



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.
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March 1, 2019

Pooches Hungry for Bison? NBA Website Now Lists Honestly Labeled Dog Food Brands

(NBA News Release)

The National Bison Association today launched a new [website](#) to help pet owners to select brands made with authentic North American bison, and to avoid deceptively labeled products made with water buffalo labeled only as “buffalo.”

“As more people discover the great taste and nutritional benefits of bison, they are bringing it to the table for all members of their family, including their companion animals,” said Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association. “Our new site, entitled *Sniffing Out the Best Bison Brands for Your Companion Animal*, will help pet parents find the best products in the marketplace containing authentic North American Bison.”

The National Bison Association developed the new website after some companies have refused to fully label or disclose that the “buffalo” in their brands is actually imported water buffalo.

“Several pet food brands have worked with ranchers in recent years to develop products containing authentic North American bison. Many of those products list the ingredient as either bison or buffalo. Unfortunately, other brands are deceiving their customers by simply labeling their products as “buffalo” when in fact, they are using water buffalo, not North American bison. We want to help consumers make an informed choice.”

The National Bison Association is working with pet food regulators to propose new rules that would require an ingredient currently labeled as buffalo to be fully labeled as either American buffalo or water buffalo. Finalizing any regulatory change, however, is a long-term process.

“We want the public to be able to buy honestly labeled products with full confidence that they are providing their companion animals with the best bison products available,” Carter said.

Click [here](#) to access the *Sniffing out the Best Bison Brands for Your Companion Animal*.

Editor’s Note: a copy of this news release has been sent to publications that cover pet-related topics.

FDA Supports Honest Labeling; Says It Lacks Regulatory Clout

In separate letters to the National Bison Association, and to the five U.S. Senators who contacted the federal Food and Drug Administration in support of the bison business, representatives of the FDA stated that the agency supports honest labeling of bison and water buffalo in the human food marketplace, but lacks the regulatory authority to enforce that labeling.

In a letter to NBA Executive Director Dave Carter, FDA's Acting Director of Food Labeling and Standards, wrote, "FDA has not established a specific regulation regarding the marketing of either water buffalo or bison. However, we do agree that water buffalo should be labeled as water buffalo and that bison should be labeled as "bison" or "Buffalo (bison)."

A similar letter was transmitted to U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO), who—along with four colleagues—urged the FDA to promptly address the NBA complaint against companies marketing water buffalo as bison in the human food marketplace.

Carter noted, "While it is encouraging that FDA officials support our claim, it is clear that we need to develop some regulatory teeth to enforce honest labeling."

He said that the NBA is already working with officials in Washington, D.C. to propose statutory or regulatory language to protect the integrity of bison meat in the marketplace.

Promote Your Agritourism; Direct Marketing Business in On-Line Directory

NBA members offering agritourism experiences, participating in Farmers' Markets, or providing other direct -to-consumer sales can promote their businesses in the expanded on-line directories that the association will be launching next month.

Dave Carter, NBA executive director, noted, "With resources available through USDA's Farmers' Market Promotion Program, we are expanding our on-line *Where to Buy* section of the directory, and will be promoting those services through a combination of traditional and social media."

Members wanting to promote their services should complete their free buyer's guide listing, which can be updated on your account at bisoncentral.com, or follow this link <https://bisoncentral.com/my-account/> and click the Complete Profile button and fill out the appropriate fields to describe and promote your business, and don't forget to click update at the bottom of the page.

Matheson to Conduct Farmers' Market Workshop in Harrisburg on Friday

NBA Assistant Director Jim Matheson will be in Harrisburg, PA next Friday to conduct a training workshop aimed at increasing profitability of farmers' market booths, on-farm stores and agritourism enterprises.

The workshop, being conducted in conjunction with the Easter Bison Association annual meeting, will begin 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.

Speakers include Matheson, Nathan Stanbaugh of E3 Meat Co. in Baltimore, MD, and PA Farmer 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.

Carter to Update RMBA on NBA Priorities this Weekend

Dave Carter, executive director of the NBA, will update the members of the Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association on the challenges and opportunities facing the bison business, as the RMBA members gather at the Marriott Hotel in Westminster, CO this weekend.

