



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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February 15, 2019

Farmers' Market Workshop Scheduled at Eastern Bison Assn. Conf.

Increasing profitability of farmers' market booths, on-farm stores and agritourism enterprises will be the focus of a special training workshop for bison producers and other growers at 10 a.m. Friday, March 8th at the Harrisburg East Red Lion Hotel, Harrisburg, PA

Hosted by the National Bison Association and the Eastern Bison Association—in cooperation with U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service—the workshop will cover subjects regarding planning, merchandising, marketing, and leveraging a presence at farmers' markets. And it will also touch on agritourism and other direct marketing opportunities. Participants at the workshop will work through a curriculum developed by a working group of buffalo producers with extensive experience in farmers' markets.

Helping to facilitate the workshop will be National Bison Association Assistant Director Jim Matheson, Nathan Stanbaugh of E3 Meat Co. in Baltimore, MD, and PA Farm Markets Director Brian Moyer.

The workshop and curriculum are targeted to bison producers, but the information can be useful for people marketing other products as well. The session is open to all producers.

Matheson noted that most bison producers are small-scale and rely on direct marketing as an important part of their business. "Small-scale bison production is the norm in the eastern United States, so direct marketing is an important part of most bison operations. With the American public increasingly interested in knowing where their food comes from, there is a great opportunity for producers to connect with customers at farmers markets, through direct sales, and in offering agritourism events," he said.

"Our workshop is intended to increase the ability of producers to connect with those customers," Matheson added.

The workshop will run from 10 a.m. - Noon. Registration is \$30 per attendee, but is free to all participants who are registered for the Eastern Bison Association conference. All participants will receive a take-home copy of the workshop curriculum.

More information is available on the National Bison Association website at www.bisoncentral.com.

The workshop is being funded through the Farmers' Market Promotion Program (FMPP) Grant Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, under No. 16FMPPCO0021.

Carter, Conley Set to Represent NBA at Expo West

NBA Executive Director Dave Carter and Communications Director Karen Conley are scheduled to be in Anaheim, CA March 7-9 to join with roughly 80,000 attendees and 3,000 Exhibitors at natural Products Expo Wes, the largest trade show in the United States for the natural foods industry.

Expo West is an important event to see the emerging and growing trends in the natural food business," said Carter, who has attended the event regularly since 2001. "It's also an important gathering of industry leaders, and a prime opportunity to make new connections, and to strengthen existing relationships.

Several companies with bison products exhibit at Expo each year.

"Anyone who is scheduled to be exhibiting at Expo is encouraged to drop me a note at david@bisoncentral.com, so that Karen and I can drop by to visit with you, and to get some photos for our PR outreach efforts.

Bison Bridge the Gap Between Rural and Urban Students

(Blog by Dave Carter)

The agricultural community has long been concerned about the lack of understanding or concern from their city cousins. A common refrain among agricultural producers and others in Rural America is that "city people just don't care about us."

The National Bison Association's recent Junior Judging competition at the National Western Stock Show provided some refreshing evidence that perhaps—just perhaps—this stereotype isn't completely valid.

Junior Judging is a competition in which students compete to determine which animals have the best body conformation that will result in top quality meat production. These types of judging events have long been a staple for FFA and 4-H students honing their skills in preparation for a career in livestock production. Selecting the right animals is the cornerstone of building a successful ranching enterprise.

A few years back, the National Bison Association launched a junior judging competition during its Gold Trophy Show at the National Western Stock Show to provide those students with better skills if they were considering a future in bison production.

Since its founding, FFA students from largely rural areas competed for prizes and scholarship money provided by the National Buffalo Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association, and Rocky Mountain Natural Meats.

This year, those rural students were joined by a contingent from the Jefferson County, Colorado 4-H program. Jefferson County is a suburban area on the fringes of Denver, where housing developments and office parks are gobbling up most of the remaining agricultural acreage. Perhaps the most notable herd of bison in Jefferson County is one owned by the City and County of Denver along Interstate 70.

