



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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March 10, 2017

A Note to Members to be Vigilant

As bison producers get ready for their spring spruce-up chores around the ranch, the National Bison Association advised to be vigilant for any fraudulent offerings of fencing supplies, building materials and other items.

“In years’ past, some producers have been scammed by people offering inexpensive materials for fencing and fix-up around the ranch,” said Dave Carter, NBA executive director. “If you are contacted by someone offering a so-called ‘great deal’ on pipe, guard rail, or fencing supplies, be sure to ask for references.”

Eastern Bison Producers Gather, Matheson to Participate

The Eastern Bison Association will hold its annual conference and show/sale this weekend in Harrisburg, PA. The event draws over 100 bison producers from the eastern US and features the last auction of the bison auction season.

The association has a full day of conference programming on Friday, March 10th featuring a variety of speakers that will address today’s bison market, herd health issues and more.

The conference will also feature an overview of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s just released findings from its 2014 Bison Study and will include a USDA APHIS representative to provide the overview followed by a panel discussion, including EBA board member Jack Pleasant and NBA assistant director, Jim Matheson.

Learn more about the conference and sale at http://www.ebabison.org/?page_id=644

USDA Assigns Trade Specialist to Work with Bison Sector

The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is assigning a staff specialist to work directly with the bison sector to assist on issues relating to the export of bison meat. Representatives of the

FAS informed NBA Executive Director Dave Carter of that development Wednesday when he met with the agency in Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth Riley, International Trade Specialist with FAS, will conduct regular conference calls with the National Bison Association, and will be attending the International Bison Conference in Montana this summer to discuss trade developments with the attendees at that event.

Carter noted after the meeting this week, "We have developed a strong working relationship with the Foreign Agricultural Service over the past several years. The appointment of Elizabeth Riley as the bison commodity specialist within the agency will provide us with the ability to expand that working relationship."

Carter in Anaheim for Expo West

Several bison marketers will join the estimated 70,000 exhibitors and attendees at the nation's largest natural products trade show in Anaheim, CA today.

Natural Products Expo West, has emerged over the past three decades as the premier showcase for new developments and product in the natural food arena. National Bison Association Executive Director Dave Carter will be at Expo today to meet with several natural food industry leaders at the show. Among the bison marketers displaying at Expo include Epic Provisions, Golden Valley Natural Meat, Sierra Meat and Seafood, and Tanka/Native American Foods.

Dr. Oz Touts Health Benefits of Bison

Dr. Mehmet Oz, the widely popular television health advocate, once again promoted the benefits of bison this week to his audience of roughly 4 million viewers. Click on these two links to see the segments aired this week featuring "the healthy meat that you are not eating."

<http://www.doctoroz.com/episode/healthy-meat-you-re-not-eating>

<http://www.doctoroz.com/video/meaty-substitute-beef>

Buffalo on the High Plains: Sharing Local Buffalo History

Calling all folks interested in local history! Come and learn and share anything bison related at the "Buffalo on the High Plains: Sharing Local Buffalo History". This event is a historical meet-and-greet at the Goodland High Plains Museum at 2pm MT on Saturday, 11 March.

John Carson, professional historian and great-great grandson of famed frontiersman Kit Carson will be here to share his knowledge and show how the great bison herds of our High Plains were linked to the famous Bent's Fort of the early 1800's. Mr. Carson is an interpretive ranger at the Bent's Fort near LaJunta CO.

Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site features a reconstructed 1840s adobe fur trading post on the mountain branch of the Santa Fe Trail where traders, trappers, travelers, and the Cheyenne

and Arapaho tribes came together in peaceful terms for trade. Today, living historians recreate the sights, sounds, and smells of the past with guided tours, demonstrations and special events.

If you have bison related stories or historical artifacts you are invited to come and share as well!

Contact Ken Klemm for more information at ken@thebuffaloguys.com or 785-899-5804 See <https://highplainsmuseum.org/> from more information about the Goodland High Plains Museum and <https://www.nps.gov/beol/index.htm> for more info about Bent's Fort.

North Dakota Bison Ranchers Come to Denver To Replenish Herd Diminished After Pipeline Protest

(From the Denver Channel)

The Genesee Park's annual bison auction drew ranchers from several states – including a pair of ranchers from North Dakota who said pipeline protests near their land have diminished their herd.

