



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)

February 8, 2019

NBA Annual Report Released

The National Bison Association's 2018 Annual Report is now available for free download from the NBA website.

This four-page report contains the highlights of the NBA's activities and accomplishments during the past year, and provides a series of illustrations covering the association's financial performance as well.

"This is a valuable tool to provide anyone who asks, 'Why should I join the National Bison Association?'" said Dave Carter, NBA executive director. "It provides a lot of information regarding the tangible benefits that members receive by belonging to the association."

The annual report can be accessed here.

https://bisoncentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/AnnualReport_Web.pdf

Water Buffalo Info Flyer Available for Members

The National Bison Association has developed a one-page information sheet to provide foodservice operators, retail meat buyers, and their customers with information regarding mislabeled water buffalo meat in the human food marketplace.

Entitled, *Water Buffalo in "Bison Clothing" is a Risk You Don't Need*, the sheet highlights the deceptive practices being used to mislead consumers into believing that the water buffalo products are bison. This fact sheet is available for download here https://bisoncentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Dont-be-Bufferloed-Fact-Sheet_JM.pdf

Junior Judging Winners Announced

Tourists in awe as enormous Yellowstone bison run past them

(From USA Today)

Besides their immense size, bison are remarkably fast, which is why tourists in Yellowstone National Park are advised to keep a safe distance.

The accompanying footage, captured by photographer Richard Peters, shows a large bison sprinting past the touring vehicle at top speed on a snow-covered road.

As viewers will note, the tourists were amazed by the speed of the beast as it charged within a few feet of their vehicle.

Peters, who is based in the U.K., wrote on Facebook: “Just got back from an incredible two weeks in Yellowstone, where on one particular day our Natures Images group were reminded just how fast bison can be, when they decide! Quite the close encounter!”

See the video at <https://ftw.usatoday.com/2019/02/tourists-in-awe-as-yellowstone-bison-sprints-by-at-top-speed>

Dakota County will study bringing back the bison to county parks

(From The Star Tribune)

The Dakota County Board has voted to spend up to \$50,000 on a study to find out whether it's feasible to return bison to the county through its park system.

“Bringing something like bison back to parks captures people’s imagination,” said Tom Lewanski, the county’s natural resources manager. “It’s a big, iconic animal.”

The idea also intrigues commissioners, said Dakota County Commissioner Joe Atkins, who raised the subject with the board after hearing Lewanski speak about ecosystems at a Dakota County parks event last summer.

“For me, I was just thinking it’d be cool,” Atkins said, adding that only later did he learn about how the animals could dramatically improve the land.

Dakota County once consisted of more than 300,000 acres of prairie and savanna, upon which thousands of bison likely grazed. Less than one-tenth of 1 percent of that area remains.

If brought back to the county, the species has the potential to benefit the land and parkgoers alike. Bison are considered a keystone species, which means their effect on their environment is disproportionately large relative to their abundance, according to a Dakota County research paper.

Bison were the main grazers on the prairies and plains, eating grass while leaving forbs — herbaceous flowering plants — undisturbed and growing. Forbs provide seeds for animals along with nectar and pollen for insects.

Read more. <http://www.startribune.com/dakota-county-will-study-bringing-back-the-bison-to-county-parks/505058232/>

BLM takes next step in analyzing American Prairie Reserve's bison

grazing requests

(From The Billings Gazette)

Changes to grazing allotments on Bureau of Land Management property in north-central Montana that have been requested by the nonprofit American Prairie Reserve for its bison herd have taken another step forward.

On Friday the BLM released a list of 24 topics identified through the public comment process that will help focus the agency's environmental analysis.

APR controls private properties tied to 18 BLM grazing allotments in Chouteau, Fergus, Petroleum, Phillips and Valley counties. The APR's stated intent is to build a 3.5-million-acre nature reserve using about 500,000 acres of private land and 3 million acres of public lands, much of which is managed by BLM.

The APR has submitted a proposal to change the class of livestock from cattle to bison; allow for season-long grazing; fortify existing external boundary fences by replacing the second strand from the top with an electrified wire; and remove interior fences on all 18 permits.

Read more. https://billingsgazette.com/outdoors/blm-takes-next-step-in-analyzing-american-prairie-reserve-s/article_497d82da-0c6d-5d2c-ab1a-eda71041d23d.html

Bison drive to close Highway 89

(From The Jackson Hole News and Guide)

Grand Teton National Park is closing Highway 26/89/191 for much of the day Friday to accommodate a bison drive that will push a large herd south.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is assisting in the operation, which will close the highway between Moran and Moose from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bison have gored "multiple horses" on private land within the park, officials announced in a statement.

