



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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April 26, 2019

Conservation Management Plan Sub-Committee Meets in Colorado

Select members of the NBA's Conservation Committee met this week at the NBA's office in Westminster, CO to continue to finalize its forthcoming Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

Committee members Mimi Hillenbrand, Ken Klemm, the NBA's Jim Matheson and consultant Tre Cates met on Wednesday to refine and fine-tune the CMP as it nears completion.

The CMP will allow virtually any NBA member to measure, analyze and likely improve upon their operation's conservation management strategy. This powerful tool will be included as a feature of the forthcoming Bison Producer's App, which will allow users to participate in the plan on their IOs or Android device of their choice in the field or the office.

Said Matheson, "This committee has been working for years now on developing an effective, practical tool that does not exclude anyone, regardless of herd or property size, from gauging and fine-tuning their approach to bison conservation. And having it available on the Bison Producer's App will literally put this powerful tool in the palms of their hands."

NBA members in March participated in a survey regarding conservation, in which the results showed great interest among a significant portion of the NBA membership in assessing and improving their approach to conservation. The group hopes to have the CMP ready for the app's Summer Conference launch date of July 9th.

National Buffalo Foundation Holds Strategic Planning Session

Members of the National Buffalo Foundation are gathering in Rapid City, SD today and tomorrow to conduct a strategic planning session to direct the foundation's activities over the next few years.

Roland Kroos of Crossroads Ranch Consulting, Inc. is scheduled to facilitate the session. Dave Carter, NBA executive director will also participate in the session.

The NBF has been working closely with the National Bison Association's Science and Research Committee, and with South Dakota State University, to provide resources needed to advance bison nutrition research, and to establish a Center of Excellence for Bison Research at the University.

The foundation also oversees the bison historical exhibit that has travelled to many locations throughout the United States.

Where The Buffalo Roam: National Cowboy Museum Exhibit Celebrates The American Bison

(From The Oklahoman)

Hundreds of years after they thundered across the plains in vast herds, bison continue to roam through paintings and on license plates, in sculptures and across sports jerseys and, in Oklahoma City, along the sidelines of professional basketball games.

"I think the bison is the most iconic animal of the American West. I think you can't separate the bison from the landscape that defines the American West; you'd just as well remove the Grand Canyon," said Eric Singleton, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's curator of ethnology, the branch of anthropology that compares and analyzes the characteristics of different peoples and the relationships between them.

"There's just something about the buffalo ... that really captivates, and if you're from here, it just resonates with you. It's a part of who you are, it's a part of the culture, it's a part of the landscape."

The museum is exploring the history, science and the symbolism of the United States' first national mammal with "Ancient. Massive. Wild — The Bison Exhibit." On view through May 12, the exhibit encompasses 7,000 square feet of gallery space filled with items ranging from a T-shirt cannon and Charles Russell sculptures to beer labels and Native American ledger art.

"It's a really good combination of art, objects, history, culture, just a little bit of everything," Singleton said.

The museum essentially has combined two exhibits into its "Ancient. Massive. Wild" spotlight on bison. The traveling "Bison Exhibit," circulated by the National Buffalo Foundation, the Kauffman Museum and the National Buffalo Museum, celebrates the cultural significance of the majestic bovine.

"It's talking about the evolution of bison and its relationship with people, so you look at hunting and then basically the hide trade, competition, climate, environment," Singleton said.

Source: <https://newsok.com/article/5629103/where-the-buffalo-roam-national-cowboy-museum-exhibit-celebrates-the-american-bison>

Fischers Bring Bison Conference To Sleepy Eye

(From The Sleepy Eye Herald Dispatch)

Sleepy Eye farmers, Craig and Elizabeth Fischer, are owners of Fischer's Sleepy Bison Acres and brought the MN Buffalo Association conference to Sleepy Eye.

Sleepy Eye farmers, Craig and Elizabeth Fischer, are owners of Fischer's Sleepy Bison Acres which they founded in 2013 with the purchase of two buffalo cows. The Fischers have grown their operation since then and now have a herd of bison, and also raise pastured chickens and hogs.

The Fischers are members of the Minnesota Buffalo Association and served as hosts for the organization's 26th annual education conference, April 12 to 14. The conference was held at the Sleepy Eye Event Center and also included Sunday morning breakfast at the Fischer's farm, followed by a bus tour to Minneopa State Park to view the bison there.

Speakers, and their topics, at the education conference included:

Kris Brown, Grand View Bison Ranch, "Building a more productive system through Silvopasture and Management Intensive Grazing."

Brooks White, Borderland Agriculture, "Regenerating our land with bison."