Ernie and Beverly Fischer won six bison at the city of Denver's auction, held every year to help control the size of the herd roaming at Genesee Park. The Fischers said they're boosted by their victories after a very trying year for their herd, which is living on pastures adjacent to protest camps established to oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline.

"I'm sure they didn't intentionally go out to hurt animals but that's exactly what happened," Beverly Fischer said. "We lost a few buffalo and we're quite saddened by that."

The Fischers said dozens of their calves are unaccounted for, and they tie that to the massive protester presence. The couple also said some of their animals miscarried calves, something they believe is due to the stress of the situation.

"Buffalo like it nice and quiet and away from people," Ernie Fischer said. "So you have 7,000 to 8,000 people honking their horns, drums beating. The animals are running, little calves are getting trampled."

Ernie Fischer also said he suspects at least 13 of his bison were slaughtered for food. "We know that people left the protest camp ... went onto private land that we leased, killed our buffalo, quartered it, took it back and ate it," Ernie said. "I'm not saying they had a big picnic and sent invites out on a Sunday afternoon with a red checkered table cloth. But I'm saying it happened. That's my first amendment right, to say what I want."

Denver7 reached out to protest organizers for comment Friday afternoon but have not yet received a response. In November, a protest leader [told KFVR-TV](#) the Fischers' animals died after consuming poison and protestors actually alerted the couple after finding dead buffalo. All 23 of the bison offered for auction by the city Friday sold, most for more than \$2,000 each. The Fischers are optimistic for the futures of the six calves they're driving back to North Dakota. "They're going to have an easier life than last year's calf crop. Last year's calf crop was under stress," Ernie Fischer said. "[We'll] put them with their other little brothers and sisters that we got at home and hopefully God blesses us with a lot of rain and a lot of grass and hopefully a good market again next year."

Read more.

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/local-news/north-dakota-bison-ranchers-come-to-denver-to-replenish-herd-dimished-after-pipeline-protest>

Man, Sentenced for Shooting Bison Bull That Was Prized for Its Bloodlines

(From the Billings Gazette)

The bison bull illegally shot and butchered by a Pryor man on a Fort Smith area ranch in 2014 was no ordinary bison.

The animal was prized for its bloodlines going back 25 years and a key member of a bison-calf livestock operation on the CH Land and Cattle Company, owned by Brandon and Tricia Siemion.

On Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Susan Watters of Billings sentenced Tyler Dale Medicine Horse Sr., 58, to two years of probation and ordered \$8,000 restitution for his guilty pleas to two misdemeanor charges.

The bison was “more than just a buffalo to the Siemion family,” Watters told Medicine Horse.

The judge called the bison “a magnificent animal” with valuable bloodlines from years of breeding. The bull also was valued for the calves he produced in the livestock operation, she said. For the Siemions to find the animal butchered with only its head and ribs remaining “would have been a rather shocking discovery, don’t you agree?” Watters asked Medicine Horse.

“Yes,” he replied.

Watters also noted the emotional, physical and financial toll the bison’s loss has had on the Siemions. Referring to Medicine Horse’s American Indian heritage, the judge said she thought he would have “respected the buffalo.”

“Yes,” Medicine Horse responded.

The Siemions, who attended the sentencing hearing said afterward they were grateful the case was prosecuted and that Medicine Horse was held accountable. The Siemions raise bison for the food industry.

Full story: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/man-sentenced-for-shooting-bison-bull-that-was-prized-for/article_1d6d2cf1-3565-53f4-9f4f-c7b73c990cab.html

Bison from Iowa Adapting Well to New Environment in Wyoming

(From U.S. News & World Report)

A group of bison relocated from Iowa appear to be thriving as their first winter in Wyoming comes to a close.

The Daily Ranger reports (<http://bit.ly/2m883LS>) that the 10 bison were brought to the Wind River Indian Reservation in November as part of a long-term repopulation effort. Bison once ranged widely across Fremont County.

The Eastern Shoshone tribe obtained the bison from the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge in Iowa.

The tribe's Jason Baldes says the bison have adapted very well to the 300 acres of Shoshone land.

He says the animals have primarily been grazing the existing forage but were fed supplemental grass hay when temperatures dropped below zero and snow storms struck the county this winter.

The tribe is open to having more bison brought to the land.

Source: <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/wyoming/articles/2017-03-05/bison-from-iowa-adapting-well-to-new-environment-in-wyoming>

Smoked Bison

(From WHTC)

Bison is a very healthy alternative and very easy to cook. Much like other lean meats - chicken, pork tenderloin, etc. - bison can really benefit from marinades and brines. I smoked a 3 lb bison roast and started by putting it in a brine.