Yet, here were students from these suburban schools walking alongside their rural counterparts, clutching notebooks, and peering into the pens to assess the qualities of the bison selected for judging. They took detailed notes at the pens, and then stood before a panel of bison professionals to state their reasons on how they scored the animals. These students were as serious about their efforts as were those youth who have spent their entire lives around livestock.

The experience was captured by a videography with the Jefferson County School District, and has been posted on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZK4GyGum4B8>.

And, one of the Jefferson County Teams even captured an award at the competition.

Watching these young people from Jefferson County relate their inaugural experience in bison judging illustrates that the chasm between youth in rural and urban America isn't nearly as vast as some would have us believe.

Read Dave's blogs here. <https://bisoncentral.com/blog/>

Bison managers, I need your help for only 10 minutes

Are you a bison producer or manager?

Hi there!

My name is Jeff Martin and I am a graduate student working with Dr. Perry Barboza at Texas A&M University. We are conducting a research study about bison manager decisions and practices as they relate to warming summers on both working and conservation grasslands & rangelands. I am emailing to ask if you to take about 10 minutes to complete a survey for the research project. Participation is voluntary, and your answers will be anonymous. The survey will close on March 13, 2019.

If you are interested, please click on the link for the survey: https://tamuag.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5atmPdFiINfiHsh (privacy statement: this is an anonymous link and anonymous survey, we will not track your IP address).

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at jeff.m.martin@tamu.edu or Dr. Perry Barboza at psbarboza@tamu.edu.

Thank you for taking the time to give us your thoughts.

Best,

Jeff Martin

PhD Candidate

Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Department, Texas A&M University

Bill taps into the wild and domestic side of bison [MT]

(From The Great Falls Tribune)

HELENA - So is that your everyday domesticated bison or does it take a walk on the wild side?

The Montana House of Representatives approved a bill Monday that clarifies the definition of "wild bison" and "wild buffalo." Officials said the bill closes loopholes and makes sure those who have domestic bison are paying the per capita fee on an animal in which there is growing popularity and consumption.

"Wild buffalo" or "wild bison" means a bison that has not been reduced to captivity, has never been subject to the per capita fee and is not owned by a person.

At a Jan. 29 hearing in front of the House Agriculture Committee, Rep. Ken Holmlund, R-Miles City, sponsor of House Bill 132, said the bill tightens up definitions.

The fees, set by the Department of Livestock board, are per-head charges on livestock and help fund the department's animal health programs, brands enforcement, theft investigation and recovery and predator control.

<https://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/2019/02/11/montana-bill-defines-wild-bison/2838402002/>

Bison case ends in mistrial

(From The Port Townsend Leader)

The court proceedings involving a man charged with eight counts of animal cruelty for allegedly starving his bison ended in a mistrial Feb. 11, after he was charged for a separate incident in which he fled the court Feb. 6 and led police on a chase.

Dennis "Denver" Shoop, 73, was charged with eight counts of first-degree animal cruelty in April 2018, after Terry Taylor, animal control officer with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, received calls from people who saw one of Shoop's bison lying dead at his property in Chimacum.

"The jury announced they were deadlocked on Monday morning after almost 1 1/2 days of deliberation," Deputy Prosecutor Julian St. Marie wrote in a news release. "The court announced a mistrial on all eight counts as well as on eight lesser included counts of animal cruelty in the second degree as proposed by defense."

On Feb. 6, in the midst of his trial in Superior Court, Shoop fled the courtroom and was involved in a police chase, which led to a new felony charge for evading police.

"At about 2:20 p.m. Feb. 6, Mr. Shoop stood up and announced that he needed to leave the courtroom, and then proceeded to do so, despite being told to stay by Judge (Keith) Harper," said Trevor Hansen, chief civil deputy with the sheriff's office.

Hansen said the judge issued an arrest warrant when Shoop did not come back to the courtroom.

Read more. <https://www.ptleader.com/stories/bison-case-ends-in-mistrial,59838>

Like herding bison

(From The Jackson Hole News & Guide)

A group of wild bison cooperated — and then they didn't.