The RMBA meeting is set to kick off at 10:30 a.m. Saturday with the general membership meeting. In the afternoon, the members will receive presentations on Bison Handling Systems design, Feeding and Nutrition, and other topics, before gathering for the conference banquet that evening.

On Sunday, Patrick Toomey of Crossroads Ranch Consulting will conduct an introduction on Holistic Resource Management, and Dr. Tim Holt of Colorado State University will provide an overview of a bison vaccination program.

Learn more at <http://www.buffaloranchers.com/workshops/>

Headed to Expo West? Let's Connect

NBA Executive Director Dave Carter and Communications Director Karen Conley will be joining roughly 80,000 attendees and 3,000 exhibitors in Anaheim, CA next week at Natural Products Expo West, the largest trade show in the United States for the natural foods industry.

"The natural food industry continues to grow and evolve, and it's important that the bison business stay on top of the major trends," Carter said.

"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.

Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Scholarship Accepting Applications

The Dakota Territory Buffalo Association (DTBA) is excited to announce that we are now awarding a \$1,000 scholarship.

We value our youth and want to see them succeed. The scholarship opened Feb. 1 for applications and will close April 15.

We are not limiting it to any certain major or field. We are requiring that applicants be a DTBA member or sponsored by a DTBA member. Those interested can find the application on the DTBA website, www.dakotabuffalo.com. If you have any questions you can email info@dakotabuffalo.com.

After Long Wait, Fort Peck Tribes Receive Five Yellowstone Bison

(From Wyoming Public Media)

After years of negotiations, five wild Yellowstone bison bulls have finally been transferred into the hands of tribal officials on the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana. The tribes there built a half-million-dollar quarantine facility to guarantee the bison are disease free.

The National Park Service approved the tribal quarantine program last spring, but Fort Peck wasn't able to get the bison until now because of negotiations with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) program over how early in the quarantine process they could transfer the animals.

Eastern Shoshone member Jason Baldes is the tribal buffalo coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation. He said it's taken years for Fort Peck to get the bison because people have trouble thinking of the species as wildlife.

"We've done pronghorn antelope re-introductions and bighorn sheep here on the [Wind River] Reservation and that's a matter of going and rounding up the animals and bringing them here and putting them in the habitat," Baldes said. "For some reason, when it comes to buffalo, we have this notion that we've got to bring them in and treat them like cows."

Read more. <https://www.wyomingpublicmedia.org/post/after-long-wait-fort-peck-tribes-receive-five-yellowstone-bison#stream/0>

Owner Of Bison Herd Aims To Help Rebuild Stock Of 'National Mammal'

(From The McCook Gazette)

McCOOK, Neb. — Darrell Meister's bison herd at Red Willow Lake now numbers 26, and in late 2018 and very early 2019, he installed a working system to facilitate vaccinating and tagging and sorting calves for sale.

Meister released his first seven bison into heavy-duty-fenced pastures just east of the lake and dam in April 2016.

Meister is impressed with and promotes the health benefits of bison meat, and would like to see more families and McCook and area restaurants add bison meat to their regular menus.

Meister's philosophy: "My goal has never been only to make money. I've also wanted to be part of the resurrection of the 'National Mammal.' There's so much history associated with the bison and Native Americans and the prairie. They've all evolved together. Historically, you can't have one without the other."

Read more. <https://www.mccookgazette.com/story/2591106.html>

The Mammoth Site To Excavate Ice Age Bison At Minnesota Bog

(From News Center 1)

HOT SPRINGS, S.D. – An ancestor of one of South Dakota's iconic animals will soon be added to a local Ice Age museum.

On Wednesday, The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs announced plans to excavate Ice Age bison fossils at the Snake River Fossil Site in Minnesota.

Paleontologists will set up four test pits within a peat bog on the Snake River Bison Farm from May 5 to May 11. During that time, crews will conduct studies on the land and attempt to dig for Bison antiquus fossils within a layer of earth dating back to the late Ice Age – over 10,000 years ago.

Researchers will also invite area schools to watch as they work at the dig site.

Initial digs conducted by The Mammoth Site on the farm's pastures turned up various fossils. The remains and informational panels on the fossil site have been added to the Ice Age Exhibit Hall as new features.