"Wyoming Game and Fish personnel have been working with the landowner and have made multiple attempts to haze the bison away," the park's statement said. "However, the situation continues and includes approximately 100 bison."

If the bison hoof it south quickly, the closure will be abbreviated. A portable message sign will keep motorists up on the latest information, which can also be found by calling 739-3682.

The deep snow is part of the reason rangers and Game and Fish staffers are using the plowed highway for the drive.

Read more. https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/jackson_hole_daily/local/article_8c839097-9858-5cb7-906c-013359bbf039.html

Kentucky park now taking bids for 4 bison

(From WKYT)

Kentucky officials have some unusual surplus property that's being made available for sale: four bison from Big Bone Lick State Historic Site in Boone County.

The Kentucky Department of Parks is accepting bids for the bison, which include a 4-year-old cow and three bulls, each younger than a year old. They will be sold together.

Department spokesman Gil Lawson told the Lexington Herald-Leader the park has a small herd of bison and has to sell some each year. He said the park likes to keep 10 to 14 and now has 12 in its 22-acre bison facility, including the four being sold. Four or five calves are born every spring.

Bids are being accepted through Feb. 18.

Source. <https://www.wkyt.com/content/news/Kentucky-park-taking-bids-for-4-bison-505406241.html>

Peterson, Conaway Announce House Agriculture Subcommittee Rosters for the 116th Congress

(From US House Agriculture Committee Press Release)

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson of Minnesota and Ranking Member Mike Conaway of Texas announced the rosters for the six subcommittees of the House Agriculture Committee today in Washington.

Livestock and Foreign Agriculture

Democratic members include:

Chairman Jim Costa, California
Anthony Brindisi, New York
Jahana Hayes, Connecticut
TJ Cox, California
Angie Craig, Minnesota
Josh Harder, California
Filemon Vela, Texas
Stacey Plaskett, U.S. Virgin Islands
Salud Carbajal, California
Cheri Bustos, Illinois

Republican members include:

Ranking Member David Rouzer, North Carolina
Glenn Thompson, Pennsylvania
Scott DesJarlais, Tennessee
Vicky Hartzler, Missouri
Trent Kelly, Mississippi
James Comer, Kentucky

Roger Marshall, Kansas
Don Bacon, Nebraska
Jim Hagedorn, Minnesota

Full text:

<https://agriculture.house.gov/press/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1365>

Well-known Corvallis bison finds a new home

(From KPAX)

As a well-known member of the Corvallis community, Tonka the bison had lived his life always surrounded by people, but until recently he had never seen another bison.

Tonka was born a twin in Wisconsin and then purchased and brought to Montana where he worked as a rodeo performer.

When his performing days were over, he was sold again and moved to Corvallis – where some community members would often stop by and pet and give Tonka treats – sometimes not so healthy treats like a can of beer.

Tonka broke through the fence where he was being kept on January 11 and made his way to Corvallis Elementary School.

His escape worried parents in the area and caught the attention of Jay McCleary — a lawyer and the founder of Bela Animal Legal Defense and Rescue in Victor.

Read more. <https://kpax.com/news/ravalli-county/2019/02/04/well-known-corvallis-bison-finds-a-new-home/>

Officials report slow hunting season for Yellowstone bison

(From NBC Montana)

Officials say mild weather and a lack of snowfall have allowed bison to largely stay inside Yellowstone National Park, resulting in only a few of the animals being hunted so far this winter.

The Bozeman Daily Chronicle reports the hunting season managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks closes next week while the season has already ended for hunters licensed through the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Some tribe-managed hunting seasons will run through the end of the month or into March.

Tom McDonald, wildlife manager for Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, says hunters harvested two bison early in the season near West Yellowstone, Montana.

Bison managers have agreed to allow hunting and capturing for slaughter between 600 and 900 bison that leave the park this year.

Source: <https://nbcmontana.com/news/local/officials-report-slow-hunting-season-for-yellowstone-bison>

Nebraska, Other States Discussing Truth In Labeling For Meat And Protein Products

(From The Fence Post)

You've heard that "it's not what's on the outside, it's what's on the inside that counts." But what about when the outside is ... misleading about what is on the inside?

A Nebraska District 3 State Senator is concerned about consumers who may have trouble differentiating alternate protein products from real meat in the marketplace. She is working on a bill to amend current state statute to prevent insect-based, vegetable-based, or lab-grown food from being labeled as "meat."

A former farm girl named Carol Blood - who, incidentally, pointed out that some companies deceptively use beet juice to actually mimic the blood contained in meat products - said consumers deserve the opportunity to clearly see what they are considering for purchase.