A drive designed to push about 100 bison away from lines of hay, where the Moose Head Ranch feeds its horses and where the mingling of horses and bison has led to bloody encounters between beasts, looked promising early Friday. Grand Teton National Park closed the plowed, clear surface of Highway 26/89/191 to clear a passageway south for the shaggy beasts, and initially the operation went off without a hitch.

By 9:30 a.m., Wyoming Game and Fish Department employees zipping around and hooting on snowmobiles had successfully nudged about 45 of the heavyset animals onto the road, and strung out in a line, they shot straight south.

“Man, are they boogying,” Game and Fish spokesman Mark Gocke said from the safety of a Ford Explorer.

But a few minutes later the stampeding herd slowed and caught an old trail through the snow west toward the Moose Head Ranch. It was just a momentary juke.

Across the highway again they went, pointed toward Lost Creek Ranch and the sagebrush atop Antelope Flats, in the direction of the promised land — livestock-free winter range near the Kelly area's relic hayfields and the National Elk Refuge's natural and manmade food sources.

Read more. https://www.jhnewsandguide.com/this_just_in/article_a3b21f5e-464c-589a-999f-938fd52f6432.html

New Plains Bison Herd A Source Of Pride For Sask. First Nation

(From ViPortal.co)

The Flying Dust First Nation is the home of a new plains bison herd.

The band located near Meadow Lake, Sask., received 31 bison from Elk Island National Park, Alta., earlier this month as part of the park's bison management program.

Another six bison have been added from a local ranch.

The new herd is now grazing on 230 acres of natural grassland about two kilometres from the Flying Dust townsite.

Band chief Jeremy Norman said the bison are part of the band's focus on food sovereignty, as well as offer the chance to reconnect with the past.

"They are such a beautiful animal," he said. "It just brings pride to the community, just to see them there. Basically, the community wanted buffalo and they're a healthy food source." Norman said they won't begin harvesting the herd for meat until they have at least 80 animals. He estimated that is still three years away.

Full story here. <https://www.viportal.co/new-plains-bison-herd-a-source-of-pride-for-sask-first-nation/>

Dept. of Transportation Requests Comments on ELD

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) is week announced that it has received a joint application from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Livestock Marketing Association, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Beekeeping Federation, American Honey Producers Association and the National Aquaculture Association for an exemption from certain provisions in the hours-of-service (HOS) rules.

According to the notice published in the Federal Register, "The applicants request approval to, after 10 consecutive hours off duty: drive through the 16th consecutive hour after coming on duty; and drive a total of 15 hours during that 16-hour period. The requests are made on behalf of drivers who transport livestock, insects, and aquatic animals."

FMCSA requests public comment on the joint applicants' request for exemption. All comments must be received on or before March 8, 2019.

Interested parties may submit comments identified by Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Number FMCSA-2018-0334 by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* www.regulations.gov. See the *Public Participation and Request for Comments* section below for further information.
- *Mail:* Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.
- *Hand Delivery or Courier:* West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. E.T., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.
- *Fax:* 1-202-493-2251.

Each submission must include the Agency name and the docket number for this notice.

The Federal Register noted, "The applicants seek an exemption from the hours-of-service (HOS) requirements that: (1) Limit the maximum driving hours for property-carrying drivers to 11 [49 CFR 395.3(a)(3)]; and (2) limit the duty period for those drivers to 14 consecutive hours [49 CFR 395.3(a)(2)]. The applicants seek an exemption that after 10 consecutive hours off duty would allow them to: (1) Drive through the 16th consecutive hour after coming on duty; and (2) drive a total of 15 hours during that 16-hour period. The applicants cite the fact that livestock haulers are currently permitted to operate in "an exempt zone within a radius of 150 air miles" of the source of an agricultural commodity.

