



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 23, 2018

2017 NBA Annual Report Published

The National Bison Association's 2017 Annual Report is now available for all members, and for anyone interested in the association's major activities for 2017.

The report covers the NBA's major efforts last year, including the launch of Bison 1 Million and Bison Hump Day, hosting the International Bison Conference, and accomplishments in the public policy arena.

In his introductory letter in the report, NBA Executive Director Dave Carter wrote, "Last year was a time of growth. Even as we grow, we recognize that bison will never be—and should never be—just another agricultural commodity. Bison have a special place in the hearts of the American public and will continue to have a special place in the marketplace in the U.S. and abroad."

The annual report highlights the association's work in market promotion, producer recruitment, public policy and other areas. It can be read in full here: <https://bisoncentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2017-Annual-Report.pdf>

Are You Listed on the NBA's Online Buyer's Guide?

Are you listed on the NBA's Online Buyer's Guide? If not, please sign up [here](#). The Buyer's Guide is where we steer the public when they contact the NBA looking for all things buffalo. You can list your bison products, ranch services, farmer's market locations and hours that you sell product at, breeding stock sales and much more.

Statistics show the Buyer's Guide is the number one page that folks visit on the NBA website. Listings are FREE for Active, Life and Allied Industry NBA members. To create your Buyer's Guide listing, please click [here](#) and simply fill in the applicable fields, add a company logo or photo, update your contact information and be sure to select "OK" when asked if you want to be listed in the Buyer's Guide - your listing will not show up unless you select OK. See the screen shots below to guide you in updating your listing.

It is the responsibility of each member to create their own Buyer's Guide listing, as the NBA believes that members are better equipped to promote their individual businesses better than the NBA can. Please take just a few minutes to utilize this important NBA member benefit! Questions? Please contact assistant director Jim Matheson at jim@bisoncentral.com, or call 303-292-2833.

Yellowstone Bison Escape Again After Corrals 'Sabotaged'

(From the Bozeman Chronicle)

For the second time this year, someone has tried to set bison free from corrals at the northern edge of Yellowstone National Park.

Park officials said in a news release Thursday afternoon that fences at the Stephens Creek Capture Facility were "intentionally compromised" sometime between 9 p.m. Wednesday and 6 a.m. Thursday, allowing 73 of 96 captured bison to escape.

Park spokeswoman Morgan Warthin said 58 bison reentered the corral through the illegal opening, which has been repaired. A total of 81 bison were in captivity Thursday afternoon. The park has begun a criminal investigation into the incident.

It's the second illegal release of bison from the facility in a little more than a month, following the January release of 52 bull bison that were being held for a potential brucellosis quarantine program. A separate criminal investigation into that incident is still ongoing.

Dan Wenk, Yellowstone's superintendent, lamented the latest escape in an emailed statement. "This act of sabotage, along with the incident that occurred on Jan. 16, is a setback for bison conservation," Wenk said.

The park's release said officials are "reviewing security measures at the facility and will make improvements immediately."

Full story: https://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/yellowstone-bison-escape-again-after-corrals-sabotaged/article_2bfeb29a-1f03-57fe-884c-45ec98e9278f.html

25 Years Later, Syncrude's Bison Herd Thriving On Reclaimed Oilsands Lands

(From CBC News)

Greg Fuhr never thought part of his portfolio as a Syncrude executive would include a bison ranch.

"People are puzzled when we say that," said Fuhr, Syncrude's vice-president of production, mining and extraction. "We get a lot of questions on that."

As of Friday, he can say that Syncrude managed that herd of bison on its oilsands lease for 25 years — stretching back to a time when wild herds of the animals had disappeared from the area.

Originally, Syncrude wanted to introduce cattle as a way of studying how large mammals would fair on a depleted oilsands mine that had been filled in and planted with vegetation.

When the company took the idea to the Fort McKay First Nation, its leaders told the oil company they would like to see bison returned to the region.