While bison bones have not been found in the Mammoth Site's bone-bed, the beasts and their evolved descendants were and are major contributors to the Midwest ecosystem.

To that end, according to Mammoth Site Research Director Jim Meade, scientists hope to extrapolate acquired data to South Dakota's plains to get a glimpse at what life was like millennia ago.

"It hasn't always been a prairie out here. 'When did that change from the Ice Age spruce forest and open grassland to the prairie we see today?'" Meade posed. "The only way we can do that is to go out and excavate."

Read more. <https://www.newscenter1.tv/the-mammoth-site-to-excavate-icere.-age-bison-at-minnesota-bog/>

Prehistoric Bison Skull Found In Quarry In England

(From Aggregates Manager)

A complete 150,000-year-old bison skull was discovered by Jamie Jordan, a paleontologist, in a quarry in Cambridgeshire, England, One News Page reports. The skull belonged to a prehistoric, male bison *priscus*, also known as the steppe bison, that stood more than 6 feet tall and weighed in at 2,000 pounds.

"I have been studying the site for years, and I have found hundreds of buffalo skulls before, but never anything like this," Jordan says in a Buzz 60 video.

Jordan told reporters that he believes that he will be able to put the skull together with other fossils from the bison's skeleton that he already has. Once assembled, he plans to put it on display at his museum, Fossils Galore.

Read more. <https://www.aggman.com/prehistoric-bison-skull-found-in-quarry-in-england/>

Cutting Down on Red Meat? Connecticut Farms are Humanely Raising Bison and Emu

(From Connecticut Magazine)

Maybe you're worried about the environmental impact of industrial beef production. Maybe you want to limit beef for health reasons. Or maybe you're just looking to incorporate a new, tasty meat into your diet.

Connecticut farms are here to satisfy your carnivorous cravings, including with red meat alternatives such as bison and emu. Packing a super protein punch and offering lower fat, bison and emu meat boast similar tastes and textures to beef, though you'll pay more than you will for the beef at your local market.

Local bison and emu (both of which can be substituted in just about any recipe that calls for beef) are raised humanely, roaming freely in pastures, without the use of antibiotics or growth hormones.

Bison is sold in the meat section of chain supermarkets. It can also be purchased (\$10 a pound for ground bison) fresh from Creamery Brook Bison Farm in Brooklyn, where a large herd is cared for by Austin and Debbie Tanner.

The rumble of the 50-bison herd can be heard and felt across the rocky pasture, as the beasts race uphill to surround the trailer of a tractor during a tour of the farm. The only time these massive bovine get grain is when the tours are given, so they sprint with great verve to get to the tasty treat.

Thought by some to be native to Connecticut, bison are wild cattle that can run up to 35 mph, top the scales at over a ton, and stand, at their shoulders, between 5-6½ feet tall. These impressive animals came back from near extinction, in part, due to demand for their lean, flavorful meat. They are not as easily controlled as cattle, so the prospect of keeping them confined in feedlots doesn't work well, Debbie says.

Read more. http://www.connecticutmag.com/food-drink/cutting-down-on-red-meat-connecticut-farms-are-humanely-raising/article_444ee0dc-30b2-11e9-b4c8-ab70def72a1c.html

Anti-American Prairie Reserve resolution passes Montana House committee

(From The Billings Gazette)

A resolution requesting that the American Prairie Reserve's federal grazing permits not be changed passed out of committee on a party-line vote Tuesday.

House Agriculture Committee Republicans endorsed House Joint Resolution 28 that asks the Bureau of Land Management to deny the northeastern Montana nonprofit group's request to modify its federal grazing permits.

"I believe there are issues," said Rep. Dan Bartel, R-Lewistown, who sponsored the measure. He addressed the committee Tuesday night, after which the panel passed the resolution. If approved by the full Legislature, copies of the resolution would also be sent to Congress and the Department of Interior, but the legislation carries no teeth.

"We should not allow them to conduct a radical experiment on BLM land," testified Chuck Denowh, of the United Property Owners of Montana.

The move is the latest in a series challenging the American Prairie Reserve in its quest to establish a 3.5-million-acre conservation area for wildlife — including bison — along the Missouri River by knitting together 500,000 acres of private land with 3 million acres of state and federal lands. The APR's next-door neighbor is the 915,000-acre Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

"We joke that we are the largest conservation project that you've never heard of," Pete Geddes, vice president of the American Prairie Reserve, said in his testimony.

