

(From AgriPulse)

President Donald Trump signed the new farm bill into law at a White House ceremony Thursday afternoon, calling it a "really tremendous victory" for American producers.

In an unusual twist, Trump arrived at the ceremony with the theme music from the vintage TV show "Green Acres." Shortly before that he tweeted a video clip of him singing the song at a 2005 event.

"Through fires, floods and freezing weather, we will always stand with American farmers," Trump said as he praised the bill that passed the House and Senate by landslide margins after House Republicans agreed to remove provisions that Trump wanted to food stamp work requirements.

As he signed the bill, Trump was flanked by leaders of the House and Senate Agriculture committees and major farm organizations as well as Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and Vice President Mike Pence.

The audience included Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. who made passing the bill a personal priority after including provisions to legalize the production of industrial hemp. Trump noted that it was Perdue's birthday. "This is the best birthday gift you could have," the president said. Perdue, for his part, said he was wearing his lucky tractor tie and called the bill signing and called the bill signing a "great day for agriculture."

Trump also made note of a rule [released by USDA earlier Thursday](#) to make it harder for states to get waivers from work requirements in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Able-bodied adults without dependents are required to work or be in job training at least 20 hours a week to receive SNAP benefits, unless they live in a state or area that has a waiver from USDA.

Trump said the SNAP rule "will help Americans transfer from welfare to gainful employment. ... That was a difficult thing to do. The farmers wanted it done. We all wanted it done."

The top Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee, Debbie Stabenow, successfully resisted pressure from the White House to write the tougher waiver rules into the farm bill, but Trump nevertheless singled her out for praise. "She's tough, and she's smart," he said.

Trump veered off the subject of the farm bill to direct a message to Capitol Hill about his demands to include funding for a border wall in a stopgap spending bill.

Oklahoma Bison Help Save America's Tallgrass Prairie

PAWHUSKA - Life on the Tallgrass Prairie is usually pretty quiet, except for a few fast-paced weeks in the fall when the sound of a bison stampede sings across Osage county - followed closely by revved up diesel trucks blaring rock music.

"We try to have a little fun because it's a long, long process," Tallgrass Prairie Preserve ranch hand Perry Collins said.

Around there the days start when it's still dark and end well after the sun goes down, especially during the annual bison roundup, which is closed to the public.

This year marks the preserve's 25th roundup, where ranch hands like Collins corral the animals into pens for vaccinations.

Some of the beasts don't mind, but others fight every step of the way.

"Some of the big bulls when they get in there and they squeeze [the chute] in and you can still hear the chute going squeak, squeak, squeak when they're breathing, ya know, and you're thinking, 'eh,'" said Collins.

But there's no time for fear with hundreds of bison waiting for a work up.

Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Director Bob Hamilton says the process is vital to maintaining a healthy herd and a healthy prairie.

"We want to maintain habitat diversity and provide opportunities for all the different native plants and animals," Hamilton said.

For the tallgrass ecosystem to work properly, Hamilton says it must have a certain climate, prescribed burns and grazing bison. Historically, Hamilton says, all of those occurred together naturally.

"[The bison] evolved on the plains. The plains shaped them, and they shaped the plains in return," said former Preserve Director Harvey Payne.

Harvey Payne grew up on the prairie and spent many days roaming the vast countryside as child, dreaming of the way it used to be.

Full story here. <http://www.newson6.com/story/39669616/oklahomas-tallgrass-prairie-and-american-bison-a-vital-relationship>

America's Diverse Family Farms: 2018 Edition

(USDA Press Release)

USDA Economic Research Service has released America's Diverse Family Farms: 2018 Edition. The 28-page PDF report is available online, and shows that in 2017% of U.S. farms were family farms, and they accounted for 87% of farm production.

The report provides an overview of U.S. farms, including the latest statistics on production, financial performance, and farm household characteristics by farm size categories. It categorizes farms by size, and it reveals that most U.S. farms are small; small farms operate over half of U.S. farmland but account for 26% of production. Small farms produce particularly large shares of poultry and hay.

Read more. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details?pubid=90984>

Land Access Challenges Young Farmers

Access to affordable land is a chief barrier across the country for young farmers, according to a feature posted by Pew Charitable Trusts. Although the farm population is aging, young farmers face a disadvantage in entering the profession because land prices are high and farming is a capital-intensive industry.

Young farmers who don't inherit family land and grow up with agriculture face difficulties accessing the land and knowledge they need to get started. However, the new Farm Bill contains some provisions that may help young farmers get the training they need to succeed.

There are also federal, state, and local efforts underway to help young farmers access land, ranging from the Conservation Reserve Program's Transition Incentives Program to Maryland's Next Generation Farmland Acquisition Program.

Read more. <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/blogs/stateline/2018/12/13/young-farmers-cant-farm-without-land>

Midwest Agriculture Increasingly Vulnerable to Climate Change

A Cornell-led study published in Science Advances took a big-picture look at regional agricultural vulnerability to climate change, and found the Midwest increasingly at risk.

A study of how agricultural inputs converted to outputs over the past 50 years, when combined with climate data, showed that rising summer temperatures are causing productivity to drop.

The Midwest is especially sensitive to temperature rises that are occurring with increasing frequency because of its dependence on rainfall-fed crops and the increasing specialization of producers in the region.

"[T]hey're basically putting all their eggs in one basket, and that basket is getting more sensitive," noted study leader Ariel Ortiz-Bobea.

Read more. <https://cals.cornell.edu/news/big-picture-look-climate-change-impact-us-agriculture-midwest-risk/>

Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans Program

USDA National Institute for Food and Agriculture is accepting applications for the Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans Program.

This program provides grants to non-profits to increase the number of military veterans gaining knowledge and skills through comprehensive, hands-on, and immersive model farm and ranch programs offered regionally that lead to successful careers in the food and agricultural sector.

The program encourages the development of training opportunities specifically designed for military veterans.

Applications are due by January 10, 2019.

Read more. <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/enhancing-agricultural-opportunities-military-veterans>

New York State New Farmers Grant Fund

The New York State New Farmers Grant Fund provides grants to support beginning farmers who have chosen farming as a career and who materially and substantially participate in the production of an agricultural product on their farm.

The grant fund will help farmers improve farm profitability through one or both of the following goals: expanding agricultural production, diversifying agricultural production, and/or extending the agricultural season; and/or advancing innovative techniques that increase sustainable agricultural production practices, such as organic farming, food safety, reduction of farm waste, and/or water use.

Grants may provide a minimum of \$15,000 and a maximum of \$50,000 for up to 50% of total project costs. New York State farmers in their first 10 years of farming and with a minimum of \$10,000 in farm income may apply.

Applications must be postmarked by January 25, 2019.

Read more. <https://esd.ny.gov/new-farmers-grant-fund-program>

Arkansas Conservation Partners

USDA-NRCS Arkansas State Office is seeking support from and opportunities to partner with likeminded natural resource conservation partners to assist producers to plan and/or implement conservation practices throughout Arkansas.

NRCS anticipates that the amount available for support of this program in FY 2019 will be approximately \$5 million.

Proposals are requested from eligible entities, nonprofits, governmental or nongovernmental organizations, and institutions of higher learning for competitive consideration of awards from projects between one and five years in duration. Objectives, eligibility criteria, and application instructions are available online.

Proposals are due by January 30, 2019.

Read more. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=310638>