Keith Berns, Green Cover Seed, "Carbonics, filling production gaps with covers, and the Smartmix calculator."

Read more. <https://www.sleepyeyenews.com/news/20190420/fischers-bring-bison-conference-to-sleepy-eye>

Hettinger Celebrates Buffalo Fest on June 1

With a full day of buffalo heritage and fun, Hettinger, ND, will celebrate its buffalo heritage on Saturday, June 1 in Mirror Lake Park, the Granary and downtown. Buffalo Fest events begin with a fishing tournament, a bus tour to buffalo hunt sites, and a 3K "Buffalo Run."

Other events include vendors in the park and kids games. Speakers on the hour, beginning at 11 am, will include Bob Manohey, buffalo handler, with veterinarian Don Woerner; paleontologists Becky Barnes and Clint Boyd of ND Heritage Center; Mike Faith, Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman and former tribal buffalo manager will speak on the traditional relationship of Native culture with the buffalo; John Hausauer on the Hugh Glass story and Francie Berg on three great Native American hunts. Adams County 4-Hers will host a food concession stand. Buffalo Chili and Buffalo Wing contests, and a Cornhole tournament follow, with movies at the Bandshell. In-store specials and rummage sales available throughout town. Most events are free, including tables for vendors.

On the evening before, Friday, May 31, 5:30 pm, the Adams County Fair Board will put on their fundraiser spring dinner featuring roast bison and other meats, at the Granary, along with the annual pie auction. Dance music by Dakota Routes, tickets \$20.

All are welcome. For more information, enter contests, join as a vendor or exhibitor, or take the tour, contact the Buffalo Fest committee in advance. Vendors please request your exhibit table

by May 1. Contact Ronda Fink, Chair, 701-567-4464, rondafink@ndsupernet.com, Kellie Timm, at 701-928-0537, or John P. Hausauer 605-850-9628, johnhausauer@dacotabank.com.

After 5 Yellowstone bison moved to Fort Peck Reservation, managers laud quarantine process

(From The Billings Gazette)

Bison managers are thrilled with the movement of five bison to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, and they hope it's a sign of things to come.

The five bulls arrived at the reservation in February for the final stage of brucellosis quarantine, known as assurance testing. One round of testing was conducted this week, with the help of Yellowstone National Park staff.

"I was up there this week," said Chris Geremia, a Yellowstone biologist. "I was really excited. I was excited to see bison there."

And more could be on the way. Geremia said there are roughly 160 more bison enrolled in quarantine between Yellowstone's two corrals and another facility run by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and some of those animals could be moved north this year.

Geremia was speaking at a meeting here of the state, federal and tribal government agencies involved in the Interagency Bison Management Plan. Several of the people involved heralded the movement of the five as a success, albeit a small one.

Mike Honeycutt, executive officer for the Montana Board of Livestock, said the transfer of bison went so well that "the ranchers of Montana did not march on my office."

Read more. https://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/after-yellowstone-bison-moved-to-fort-peck-reservation-managers-laud/article_415c1936-7290-5273-b57f-8fae8d3a4828.html

Supply Chain Transparency: A Practice Of Trust Through Legitimacy, From 'Farm To Fork'

(From Natural Products Insider)

How important is supply chain transparency to supplement brands? The level of its importance determines the level of the business' growth and success. Supply chain transparency builds trust through legitimacy across the board--trust with suppliers, employees, customers and oversight agencies. Are you transparent in the chain? Are others transparent with you? More importantly, how high is the trust level within the chain? Have you ever suspected "deceptive documentation?"

Supply chain transparency is the disclosure and transfer of credible, accurate and truthful information from one supplier to another through the chain of products and services down to the end user. Specifically, in the dietary and food supplement industry, this could mean raw material originating from a farm; shipped or delivered to a raw material supplier or processor, then to a

manufacturer; then finished product shipped to a distributor or direct to consumers. A commonly used phrase to describe this chain is “from farm to fork.”

Supply chain transparency is embedded in supply chain management that dates to the early 1900s, [according to the supply chain management site SupplyChainOpz](#). As this network of business evolved, so did the need for dependence on each segment or entity to provide truthful and credible information in order to traverse the continuous flow of exchange of materials and goods through both foreign borders and domestic marketplaces.

The need for supply chain transparency is a demand being placed by consumers who want to know exactly what’s in their supplements, their sources or countries of origin, and how all the associated components were handled and distributed.

Full story here. <https://www.naturalproductsinsider.com/supply-chain/supply-chain-transparency-practice-trust-through-legitimacy-farm-fork>

Baby Bison Born At Fermilab

(From The Chicago Tribune)

Over the weekend, the first baby bison of the spring was born to the herd at Fermilab in Batavia.