"We are under no illusions about the controversy of our project," he said. "You don't have to like us, you just have to respect our property rights."

Read more. https://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/anti-american-prairie-reserve-resolution-passes-montana-house-committee/article_0afb9e15-b398-5567-bcd3-7ca648a0728d.html

Peer Reviewers Sought for Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

(From ATTRA)

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is inviting self-nominations for peer reviewers of the 2019 Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) applications.

Peer reviewers are typically farmers or ranchers, or from community-based and non-profit organizations, universities, or government. If selected, reviewers will be expected to attend brief (remote/webinar) training, write reviews of about 15 proposals, and attend a three-and-a-half-day panel meeting in Washington, DC, to be held in the early summer.

If you are interested in being considered as a reviewer and will not be involved in any 2019 BFRDP proposal, please send the following information to wdean@nifa.usda.gov: 1) your name, organization name and type (e.g. farm/ranch, NGO/CBO, university), and contact information (email, phone, city and state); 2) a brief description of your interest and experience related to BFRDP, including any experience with military veteran BFRs and/or socially disadvantaged BFRs.

Read more. <https://attra.ncat.org/peer-reviewers-sought-for-beginning-farmer-and-rancher-development-program/>

Video Available of EcoFarm Conference Keynote Speakers Posted in Latest News Share

(From ATTRA)

EcoFarm has posted videos of keynote speakers from the 2019 EcoFarm Conference, "Resilience is Fertile." Topics include "Empowering our Communities to Transform the Food System," with Malaika Bishop, Denisa Livingston, and Karen Washington.

Dr. Kris Nichols and Dr. John Reganold spoke on "Diversity is Key - What 40 Years of Science tell us about Organic Agriculture." Presentations by successful organic farmers Marney Blair & Lisa Bjorn, Chanowk & Judith Yisrael, and Thomas Broz are also available, as well as video of Nikki Silvestri speaking on "Soil and Your Inner Power."

Read more. <https://attra.ncat.org/video-available-of-ecofarm-conference-keynote-speakers/>

Perdue Sets Farm Bill Dates, Says Broad Immigration Proposal In Works

(From AgriPulse)

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue provided the first target dates for implementing the 2018 farm bill, saying the first payments to dairy producers could be delivered in July, and he told lawmakers Wednesday that the White House is working on a comprehensive immigration reform proposal with the help of a USDA adviser.

Perdue told the House Agriculture Committee that USDA adviser Kristi Boswell, formerly with the American Farm Bureau Federation, has been lent to the White House to assist with the agricultural provisions in the immigration proposal.

He didn't provide any other details of the immigration plan, but he also said that USDA continues to work on a "TurboTax-like" web portal that will allow farmers to apply for the H-2A foreign labor visa program through USDA. Information the farmers provide will be forwarded to the departments of Labor, Homeland Security and State, which handle the program.

Demand for H-2A workers has been soaring in recent years as farms struggle to find workers. As for the farm bill, Perdue said that signup for the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs is expected to start Sept. 1. It will be the first-time farmers have been able to switch between the programs since they were created by the 2014 farm bill. Most farmers currently participating in ARC are expected to switch to PLC.

Beginning in 2021, farmers will be allowed to switch between ARC and PLC on an annual basis. The Farm Service Agency expects to start the signup for the Dairy Margin Coverage program, an overhauled version of the old Margin Protection Program, on June 17, with payments starting as soon as July 8, Perdue said.

A general signup for the Conservation Reserve Program won't begin until December. About 22.5 million acres are currently enrolled in the program, which was capped at 24 million acres under the 2014 farm bill. The 2018 farm bill increases the CRP limit to 27 million acres by 2023 and restricts county payment rates to keep them under local land rental rates. Enrollment for the continuous signup contracts is expected to start in the summer.

USTR seeks to kick off trade talks with Japan as early as March *(From AgriPulse)*

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said Wednesday he is planning on officially starting negotiations with Japan next month for a bilateral free trade agreement.

"We can start the actual negotiating," Lighthizer said while testifying at a House Ways And Means Committee hearing. "We feel a real urgency because of the combination of market access from TPP and Europe ... And it's going to have a real effect on our farmers."