"We thought something more indigenous to the area would be suitable," Fort McKay Chief Jim Boucher said.

Boucher said the First Nation thought the experiment would be a good opportunity to build up the population of healthy bison after their numbers dwindled in Wood Buffalo National Park. Syncrude introduced 30 bison from Elk Island National Park outside Edmonton to Mildred Lake, north of Fort McMurray, in 1993.

The herd has now grown to 300. Over the years, members of the Fort McKay First Nation worked with Syncrude to manage the herd.

The herd's growth represents the success of Syncrude's oilsands reclamation, said Boucher, but he added that the industry overall needs to do a better job with remediation of land it has disturbed.

Read more. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/25-years-bison-reclaimed-syncrude-oilsands-lease-1.4538030>

Bison Gores Camper On California Island

(From USA Today)

A camper was airlifted to a hospital Saturday after a being gored by a bison on Southern California's Catalina Island, according to officials.

The unidentified man was sitting on a log when a nearby bison moved closer to him. The man tried to move, but the bison charged, goring his arm, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Ray Ward told the Associated Press.

Following the incident, the man was treated at the scene and later airlifted to a local hospital, the *Orange County Register* reported. His condition was unknown.

Bison roam freely on the island, but Ward said it's "very rare for them to attack," the *Register* reported.

Read more. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/02/20/buffalo-gores-camper-california-island/353976002/>

Yellowstone Captures 96 Bison

(From the Bozeman Daily Chronicle)

Bison have been caught in the trap at the northern border of Yellowstone National Park for the first time this winter.

Park officials announced in a news release Tuesday that 96 bison are being held at the Stephens Creek Capture Facility near the park's northern edge. In an email, park spokeswoman Vicki Regula said 43 were caught Friday and 53 were caught on Sunday.

The weekend captures bump total removal past 200 animals with about a month to go before the efforts cease for the year. Hunters have taken roughly 140 bison, according to an estimate from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The hunt and annual capture of Yellowstone's wild bison are part of a multi-agency effort to reduce the population, which was estimated at 4,800 last August. A management plan calls for a population of 3,000.

Bison managers agreed late last year to try to remove at least 600 animals.

The cull has been slow this year because weather conditions have allowed bison to stay clear of the park's trap and hunter's rifles. The animals are captured or killed when they migrate. Most are usually taken in the Gardiner Basin, where the trap is and where more bison typically migrate out.

This past weekend's capture was the first of the year. Park officials decided against capturing bison during one large migration earlier this month to allow hunters a chance at the bison. Some of the captured bison will be shipped to slaughter and some will be held for a potential brucellosis quarantine program. Regula said they couldn't offer any detail on how many bison will go where. She did say the park wants a new quarantine cohort consisting of 20 yearling females and at least 40 males.

Quarantine is a process through which bison can be deemed free of the disease brucellosis, which allows them to be moved more freely around the state. Some bison advocates see it as a way to establish more wild herds of bison around the country.

Read more.

https://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/yellowstone_national_park/yellowstone-captures-bison/article_cc615c92-cfaf-5248-8748-58759338bc26.html

Yellowstone Fee Proposal Advances In Wyoming Legislature

(From Associated Press)

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — A proposal advocating for the collection of a fee at Yellowstone National Park to fund wildlife conservation efforts in the states surrounding the park is advancing through the Wyoming Legislature.

The nonbinding resolution, which passed the state House Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee on a 9-0 vote Wednesday. It also approved expanding the concept to Grand Teton National Park, which is just south of Yellowstone in northwest Wyoming.

It now goes to the full Wyoming House for debate.

Proponents say the idea will generate money for Wyoming, Montana and Idaho to deal with wildlife management issues, such as mitigating collisions between wildlife and vehicles and the spread of wildlife diseases.

Its primary sponsor, Rep. Albert Sommers, said about 4 million people visit Yellowstone every year. "Sure, you want to see Old Faithful and you want to see the mudpots," said Sommers, R-Pinedale. But visitors also want to see a grizzly, wolf, bison or elk roaming around. "People want to see that, and I think they'd be willing to support it."

