



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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May 12, 2017

Monday is the Last Day to Register Early for IBC and Save Big!

Monday isn't the last day to register for the 2017 International Bison Conference, but it is the last day to save big when registering.

Members registering through Monday, May 15th can sign up for \$325, and add guests for an additional \$250 apiece. After Monday, the rate goes up to \$400 for the first registrants, and \$350 for each guest," said Jim Matheson, assistant director of the National Bison Association. "We urge members to take advantage of our Early Bird discount to sign up for this historic IBC."

More than 400 people have already registered for the 2017 IBC, set for July 4th – 8th in Big Sky, MT, and the surrounding areas. The event will kick off with a gathering at the 320 Ranch near Big Sky, with a barbecue and concert by Michael Martin Murphy.

Activities during the following two days will be centered at Big Sky, with educational sessions in the morning, recreational opportunities in the afternoon, organized dinners in the evening, and entertainment by Leo Downey, Jr. and Wylie and the Wild West. The conference will formally wrap up on Friday, May 7th at the historic Flying D Ranch.

And, members can sign up for an optional tour of Yellowstone National Park on July 8th.

Full registration and conference details are available at www.ibc2017.com.

Ranchers, Tribal Producers Attend Holistic Management Intro Course

Nearly 30 establish bison producers, beginning ranchers, and tribal herd managers gathered in Rapid City, SD, last weekend for a Holistic Management introductory course hosted by the 777 Bison Ranch.

Class room instruction for the three-day session was provided by Kirk Gadzia of Resource Management Services, L.L.C. Gadzia shared his expertise based on more than 20 years of experience in holistic management. On Saturday, the workshop participants traveled to the 777 Ranch south of Rapid City, where ranch manager Moritz Espy provided a demonstration on the results of holistic management.

NBA Executive Director Dave Cartr, who participated in the workshop, said afterwards, "This was an extremely valuable weekend for everyone involved. Kirk and Moritz provided a wealth of information, but the participants also shared their collective knowledge as well. Thanks to the folks at 777 for generously hosting this workshop."

Wholesale Prices Continue to Notch Higher

Wholesale prices paid for slaughter ready young bison continued to notch higher in April, reading yet again another historic high.

According to the latest monthly report issued by the USDA Market News Service, dressed young bull carcasses brought an average of \$488.74/cwt. in April, which was \$0.67/cwt higher than the previous month, and \$41.81/cwt. higher than April 2016. Dressed herifer carcasses averaged \$473.03/cwt. in April, which was \$4.73/cwt. higher than the previous month, and \$43.09/cwt. higher than in April 2016. Older bulls and cows brought slightly lower prices in April, but were still higher than in April 2016.

Year-to-Date laughter under federal inspection totaled 17,106 head, which was 580 fewer than the year-to-date level in 2016, according to separate information compiled by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

And, bulls comprised 52 percent of the young animals processed under USDA inspection through April this year. That compares to an average of 57 percent over the same period during the previous eight years.

The latest USDA monthly report is available here:
https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw_ls526.txt

The NBA's five-year price tracking report is available in the Members' section at
www.bisoncentral.com.

***** Disclaimer*****

Police Shoot, Kill Bison Running Loose In Highland

(From The Belleview News Democrat)

A bison headed for the slaughterhouse got a brief reprieve Tuesday after it busted through a trailer gate, but police put the animal down after a 20-minute chase in Highland.

Police said it became a matter of public safety, and that they were worried the bison could hurt someone.

"An ornery, 1,000-pound bull buffalo poses a significant threat in a community like this ... If there was just people out walking or kids out in their yard, who knows what could have happened," said Highland Police Chief Terry Bell.

Highland Police Sgt. Scott Athmer said a farmer from the Alton area was delivering the half-ton, 2-year-old bull — along with another bison — to Korte Meat Processing in Highland to be butchered. Athmer said the first animal exited the trailer and went into the plant without incident, but the bull wanted to fight.

“He was bucking and throwing his head around in the trailer,” Athmer said.

The bull banged into a gate on the front end of the trailer and knocked it off its hinges, Athmer said. The people trying to unload the animal were able to get the gate back on the hinges initially, but then the bull hit it again.

“He hit the door with everything he had, and the door came off,” Athmer said.

Read more here: <http://www.bnd.com/news/local/community/highland-news-leader/article149709494.html#storylink=cpy>

Bison Help Restore Natural Habitat

(From Voice of America)

Bison are large animals with big heavy brown fur. Also called buffalo, they are the largest mammals in North America.