Blood, a vegetarian from Sarpy County, near Omaha, said she witnessed first-hand the confusion brought on by non-meat products being labeled as meat when she observed some consumers shopping in a health food store last summer. "I was at a grocery store, they had their non-meat products right next to the meat products. These women were arguing about whether a package was a meat or veggie patty." The product looked like hamburger - right down to the beet juice "blood," and the label identified the item as plant-based meat. "Those can't be the only two consumers in the world that were confused. I feel like the confusing labels are intentional," she said. It was this experience that convinced Blood that she should work through legislative channels to require truth in labeling for meat alternatives.

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/ya694v4y>

Canadian Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence Conducts Sulphate Study

(From SwiftcurrentOnline.com)

A new research study at the University of Saskatchewan's Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence at Clavet will look at the impact of various levels of sulphates in livestock water.

Associate Professor, Dr. Greg Penner is leading the project that will look at water sulfate concentrations, from zero up to 3000 parts per million, in water that is destined for livestock consumption.

He says they will be working with thirty-two heifers with eight animals receiving each of the different water treatments over an eighty-four-day span.

"Those different water qualities are delivered individually to different cattle. So, we can measure water intake, we can measure the impact of that water sulfate on feed intake, and then we can

measure the impact of that water sulfate on body weight change and trace mineral status in the body."

According to Leah Clark, a livestock and feed extension specialist with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, there is anecdotal evidence regarding water quality, but right now, there isn't any science to support those recommendations.

Dr. Penner says, unfortunately, some of the water we have in the Province, and across the Prairies has high concentrations of dissolved minerals like sodium sulfate.

Colby Elford, is another livestock and feed extension specialist with the ministry and says, "In some cases, cattle can survive drinking poor quality water, but they won't necessarily thrive."

Full text:

<https://swiftcurrentonline.com/ag-news/livestock-and-forage-centre-of-excellence-conducts-sulphate-study>

Big Changes Ahead In Land Ownership And Farm Operators?

(From AgriPulse)

Dig into U.S. farmland tenure to see what's happening and what's likely for the future, and Carson Futch's 87-year-old dad, Alvin, is very typical.

Carson, a real estate agent specializing in farmland for Lakeland-based **Saunders Real Estate** in central and south Florida, says his dad was a fifth-generation farmer with no family members who wanted to farm, so he put his land into a family corporation and has rented it out for decades to another large farmland manager for growing strawberries.

It often happens, he says: "Farmers have invested in their land and in their operation all these years, so their land is where they will get their retirement money."

Other likely trends for the years ahead:

- Across the next decade or two, expect the average ages of farmland owners to continue edging up.
- In fact, like the elder Futch, many are assigning their land in wills, family corporations or trusts and then just keeping it through their retirement years, avoiding the severe tax consequences of selling or gifting it while alive.
- Farmers will continue to be the most typical buyers of agricultural land, but their dominance will slip.
- Non-farmers will own more and more of the land – especially the rented acreage.
- Expect, as well, a continued swing, especially by mid-size and big farm operators, toward renting more acreage and owning less.
- There'll be more women owners and operators, too, even while there are fewer farm operators overall.
- Food companies are demanding more traceability and sustainability – often without paying for the extra costs of doing so. That can make it harder for smaller and mid-size operations to maintain profitability without scaling up and making investments in new technology.

Roberts: Another Shutdown Would Slow Farm Bill Implementation

(From the Fence Post)

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., said today that Congress must avoid another federal government shutdown, partly because it would slow down farm bill implementation.

"I hope there is not a shutdown," Roberts said at the beginning of his remarks to a Farm Foundation forum on farm bill implementation.

But later in the presentation, Roberts said, "We are not going to do another shutdown. I have been through 15 shutdowns. They have never achieved their purpose."

During the first week of a shutdown, Roberts said, "People say 'stay the course.'" During the second week, he continued, they ask "Are we on the right course?" In the third week, he added, they ask "How do I get off this course?"

This was a five-week shutdown and the government got "into shattered glass," he concluded, adding that "trade retaliation is in the same boat — you get into shattered glass."

The shutdown was "tough" for farmers who were making decisions and finding the Farm Service Agency county offices closed, Roberts said, adding that the farmers are now even more in the decision-making process about spring planting.

Speaking of the slowdown in farm bill implementation due to the government shutdown, Roberts said, "They are working extremely hard down at the department so I think it will work out."

Roberts described the farm bill as evolutionary, not revolutionary, saying that the current period of uncertainty would not have been the right time for a revolutionary bill.

Full story here. https://www.thefencepost.com/news/roberts-another-shutdown-would-slow-farm-bill-implementation/?utm_source=Agri-Pulse+Daily+Harvest+2018&utm_campaign=f180ffd74b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_02_06_09_13&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6978e27d37-f180ffd74b-48790993