Since states cannot impose fees in national parks, the resolution seeks to start a conversation between the three states and the U.S. Interior Department and the National Park Service about the parks imposing a fee or sharing current fees with the states.

The Wyoming resolution does not specify the amount of the fee or how it would be assessed. Sommers said those details would need to be worked out with the federal government. Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk said Wednesday that he and other park staff have not been contacted about the proposal. He noted that Yellowstone remits about \$10 million a year in taxes it collects inside the park to the state of Wyoming.

Full Story: <http://www.capitalpress.com/Idaho/20180222/yellowstone-fee-proposal-advances-in-wyoming-legislature>

Bovine Tuberculosis Trace Investigation Identifies Infected MI Herd

(From Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development)

LANSING - A trace investigation from a bovine tuberculosis (TB) infected herd in Ottawa County has led to the identification of a bovine TB positive roping cattle herd in Kalamazoo County, Michigan. The Ottawa County cattle, which originated from a bovine TB infected herd in Indiana, had spent time at a Kalamazoo County farm. All the cattle on the Kalamazoo County farm were removed and two were found infected with bovine TB.

"The thorough investigation done by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and U.S. Department of Agriculture staff allowed us to find this herd quickly," said Jarold Goodrich, DVM, acting assistant state veterinarian. "We were able to remove the exposed animals for testing in a rapid manner and will be working to identify any other farms that may be involved."

Whole genome sequencing, which is a specific test that can identify the DNA of the TB bacteria, was used to confirm that the bovine TB found in the Ottawa County infected animals was similar that of an infected Indiana herd. The type of bovine TB that has been found in both cattle and white-tailed deer in the northeastern Lower Peninsula of Michigan is not related to the herds in Ottawa and Kalamazoo counties.

In 2016, Indiana identified two beef herds and one white-tailed deer as bovine TB positive, all within Franklin County. Currently, Indiana is one of six states - Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas and Michigan - with infected herds.

As a part of MDARD's response, a three-mile surveillance area has been established around the affected farm in Kalamazoo County. Farms within this special surveillance area will have six months to complete bovine TB testing. These farms will be identified by MDARD and notified through individual letters.

An informational meeting to discuss this finding of bovine TB and the surveillance area is scheduled for:

Wednesday, March 7, 2018, at 7 p.m.

Kellogg Biological Station Academic Building Auditorium

3700 E Gull Lake Dr., Hickory Corners, MI 49060

Full text:

<http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-1660-460549--,00.html>

Senator Alexander: Animal Drug User Fee Legislation "Critical" to Keep Food Supply Safe, Animals Healthy

(From WGNsradio.com)

Senate health committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) Tuesday (2/13/18) said, "The timely reauthorization of the Animal Drug and Generic Animal Drug User Fee Agreements is critical to help keep our farm animals and pets healthy, prevent outbreaks of disease, and keep our food supply safe."

"We know that the human medical products we use are safe because the Food and Drug Administration has approved them - and the way that farmers, ranchers, and veterinarians know drugs for animals are safe is the same - the FDA has approved them," Alexander said. "And similar to the user fee agreements this committee reauthorized last year for human medical products, this year we need to reauthorize the Animal Drug and Generic Drug User Fee Agreements."

The committee today held a hearing on reauthorizing the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Animal Drug User Fee Agreements (ADUFA) and the Generic Animal Drug User Fee Agreements (AGDUFA). Last week, Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR.) and Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-N.J.) released a discussion draft of bipartisan legislation reauthorizing these agreements.

Alexander continued: "While animal drugs may be used to treat almost every animal species, much of the drug development focuses on the seven major species: horses, cattle, pigs, dogs, cats, chickens, and turkeys. These include both animals that are common family pets as well as the livestock that is our food supply. These agreements help bring these new medicines to the veterinarians who write prescriptions for families to care for their pets and treat diseases, such as cancer or heartworm disease.