They stand about 1.83 meters at the shoulder and weigh up to just over 900 kilograms. In 2016, the American bison was officially named the national mammal of the U.S.

Bison once numbered in the millions. Since **prehistoric** times, they moved around from the Appalachian to the Rocky Mountains in the United States. In the 19th century, people hunted them for meat and **hides** — people used the skin and fur to make products. They were down to only a few hundred animals by the late 1880s, [according to the U.S. Department of the Interior](#). Now their numbers are growing. There are [an estimated 500,000](#) bison living in North America.

They are increasing in part because they are helping restore lands in the U.S. Fewer than 30,000 wild bison live in conservation **herds**. But in Indiana, bison are helping undo more than a hundred years of environmental damage.

Ted Anchor is the program manager for the Northwest Indiana Nature Conservancy Program. Standing outside on a windy day, he spoke about the project.

"By creating this **large-scale** restoration project, we've been able to harbor all those species that were just barely hanging on."

Anchor says the 429-hectare reserve used to be the largest lake in Indiana. But in the 19th century, the water was removed and the land was used for agriculture. They cannot bring back the lake, but they can bring back the **prairie**, or grass covered areas.

Read more. <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/bison-help-restore-natural-habitat/3838314.html>

Grand Canyon Considers Thinning Bison Herd

(From the Arizona Republic)

Officials at Grand Canyon National Park are considering a plan to reduce the number of bison living near the canyon's North Rim.

A plan to remove some bison is undergoing an environmental assessment through June 7. If approved, removal of bison could start as early as the end of summer.

Biologists estimate there are between 400 and 600 bison roaming in Northern Arizona, many living primarily in Grand Canyon National Park.

Park officials said they were worried that the herd could grow as high as 1,500 within a decade. "The National Park Service is concerned about the increasing number of bison and the impact they have on natural and cultural resources such as water, vegetation, soils, archaeological sites and on values such as visitor experience," Grand Canyon National Park spokesperson Emily Davis said.

The plan would call for some bison to be relocated and others to be killed by trained volunteers. Davis said bison in the area can be traced back to a herd brought to the area in 1906. Bison spread to Grand Canyon National Park in the early 1990s.

[The plan and information on how to make a public comment can be found here.](#)

Source: <https://www.azpm.org/p/home-articles-news/2017/5/10/110355-grand-canyon-considers-thinning-bison-herd/>

CM Russell Museum Opens Bison Exhibit

The C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana is excited to share with you the reimagined and reinterpreted exhibit, ***The Bison: American Icon, Heart of the Plains Indian Culture***. Curator Emily Wilson's vision for the new design brings to life the history and cultural significance of the bison to the American West.

Free Museum Member Preview on Friday, May 19th, 5-7pm

Join us for an evening of wonderful art, artifacts, food, conversation and a special curator tour at 6pm.

Public Opening and Tours on Saturday, May 20th, 10am-5pm

Discover the new exhibits on your own or participate in a curator tour at 11:00am or 1:00pm. Tours are free with paid admission. Admission is free for active military and their family members.

Visit cmrussell.org for more information.

White Cloud Returns to Natl. Buffalo Museum

(From the Mitchell Daily Republic)

JAMESTOWN, N.D. --White Cloud, the albino bison, returned to the National Buffalo Museum in Jamestown on Tuesday -- this time mounted.

A Jamestown Police Department escort led a truck carrying the completed preservation of White Cloud from the Jamestown Civic Center through downtown to the museum.

The \$50,000 preservation project started soon after White Cloud died Nov. 14 at the Shirek Buffalo Ranch near Michigan, N.D.

Tex Weatherly, a member of the National Buffalo Museum board of directors, said the decision to have White Cloud mounted was made before the 19-year-old bison died. The board decided that after spending most of her life with the herd at the National Buffalo Museum, that White Cloud should be preserved after she is gone.

"We knew that someday she was going to pass," Weatherly said. "This turned out really nice and we're pretty happy with her."

Monte Hoggarth, the Jamestown taxidermist who completed the preservation project, said it was a monumental effort when it began. It took 10 days to alter the mount and get the hide to fit. "Everything came back from the tanner well and she mounted up really good," Hoggarth said. There was concern about getting White Cloud's white fur to look natural, but it turned out really nice, he said.