According to Andre Salles who works for the office of communications at the facility, Fermilab may be known for its cutting-edge scientific work, but its first director, Robert Wilson, always wanted to be reminded of his home in Wyoming where he lived before moving to Batavia, and so he brought bison with him.

“The lab here opened in 1967, and we’ve had the bison pretty much ever since with the first herd in 1969,” Salles said. “We’re expecting about 12 to 14 calves this year which is a pretty typical number for us.”

Over the years, the herd has been a big attraction for guests to Fermilab, Salles said, but noted that the animals are a source of enjoyment “for the people that work here as much as for the public.”

“We enjoy the bison and like to offer them as a free attraction to our visitors,” he said.

The herd is currently overseen by one herdsman, Cleo Garcia, along with assistance from Fermilab’s Roads and Grounds Department. Salles said the herd is maintained at about 28 animals through controlled breeding and selling off bison if needed.

“We tend to keep the herd about the same by going to an auction each year and selling the bison to other farms that have bison or breeding programs,” he said.

Read more. <https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/aurora-beacon-news/news/ct-abn-fermilab-baby-bison-st-0423-story.html>

Wyoming to Raffle Bison License

(From The Elko Daily Free Press)

Wyoming residents have a chance to land a bison hunting license for just \$10.

Gov. Mark Gordon, with support from the Wyoming Wildlife Foundation, is raffling off a Governor's Bison License, which will cost just \$10 to the lucky winner.

All Wyoming residents who are eligible to hunt in Wyoming can enter the raffle. Tickets are limited to one per person, and the bison license is non-transferable. The lucky winning ticket will be drawn during Cheyenne Frontier Days.

Gordon says in a statement that he wants to give any Wyoming citizen who enjoys hunting or who has ever considered hunting a chance to experience this time-honored Wyoming tradition.

Proceeds of all raffle sales will go back to supporting Wyoming's wildlife and habitats.

Source. https://elkodaily.com/lifestyles/wyoming-to-raffle-bison-license/article_7ac84c28-062e-5492-8f45-b5fd3d43bceb.html

Montana Residents Say Bison Hunts Near Yellowstone Unsafe

(From Montana Public Radio)

The scavenger-cleaned bison carcass scattered across the grassland provided the perfect punctuation point for Nathan Varley.

Varley was lobbying a group of officials Wednesday to modify how the winter bison hunt is conducted in the Gardiner Basin, just north of Yellowstone National Park. The hunter-killed bison bones, fur and offal emphasized his argument: hunts are being conducted close to nearby residences.

"Our contention is that some of the hunting that does take place hasn't been safe," he said. Residents variously referred to the area as the "killing field" or the "kill zone," noting that as soon as bison cross the park boundary, they are fair game for hunters. The issue isn't new, as hunts have been conducted in the area since 2005.

Varley is a member of the Bear Creek Council, a conservation group based in Gardiner at the North Entrance to Yellowstone. He also grew up in Gardiner, the son of the park's one-time chief scientist. After leaving and then returning to the region, Varley now runs a wildlife tourism business. He's concerned not only about wildlife, but how the public perceives the state of Montana's treatment of animals like bison.

"We are hyper-vigilant of things that may influence tourism," he [told](#) The Billings Gazette. "Some (tourists) are appalled and dismayed by what they see."

Once bison leave the park in the Gardiner Basin, they can be legally killed during two winter seasons by state hunters, as well as by tribal hunters with treaty rights. Some tribal hunts extend into April. The problem has been that the areas where hunters have the easiest access to bison is relatively small and not far from residences.

"Three-hundred and fifty-eight gut piles in one winter. Picture it," said Bonnie Lynn, who lives across from Beattie Gulch, one of two prime bison hunting areas north of Gardiner. The gut piles attract scavengers, everything from eagles and ravens to bobcats, coyotes, wolves and bears. Together they can pick clean the backbones, rib cages and gut piles in a matter of days. Some of the scavengers are killed by predator hunters, others have died from lead poisoning caused by consuming bullets.

"We are concerned about collateral damage," Varley said.

Full story here. <https://www.mtpr.org/post/montana-residents-say-bison-hunts-near-yellowstone-unsafe>

Prehistoric Sites Where People Gathered To Kill Bison Are Closer To National Designation

(From KELO TV)

South Dakota has several dozens of places where people held communal bison hunts as early as 9,000 B.C., State Historical Society trustees learned Thursday. Jenna Carlson Dietmeier, an archaeologist for the State Historic Preservation Office, identified 31 known kill sites.

They are spread throughout many South Dakota counties, she said.