U.S. agriculture groups have been clamoring for a trade pact with Japan, a major importer of beef, pork, wheat and other commodities, ever since President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a Pacific Rim trade deal that included Japan. That pact recently came into force without the U.S., prompting Japan to lower ag tariffs, but not for U.S. exporters.

"We now have a situation where Europe has a deal with Japan, and Canada and Australia have deals with Japan that have kicked in as part of TPP," USTR Chief Agricultural Negotiator Gregg

Doud told reporters today. “We’ve got to get back to even with our competitors in that market. This is a really, really important market for U.S. agriculture. In terms of meat, it’s our best market.”

U.S. exporters of cheese, whey, lactose and skim milk powder are already preparing to lose market share in Japan to European and TPP countries, Tom Vilsack, president and CEO of the U.S. Dairy Export Council, told *Agri-Pulse* in a recent interview. He predicted the U.S. dairy industry would lose billions of dollars in lost sales so long as the U.S. is at a disadvantage. “It’s great that we’re opening up those trade negotiations with Japan — a great market not just for agriculture, but for a lot of American businesses,” Delaware Agriculture Secretary Mike Scuse told *Agri-Pulse*.

26% Of Local Livestock Breeds At Risk Of Extinction, Says New UN Report

(From Sustainable Food News)

The biodiversity that underpins the world’s food systems is disappearing, putting the future of our food, livelihoods, health and environment under severe threat.

That’s according to a new report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which warned that once lost, the biodiversity for food and agriculture – namely all the species that support food systems and sustain people who grow and/or provide food – cannot be recovered. The report, titled [*State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*](#), points to decreasing plant diversity in farmers’ fields, rising numbers of livestock breeds at risk of extinction and increases in the proportion of overfished fish stocks.

Of some 6,000 plant species cultivated for food, fewer than 200 contribute substantially to global food output, and only nine account for 66 percent of total crop production.

The world’s livestock production is based on about 40 animal species, with only a handful providing the vast majority of meat, milk and eggs. Of the 7,745 local (occurring in one country) breeds of livestock reported globally, 26 percent are at risk of extinction.

And, nearly a third of fish stocks are overfished, more than half have reached their sustainable limit.

Biodiversity for food and agriculture is all the plants and animals – wild and domesticated – that provide food, feed, fuel and fibre. It is also the myriad of organisms that support food production through ecosystem services – called “associated biodiversity.”

This includes all the plants, animals and micro-organisms (such as insects, bats, birds, mangroves, corals, seagrasses, earthworms, soil-dwelling fungi and bacteria) that keep soils fertile, pollinate plants, purify water and air, keep fish and trees healthy, and fight crop and livestock pests and diseases.

The [report](#), prepared by FAO under the guidance of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture looks at all these elements. It is based on information provided specifically for this report by 91 countries, and the analysis of the latest global data.

Older Americans Missing Out on Protein Intake

(From Meatingplace.com)

Amid the rise in popularity of high-protein diets, new research finds more than one in three older Americans aren't meeting the recommended protein intake.

Using data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), researchers from The Ohio State University and Abbott Nutrition evaluated protein intake in relation to diet patterns and functional outcomes in 11,680 adults aged 51 and older.

"Despite the protein craze in America, the data shows there's still a big gap in adults' protein intake," Christopher Taylor, associate professor at Ohio State and study author, said in a press release.

"Not only were they significantly lacking," he said, "but this research was looking at intake against current dietary recommendations, which don't take into consideration activity, age and illness, when adults may need even more protein."

The analysis showed protein consumption is a strong indicator of adults' overall diet, nutrition and physical well-being, and included the following findings:

- Adults who weren't getting enough protein had poorer quality diets and weren't consuming enough important vitamins and minerals like choline, vitamin C, zinc and vitamin D.
- More than 40 percent of adults who did not meet the protein recommendation ate fewer than three meals per day.
- Of those not meeting their protein intake, one-third were up to 30 grams of protein short per day.
- Those not meeting the protein recommendation were more likely to encounter physical limitations, such as sitting for long periods or getting into or out of bed.

Read the entire open access paper at the [Journal of Nutrition, Health and Aging](#).