"It was quite an honor to have the museum give me an opportunity to do such a piece like this," he said. "The community is pretty proud of her and there is the tourism part of it, so people stopping in will be able to see her up close and it's going to be a good addition to Jamestown." Dave and JoAnn Vining donated \$30,000 toward the restoration project to get it underway in December. Dave Vining said the couple were asked to make a donation and it seemed to be a good cause for Jamestown.

<http://www.mitchellrepublic.com/news/4265086-albino-buffalo-makes-return-jamestown-time-mounted>

Three rare black bison born at North Quarter Farm Riverhead

(From Long Island Northforker)

When Edwin Tuccio, owner of [North Quarter Farm](#) and [Tweeds Restaurant and Buffalo Bar](#), both in Riverhead, first realized one of his bison had given birth to a black calf in 2009, he was shocked. At the time, Tuccio was president of the National Bison Foundation. After making a handful of calls to other bison raisers, he realized how rare it was for a calf to be black. Now those rarities have become almost a yearly occurrence at the farm.

"I don't know how it happens; it just happens," said Tuccio, who now has three newborn black calves on the farm. Two of the newest black bison were born the first week in May and a third was born Monday. "For some reason my herd throw off these very rare black bison."

Tuccio has been in the bison business for 35 years, beginning in 1982 with two pregnant bison. He said from those two, he produced all that he has now, only buying a few bulls throughout the years.

As the owner of Tweed's Restaurant and Buffalo Bar, he supplies the East End with bison burgers and steak fresh from his farm. Tuccio did not have a precise head count, but estimated his herd is in the 200 to 300 range.

While the farm is considered small compared to some that have thousands of bison, Tuccio said he has never met anyone else who has had a black bison. He said one of his bulls must carry the gene, so he figures it's likely more will be on the way.

The shock of the initial black calf birth has worn off and Tuccio said he views his newest rare calves as simply part of the herd, and they'll be raised like all the others.

He said he occasionally sells some of his herd and would consider selling one of the rare black ones, although he's unsure if it would fetch a higher price.

For him, it's not so much about getting a high price or making money off his herd; it's a passion. Tuccio's family were original settlers of Riverhead, dating back to the 1600s. His great-grandmother was the last Hallock born at the original homestead.

"Lots of Hallocks have gone off and done many things," he said. "I kind of lost my mind along the way and decided to raise bison." He calls bison "America's real true meat" and he is happy for the positive reception he's gotten throughout the years.

"Everybody wants to have their own individuality, be known for something," he said. "I think I've created a local market for bison."

Full Story: <http://northforker.com/2017/05/11/north-quarter-farm-riverhead-black-bison/>

Alaska's Wood Bison Herd Thriving As Calving Season Gets Underway

(From and.com)

It's baby animal season and Alaska's wild wood bison herd has delivered in a big way. So far this spring, 19 calves have been born to the herd, the only one of its kind in the nation. More calves are expected through August.

And the herd appears healthy as it enters its third summer navigating Alaska's wilderness after generations of living in captivity, said Tom Seaton, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game wildlife biologist overseeing the wood bison project.

"All the signs indicate that they are really prospering," Seaton said.

More calves have been born so far this year than by the same time in 2016. The latest count was done on May 2, with another planned for next week, Seaton said.

About 130 bison were released near the village of Shageluk during the summer of 2015. That first year, more than a dozen died. Nine bison drowned in less than a week. More perished from stresses of adapting to wild environment, Seaton said.

<https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/wildlife/2017/05/09/alaskas-wood-bison-herd-thriving-as-calving-season-gets-underway/>

Colorado Man Spends Three Years Making 2,000 Pound Bison For Sioux Falls SculptureWalk

(From KELOland.com)

A new addition to the 2017 Downtown Sioux Falls SculptureWalk made the trip from Littleton, CO.

Artist Gary Monaco worked nonstop for three years.

He welded a bison entirely out of salvaged metal.

"I was at the mercy with whatever a construction guy or somebody threw away," he said. Monaco said he's been an artist for all of his life. As a child, he started with the chalkboard, paper and the kitchen tabletop.

"Everything got abused by a pencil or whatever I could make a mark with," he said.

The bison sculpture started life as a drawing, as all his projects do. But "the frustration of it being trapped on a piece of paper" is why he's a sculptor.

"It needs to become 3D and become part of an environment," he said.

Monaco lost count of how many metal hairs he twisted onto that bison with his own hands. He quit counting after 10,000 of them.