Each could be nominated individually to the U.S. National Park Service as possible additions to the National Register of Historic Places.

The sites typically have three characteristics, according to Carlson Dietmeier: A bone bed, evidence of human involvement, and evidence of minimal processing, such as primary butchery. She said bison sometimes were forced to run off cliffs or were herded into impoundments where they couldn't easily get away. She showed photos of sites and bones to the trustees. The South Dakota sites are centuries old, from before horses arrived, she said.

Francis Whitebird, a trustee from Saint Francis, asked why researchers continued to use the word "Sioux," which he said was a blend of French and Chippewa that meant "little snake." Whitebird was South Dakota's first secretary of tribal relations, during the administration of Governor George S. Mickelson three decades ago.

"I don't speak Native American. I speak Lakota," Whitebird said. He added, "Just give us an identity."

Full story here. <https://www.keloland.com/news/capitol-news-bureau/prehistoric-sites-where-people-gathered-to-kill-bison-are-closer-to-national-designation/1954540397>

Beefchain Receives First USDA Certification For A Blockchain Company

(From Forbes)

BeefChain, a company meshing the world of blockchain with the beef supply chain, received certification from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a Process Verified Program, confirmed by the certificate BeefChain provided to me, shown below. BeefChain is the first blockchain company to receive such USDA certification.

Tyler Lindholm, BeefChain cofounder and member of the House of Representatives, representing District 1 in Wyoming, elaborated on the event's importance in an interview with me. "We're the first blockchain company in the world to be certified by the USDA," he said. "The important aspect about that is that's included in our quality manual for how we're actually tracing documentation and tracing cattle." BeefChain currently uses the ethereum blockchain, although the company can also utilize other blockchains, depending on its needs. The movement is fitting for Wyoming. The state has, in many ways, led the way for blockchain and crypto [regulatory](#) innovation on a state level.

Process Verified Program (PVP) certification from the USDA lets BeefChain conduct a host of activities in line with the department's regulation. The status allows BeefChain to audit different feed yards and ranches in four specific programs, Lindholm explained.

Full story here. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/benjaminpirus/2019/04/25/beefchain-receives-first-usda-certification-for-a-blockchain-company/#5d97821f7607>

UCalgary Study Finds Vaccine Protects Against Chronic Wasting Disease

(From The University of Calgary)

Cases of an infectious disease that kills deer, elk, and moose are on the rise in Alberta.

Similar to mad cow disease (BSE) in cattle, chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a prion disease of members of the deer family. Infected animals lose weight drastically (wasting), and suffer other symptoms like stumbling, lack of co-ordination, and drooling. CWD is fatal in all cases. There is no cure, treatment, or way to prevent it.

But the study of a vaccine against CWD has made researchers in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) hopeful. The study was published recently in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry**. It found the vaccine, tested in a mouse model, prolonged the time before infected animals developed symptoms by up to 60 per cent.

[*See: <http://www.jbc.org/content/293/51/19812>]

"The vaccine doesn't prevent the disease, but it delays its onset," says Dr. Dalia Abdelaziz, PhD, a researcher in Hermann Schaeztl's lab. "And that's what we want. In mice, if we are extending it for around 70 days that's significant, because their life span is much shorter than deer or elk. That's why we are excited about the results. We couldn't induce full protection, but the survival time was greatly increased."

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/yxj277zs>

R-CALF Sues Tyson, Cargill, JBS and National

(From Drovers)

Seeking to "prevent the big four packers from capturing the U.S. cattle market from independent U.S. cattle producers," a class action lawsuit was filed in Chicago on behalf of R-CALF USA and four cattle-feeding ranchers against America's four largest packing companies. The suit alleges violations of U.S. antitrust laws, the Packers and Stockyards Act, and the Commodity Exchange Act by unlawfully depressing the prices paid to American ranchers.

The suit, filed Tuesday, April 23, 2019, was filed against Tyson Foods, Inc., JBS S.A., Cargill, Inc., and National Beef Packing Company, LLC, and certain of their affiliates, who collectively purchase and process over 80% of the U.S.'s fed cattle annually. R-CALF and the four ranchers are represented by Scott+Scott Attorneys at Law LLP, a national antitrust and securities litigation firm, along with Cafferty Clobes Meriwether & Sprengel LLP. The four cattle feeders are from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Wyoming.

In a statement from Scott+Scott, the suit alleges that from at least January 1, 2015 through the present, the Big 4 packers conspired to depress the price of fed cattle they purchased from American ranchers, thereby inflating their own margins and profits.

Full text:

<https://www.drovers.com/article/r-calf-sues-tyson-cargill-jbs-and-national>