“The Agency, in implementing this provision, has stated that time spent working within the 150 air-mile radius does not count toward the driver's daily and weekly HOS limits. Accordingly, the 15- and 16-hour limits requested by the applicants would begin after a livestock hauler travels outside the 150 air-mile radius. The requested exemptions would apply to all livestock, insect, and aquatic animal transporters and their drivers,” the Register notice reported.

EPA Issues Revised WOTUS Proposed Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army yesterday published for public comment a proposed rule defining the scope of waters federally regulated under the Clean Water Act (CWA).

According to the Proposed Rule published in the Federal Register, “This proposal is the second step in a comprehensive, two-step process intended to review and revise the definition of “waters of the United States” consistent with the Executive Order signed on February 28, 2017,”

This proposed rule is intended to increase CWA (Clean Water Act) program predictability and consistency by increasing clarity as to the scope of “waters of the United States” federally regulated under the Act. This proposed definition revision is also intended to clearly implement the overall objective of the CWA to restore and maintain the quality of the nation's waters while respecting State and tribal authority over their own land and water resources.

Comments are being received through April 15, 2019.

Interested parties may submit comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0149, by any of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov/> (our preferred method). Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

Email: OW-Docket@epa.gov. Include Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0149 in the subject line of the message.

Mail: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Office of Water Docket, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.

All submissions received must include the Docket ID No. for this rulemaking.

Full Proposed Rule: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-14/pdf/2019-00791.pdf>

Colorado Creepers: Elk Stalk Bison in Genesee

(From Kool 107.9)

If you feel like you're being watched, it might be one of these are Colorado creepers, Look at how these Colorado elk are severely stalking these bison in Genesee.

The elk herd smell something delicious and they can't contain themselves. They're hungry and something just smells too good to pass up.

They follow the smell and get as close as they can. The scrumptious smell is coming from food and the bison are eating it. The elk surround them, calling all their friends to come and join.

The Genesee bison continue to chow down, daring the stalkers to step closer. The elk wonder what's their next move and look at each other to decide.

These elk in Genesee have caught onto the bison's dinner time. I'm certain the bison know they've got lots of stalkers, but it seems like they don't care. They are all huddled up, munching down on whatever deliciousness that was fed to them.

Source and video here. <http://kool1079.com/colorado-creepers-elk-stalk-bison-in-genesee/>

China Trade War: Concern Grows About Permanent Damage To Ag (From AgriPulse)

U.S. and Chinese negotiators are in Beijing this week trying to strike agreements to end the countries' trade war, but the damage has already been done for the U.S. ag sector and some of it is irreversible, according to farmers who don't expect to recover a lot of what they have lost to months of steep tariffs.

"No one wins in a trade war, but in the case of U.S. soybean farmers, we're going to get the short end of the stick," said Mark Albertson, director of strategic market development for the Illinois Soybean Growers. "Even if the trade war ends tomorrow, we're going to be faced with permanent damage. That's our concern."

It's been more than seven months since China levied a 25 percent import tax on U.S. soybeans last summer in retaliation to U.S. tariffs meant to punish Chinese trade policies such as forced technology transfer. But by then, China's importers were already cutting down on purchases. When the Chinese tariffs were implemented in June, all imports from the U.S. stopped.

At first, China's massive livestock industry turned to Brazil, paying steep premiums to buy soybeans that would have normally gone to Europe or elsewhere. It didn't take long before the Chinese realized they could simply make do with less, said Albertson, who returned recently from a trip to China to talk to buyers.

"The (Chinese) came right down to it and said that at first there was panic when the retaliatory tariffs took place, but now ... (the Chinese) say they can get by without U.S. soy and it won't be a big deal. I believe them."

USDA Accepting Applications for Farmers' Market Promotion Grants (From USDA AMS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. Feb. 13, 2019 – The U. S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is accepting applications from farmers, growers, and producers for the 2018 farmers market season, which opens Friday, May 3, 2019.

Applications are available at ManageMyMarket.com through March 7. All vendors must re-apply for 2019.

Farmers, ranchers, and growers who sell what they grow, raise or produce on their farm; and local producers who make products featuring agricultural foods from the Chesapeake Bay region (including the states of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia), and preferably within a 200-mile radius of Washington, D.C. are encouraged to apply.