<http://www.keloland.com/news/article/news/colorado-man-spends-three-years-making-2-000-pound-bison-for-sioux-falls-sculpturewalk>

Secretary Perdue Announces Arrival of First Shipments of U.S. Beef to Brazil

(From USDA Office of Communications Bulletin)

Washington, D.C. -- Secretary Sonny Perdue announced today that the first shipment of fresh U.S. beef has arrived in Brazil following a 13-year hiatus. The entrance of American beef into the Brazilian market ushers in promising long-term economic opportunity for U.S. beef producers.

"With Brazil's large market reopened to the United States, U.S. beef exports are poised for new growth. I look forward to Brazilians getting the opportunity to eat delicious American beef, because once they taste it, they'll want more of it." said Secretary Perdue.

Brazil closed its market to imports of U.S. fresh beef in 2003 over concerns about bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Since then, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have worked continuously with Brazilian officials to regain market access.

Additionally, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has provided documentation and information on the U.S. food safety requirements and standards for beef. Following numerous technical discussions and meetings, Brazil officially reopened the market on August 1, 2016 based on the United States' classification by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as a negligible risk country for BSE.

Source:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAOOC/bulletins/1987e89>

Texas Gets Additional \$3.7M In Federal Funds To Fight Cattle Fever Ticks Spread In South Texas

(From The Patch)

AUSTIN, TX - The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Friday allocated an additional \$3.7 million in federal funds to fight the spread of cattle fever ticks throughout South Texas.

The bolstered funding will be added to an existing \$8.5 million source for FY 2017, bringing the total funding for USDA's cattle fever tick control efforts in Texas to \$12.2 million. The governor's office noted the funds are in addition to the state's efforts at the Animal Health Commission to control the destructive pest.

"The State of Texas is being threatened with a crisis, which if not contained quickly, could devastate the agricultural sector of our state," Gov. Greg Abbott said in a prepared statement. "Texas cattle producers are currently experiencing an infestation of fever ticks not experienced since the 1970s, and I am committed to containing this threat before it becomes a statewide epidemic. I thank the USDA for their work with Texas on this matter and am hopeful that together we can reverse these trends, saving Texas cattle."

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/kufgl2>

Iowa, Nebraska Team Up For Animal Health in the Heartland

(From *PorkNetwork.com*)

Bio Nebraska Executive Director Phil Kozera and Iowa Biotechnology Association (IowaBio) Executive Director Joe Hrdlicka announced today the two organizations are collaborating on an animal health symposium scheduled for Tuesday, July 18th and Wednesday, July 19th in Ames that will focus on the biotech industry's role in mitigating animal health emergencies.

Kozera and Hrdlicka said they are again pleased to have commitments from some of the nation's foremost research and regulatory experts to lead the discussion on preventing past and future emergency outbreaks. The event kicks off with a 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. facility tour and a 5

to 7 p.m. networking reception on Tuesday, July 18th. The main symposium is scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, July 19th. Tuesday's facility tour will be located at the USDA National Centers for Animal Health in Ames with the networking reception following at Olde Main Brewing Co. Wednesday's events will feature presentations and panel discussions at the Scheman Building on the Iowa State University campus.

Dr. John Schleifer, DVM, MS, DACPV, Staff Veterinarian with Rembrandt Inc. will lead off the discussion on Wednesday followed by a list of leading animal health experts addressing critical topics to livestock producers and animal health professionals in government, academia and industry (See full agenda at website listed below).

Those interested in attending this event may register by clicking this link:

<http://www.iowabio.org/index.cfm?NodeID=90727>

Michigan Farmers Have A Long Wish List For 2018 Farm Bill

(From Agri-Pulse)

FRANKENMUTH, Mich., May 7, 2017 – The leaders of the Senate Agriculture Committee came to central Michigan Saturday for a listening session on what different segments of the farm community are looking for in the 2018 farm bill.

And the lawmakers – Committee Chair Pat Roberts and the panel's top Democrat, Debbie Stabenow, on a trip to her home state of Michigan – heard plenty.

In all, 16 witnesses testified, calling for support for everything from crop insurance, conservation and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to more funding for research and for programs to advance organic and urban farming and to help veterans. Many of the witnesses described a web of red tape that was strangling their operations and said a regulatory rollback was needed.