Here's what you'll need:

- 2 dark beers
- 1/4 onion chopped
- 2 Tbsp minced garlic
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 Tbsp black pepper
- 1 Tbsp salt*
- 1 tsp cayenne pepper

Mix all ingredients together in a ziploc bag and add bison roast. Brine for at least 12 hours.

*If you are not using a rub, add a second Tbsp of salt. I have noticed in the past that if I use both, it tends to be too salty, so I cut back on the salt in the brine.

Get your smoker up to temp at 225°.

Take the bison from the brine, give it a quick rinse and pat dry. I used yellow mustard as a binder for the rub and added just a bit of my go-to rub for a little extra flavor.

Because the bison is very lean and there is no fat cap, I added some thick-cut bacon on top before putting it in the smoker. Keep the water reservoir full. Expect about an hour per pound, You want a finish temp of 150° and you don't want to go over, or it could be dry.

Be sure to tent the meat under foil and wait 15-20 minutes before slicing and serving to give the juices a chance to redistribute throughout the meat. You can see that mine is more medium-

well(160), than rare. And that made it more dry and a little tough. Take it out at 150°, really... don't wait!

Source. <http://whtc.com/blogs/food-drinks/698/smoked-bison/>

Yellowstone's bison breeding season a window to past

(From The Missoulian)

HAYDEN VALLEY — Perhaps no other occurrence in [Yellowstone National Park](#) has the potential to transport visitors back in time quite like the bison breeding season.

In late July and August visitors can park in one of the pullouts in this wide river valley, located just north of Yellowstone Lake and south of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, and be amid a spectacle unlike any other.

Small bands of bison cross the Grand Loop Road between the foothills to the west and the Yellowstone River bottom to the east. If visitors can temporarily ignore the traffic, which is often backed up bumper to bumper for a mile or more, the unfolding drama resembles the early 1800s when the massive animals crowded the plains in great bellowing bands.

Yellowstone National Park has published a detailed treatise on bison titled "[Yellowstone bison: Conserving an American icon in modern society](#)," which is filled with information about the park's largest and most populous animal species.

At last count the park's two geographically separated herds numbered more than 5,000 animals. One herd largely resides in the Lamar Valley, in the park's northern range, and migrates in winter to the Mammoth Hot Springs and Gardiner areas. The central herd summers in the Hayden and Pelican valleys and spends the winter mainly along the Firehole and Madison river drainages.

During the breeding season the mature males are testosterone-crazed, single-minded and unpredictable. "Plains bison reach sexual maturity at 2 to 4 years of age, but males usually do not successfully breed until about 6 years due to the presence of larger, older males," according to "Yellowstone bison."

"Mature males fight to determine dominance, with competitive interactions including threatening postures, growling-type vocalizations, and sometimes, violent head-to-head clashes with opponents pushing to displace each other," the publication adds. "Winners have an opportunity to copulate with receptive females, and as few as 10 percent of the males in the population may complete 50 percent of the breeding during a given year."

Read more. http://missoulian.com/lifestyles/recreation/yellowstone-s-bison-breeding-season-a-window-to-past/article_2a090819-0cff-5158-8264-128cb5700b0a.html

Montana activists ramp up campaign against culling Yellowstone bison

(From The Mitchell Daily Republic)

SALMON, Idaho -- Wildlife advocates are ramping up their campaign against the annual culling of bison that roam onto state lands in Montana each winter from Yellowstone National Park, erecting dramatic billboards showing buffalo bleeding in the snow.

The billboards are the latest effort in an ongoing campaign by opponents of a years-long practice aimed at reducing the number of Yellowstone's bison to protect against disease transmission and lessen the damage to land in and around the park, which spans parts of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. This year, wildlife managers aim to reduce the herd by up to 1,300 animals, the largest amount in nearly a decade.

"We're fine with bison being hunted," Michael Garrity, executive director of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, the Montana-based conservation group behind the billboard campaign, said in a telephone interview on Friday. "But this is mass slaughter."

His group is urging the state's Democratic governor, Steve Bullock, to stop bison destined for slaughter from being trucked through the state.

The outsized road signs, painted by a Montana artist and bison activist, depict fallen bison with blood drenching snow and the words, in capital letters, "Stop the Yellowstone massacre!" Two billboards went up this week and two more are slated to go up later this month.