Value-added food producers must source a minimum of 75 percent of the ingredients (by item, not by weight) in menu items from farms in the Chesapeake Bay region. Interested vendors can find the full list of requirements outlined in the [USDA Farmers Market 2019 Rules and Procedures and Operating Guidelines.](#)

[The USDA Farmers Market](#) opens every Friday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. from May 3 through October 25. For 24 years, the USDA Farmers Market has created a gathering place for employees, local residents, and visitors to the National Mall. Rest, relax and shop every Friday outside USDA Headquarters on the corner of Independence Avenue and 12th St, S.W., Washington, D.C.

Researchers predict spread of invasive long-horned ticks into North America

(From Kansas State Univ. College of Veterinary Medicine)

MANHATTAN - A recently invaded tick species known as the long-horned tick could establish itself in wide swathes of North America - if they are transported accidentally. This prediction was published in a new study in Nature's Scientific Reports by Ram Raghavan, assistant professor at the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and his international team of collaborators.

"The long-horned tick is also known as the east Asian tick, in Australia as the bush tick and in New Zealand as the cattle tick," said Raghavan, a spatial epidemiologist. "This species of tick is native to Japan, China, PrimorskyKrai region of eastern Russia and Korea; and it is well-established as an invasive species in Australia, New Zealand and on several Pacific Islands."

In some of these countries, Australia and New Zealand in particular, Raghavan said this tick is implicated in the transmission of theileriosis to cattle - costing several millions of dollars each year - and in other places they are known to transmit severe fever thrombocytopenia virus to humans.

Raghavan pointed out widespread concerns that the tick - *Haemaphysalis longicornis* - will successfully establish invasive populations in the U.S. and spread broadly from where it has been currently found.

"Our primary focus in this study was to predict where this tick could establish in North America, and to do that as robustly as possible considering all the caveats in spatial distribution modeling," Raghavan said. Data for modeling the potential spatial distribution for this tick species was provided by multiple institutions, collected from the species' native distribution range.

Full text: <https://www.k-state.edu/media/newsreleases/2019-02/raghavanticks21319.html>

Montana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Demonstration Project Grants

Montana Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) is accepting applications for matching grants for demonstration projects on some aspect of private grazing lands improvement and/or management.

Applications will be accepted from groups of individuals, non-governmental organizations, state or local units of government. For 2019, special consideration will be given to demonstration projects which are innovative and address one of the following topics: grazing management, soil/rangeland health, concentrated animal feeding operations/animal feeding operations; and noxious weeds. The Montana GLCI steering committee places special emphasis on cooperative efforts working with partners.

Applications are due February 18, 2019.

Read more.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mt/technical/landuse/pasture/nrcs144p2_056341/

Frontera Farmer Foundation

Frontera Farmer Foundation awards grants up to \$12,000 for capital improvements to small and mid-size farmers in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin that sell their food products to customers in the Chicago area at farmers markets and otherwise.

Farmers must have been in business for at least three years and must demonstrate how the grant will improve both their farm's viability and the availability of locally grown food products in the Chicago area.

Applications are due by March 1, 2019.

Read more. <https://attra.ncat.org/event-calendar/frontera-farmer-foundation/>

Beginning Farmer Institute Accepting Applications

(From ATTRA NCAT)

National Farmers Union's Beginning Farmer Institute (BFI) is a free training program that prepares beginning farmers of all ages and operation types for a successful future in agriculture. Applications for the 2019-2020 BFI cohort are open through April 15, 2019.

Participants will attend three in-person learning sessions over the course of the year, one each in Washington, D.C., Northern California, and Savannah, Georgia. The sessions include farm tours as well as seminars on a variety of beginning farmers issues, such as business planning, USDA programs, and acquiring land. Each year's curriculum will be tailored to the participants' needs as determined by a pre-attendance survey.

Read more. <https://attra.ncat.org/beginning-farmer-institute-accepting-applications/>