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/ya7r82an>

Research Brief: Global Grazing Lands Increasingly Vulnerable To A Changing Climate

(From the Univ. of Minnesota)

Some 800 million people around the world depend on livestock that graze on natural vegetation for their livelihoods and food security. In a good season, grasses and other plants flourish, supporting robust herds. In a bad season, the system suffers – as do the people who rely on it.

The difference between a good and bad year? One significant and increasingly volatile factor is precipitation.

A new [study](#) in *Nature Climate Change* reveals that over the past century year-to-year precipitation variability has increased significantly on 49 percent of the world's grazing lands, affecting vegetation and constraining its ability to support livestock. The study's authors, led by a team from the UMN Institute on the Environment, used climate data from 1901 to 2014 to create global maps of precipitation variability trends. While some grazing lands showed decreases in rainfall variability, the overall trend is an increase in fluctuation, both within and between years.

“Visualizing precipitation variability trends allows us to identify grazing lands that have undergone large changes – and to learn from those places where people have managed to adapt well despite increased variability,” says lead author Lindsey Sloat, a postdoctoral research associate with IonE's Global Landscapes Initiative.

Read more. <https://twin-cities.umn.edu/news-events/research-brief-global-grazing-lands-increasingly-vulnerable-changing-climate>

Michigan Forage Variety Test Report Available Online

Michigan State University Extension has released the *2017 Michigan Forage Variety Test Report* to assist producers in selecting well-adapted and productive forage varieties. The 39-page report includes results of 2017 yield trials for alfalfa, red clover, annual grasses and perennial forage grasses conducted in three different locations.

In addition, long-term yield averages for alfalfa and annual and perennial forage-grass varieties are available dating back to 2006. Fall dormancy ratings, winter survival index, and disease-resistance ratings for alfalfa cultivars and planting recommendations for perennial grasses are included to guide hay and livestock producers. The PDF is available free online.

https://forage.msu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2017-Forage-variety-Bulletin_Web-Version.pdf

Paleontology 101: Bison and Camels at the La Brea Tar Pits

Among the best-known fossil sites in the world is Rancho La Brea (more commonly known as La Brea Tar Pits) in Los Angeles, California. Starting about 40,000 years ago, asphalt seeps trapped animals and insects. The bones of the animals trapped in the seeps were impregnated with asphalt, thus preserving them for study by today's paleontologists. More than 10,000 individual animals from 565 species have been recovered from the site. Among the mammals found at La Brea are bison and camels.

Bison originated in Asia and migrated to North America about 200,000 years ago. Their arrival marks the beginning of the Rancholabrean land mammal age. In his book *Ice Age Mammals of North America*, Ian Lange reports:

“Unfortunately, the actual date of the Rancholabrean Land Mammal Age is not known accurately, and dates vary between 300,000 and 100,000 years ago.”

At Rancho La Brea, bison are the most common large herbivore.

The Antique Bison (*Bison antiquus*) had a larger body, greater shoulder hump, and longer horns than the modern Plains buffalo. At least 150 of these animals have been found at La Brea.

Ian Lange reports:

“Evolution of *Bison bison antiquus* resulted in the development of two presently living subspecies, the plains bison (*Bison bison bison*) and the slightly larger woods bison (*Bison bison athabasca*). These animals are now the largest land animals in North America.”

Source: <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/2/21/1743178/-Paleontology-101-Bison-and-Camels-at-the-La-Brea-Tar-Pits>

USDA Lowers Inflation Forecast On Softer Meat Prices

(From AgriPulse)

An increase in beef and pork production is expected to hold down the cost of food to consumers this year. USDA has lowered its food inflation forecast this year to 1 to 2 percent, down from last month's forecast of 1.5 percent to 2.5 percent. The reduction is largely due to lower projections for beef and pork prices.

USDA is projecting that farmers will produce record amounts of meat, poultry and milk this year, while slightly increasing plantings of major field crops.