Wildlife advocates have also held rallies and a candlelight vigil against the severe cull.

The bison targeted for hunting and slaughter are among those that migrate into Montana each winter from Yellowstone. This year, the herd, the last remaining wild purebred bison in the United States, has swelled to 5,500, much higher than the target of 3,000 sought by wildlife managers.

Read more. <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com/news/4229722-montana-activists-ramp-campaign-against-culling-yellowstone-bison>

USDA Seeks Nominations for Beginning Farmer Advisory Committee

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced this week that it is soliciting nominations for membership to fill six positions on the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers.

Consideration will be given to nominations received on or before March 31, 2017.

Individuals interested in applying to serve should contact Kenya Nicholas, Designated Federal Official, USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-0170; (202)720-6350; email: acbfr@osec.usda.gov.

The Committee advises the Secretary of Agriculture on matters broadly affecting new farmers and ranchers including strategies, policies, and programs that will enhance opportunities and create new farming and ranching operations.

The Committee will consider Department goals and objectives necessary to implement prior

recommendations. The Committee will develop and recommend an overall framework and strategies to encompass principles that leverage and maximize existing programs, and create and test new program opportunities.

The Federal Register notice this week specified that the agency is soliciting nominations from interested organizations and individuals from among ranching and farming producers (industry), related government, State, and Tribal agricultural agencies, academic institutions, commercial banking entities, trade associations, and related nonprofit enterprises.

Bovine tuberculosis found in SD beef herd

(From KFGO)

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - Officials confirm bovine tuberculosis has been found in a South Dakota beef herd.

State Veterinarian Dustin Oedekoven says meat inspectors initially identified the suspect animals in February during routine slaughter inspection of otherwise healthy appearing cattle. The cattle were traced to a herd in Harding County. Testing of the herd revealed additional infected animals.

Oedekoven says his office is working with the herd owner and U.S. Department of Agriculture officials to evaluate the extent of the disease. He says adjacent herds will be tested, and that bovine TB is not a food threat, because of milk pasteurization and meat inspection programs.

Bovine TB is a respiratory disease of cattle. South Dakota has been recognized as free of the disease since 1982, although the last affected herd was identified in 2011.

From <http://kfgo.com/news/articles/2017/mar/03/bovine-tuberculosis-found-in-sd-beef-herd/>

Free Online Course Offered for Youth in Animal Agriculture

(From PorkNetwork.com)

The Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine created an online course to teach youth about zoonotic diseases, "Excellence in Exhibition: Preventing Disease in Animals and People." Targeted at youth aged 13-18 years, the free online course is meant to encourage showmanship and animal involvement while keeping both animals and humans safe and healthy.

Raising and showing livestock help youth develop responsibility, learn good sportsmanship, and gain confidence. While raising and showing animals have an overall positive impact on youth and the community, there are many animal diseases that can be spread between people and animals, especially when people have close contact with animals. Several animal related disease outbreaks, such as variant influenza A virus of swine (H3N2v) and enteric disease outbreaks caused by pathogens such as E. coli, have been associated with fairs in recent years. In many instances, these events resulted in severe illness in youth. Youth livestock projects can also present disease transmission risks to animals due to the comingling of various animals and animal species from different locations.

Understanding disease risks and preventive measures is critical to reduce the occurrence of zoonotic diseases among youth associated with animal agriculture. Awareness of these risks can help youth to understand the importance of disease prevention for themselves, their animals, and the public. Additionally, teachers, volunteer leaders, and parents should understand the same disease risks to further reinforce measures needed to prevent zoonotic disease transmission.

The web-based course includes lessons, case studies, and supplemental materials. It is self-paced and accessible online at any time for participants.

To learn more and to take the course, visit <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/YouthInAg/>.

Source:

<http://www.porknetwork.com/news/industry/free-online-course-offered-youth-animal-agriculture>

Conservation Innovation Grants in Pennsylvania

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting proposals for up to \$75,000 in funding to promote the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in Pennsylvania. NRCS is seeking proposals for single or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years, focused on soil health, precision agriculture, wildlife habitat, urban agriculture, and projects benefiting historically underserved producers and veteran farmers.

State and local units of government, non-governmental organizations, and individuals are eligible to apply.

Proposals are due by April 3, 2017.

Read more.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/pa/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1318026>