Roberts, who hosted a similar listening session in his home state of Kansas in February, opened the hearing by recognizing that these are tough times for agriculture, yet with the national debt exceeding \$19 trillion, he said the sector must realize it has to “do more with less.” “We must be judicious with the scarce resources we have,” Roberts said. “We must ensure programs accomplish their fundamental purposes. We must ask tough questions and reexamine programs to determine their effectiveness.”

Stabenow, in her opening statement, argued that the 2014 farm bill is expected to end up saving the government \$80 billion more than had been expected.

“We know that the farm bill has done more than its fair share to reduce the deficit,” she told a crowd of about 150 farmers and ag leaders who filled a Michigan State University extension center outside the town of Frankenmuth. “Any further cuts would be detrimental to farmers and families.”

AMS Announces New Fees for Meat Inspection, Other Services

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) this week announced is announcing the 2017 rates it will charge for voluntary grading, inspection, certification, auditing and laboratory

services for a variety of agricultural commodities including meat and poultry, fruits and vegetables, eggs, dairy products, and cotton and tobacco.

The 2017 regular, overtime, holiday, and laboratory services rates will be applied at the beginning of the crop year, fiscal year or as required by law (June 1 for most cotton programs) depending on the commodity. Other starting dates are added to this notice based on cotton industry practices. This action establishes the rates for user-funded programs based on costs incurred by AMS.

The rates reflect direct and indirect costs of providing services. Direct costs include the cost of salaries, employee benefits, and if applicable, travel and some operating costs. Indirect or overhead costs include the cost of Program and Agency activities supporting the services provided to the industry. The formula used to calculate these rates also includes operating reserve, which may add to or draw upon the existing operating reserves.

Group offers “Raised Without Antibiotics” certification

(From Meatingplace.com)

Certification organization NSF International has developed an independent certification protocol — Raised Without Antibiotics — to certify animal products have been raised without exposure to antibiotics.

The use of ionophore chemical coccidiostats, however, which are not considered contributors to antimicrobial resistance, may be permitted to prevent infections, depending on labeling regulations in the region of product sale, the group said in a news release.

NSF International’s Raised Without Antibiotics certification can be granted to a wide variety of animal products, including meat, poultry, seafood, dairy, eggs, leather and certain supplement ingredients. The certification provides independent verification of on-package claims.

A 2016 survey conducted for NSF International found that 59 percent of consumers prefer products from animals raised without antibiotics.

NSF International developed the Raised Without Antibiotics protocol in partnership with the food animal industry and veterinary stakeholders. The program also encourages preventive measures such as vaccination, alternative treatments, litter management techniques and appropriate stocking density to maintain the health and welfare of the animals. If sick animals require antibiotics for treatment, they can receive veterinary care but must be removed from the Raised Without Antibiotics program.

Japan pitches idea of five-nation TPP: sources

(From JapanTimes.com)

An idea has emerged that the Trans-Pacific Partnership can take effect among at least five nations including Japan, Australia and New Zealand, instead of 12, sources involved in the negotiations said.

The idea cropped up as the 11 states involved discussed what to do with the aborted free trade pact in the wake of the United States' withdrawal earlier this year under President Donald Trump, the sources told Kyodo News on Wednesday.

At the just-finished two-day meeting of top negotiators from the 11 parties, Tokyo argued for making the TPP take effect without the United States at an early date by tweaking the original agreement, they said.

But some countries, including Vietnam and Malaysia, which had hoped to boost exports to the United States, are believed to have expressed reluctance to put the TPP into force without Washington.

Chile and Peru have shown no keen interest in a non-U.S. TPP, the sources said. Canada and Mexico are noncommittal as they brace for renegotiations on the North American Free Trade Agreement with the United States, they said.

If the 11 countries fail to bridge their differences, the five-or-more solution could gain traction with free trade-oriented Singapore and Brunei as potential partners.

Tokyo had also been reluctant to activate the TPP without Washington amid concern that it is unlikely to provide a tailwind for Japanese exporters, including its all-important automakers, without the biggest market in the grouping.

But with free trade perceived to be under threat with the rise of protectionism since the launch of the Trump administration, calls have been growing in the government for Tokyo's leadership to keep up the momentum for free trade.

Japan's chief negotiator, Keiichi Katakami, told reporters after the meeting that he called for the 11 states to adopt a united front in charting a future course for the TPP.

He also said the participants agreed to continue discussions on activating the trade pact, though he acknowledged there were many divergent views.

Organic Livestock Rule Has Uncertain Future After Second Delay

(From Bloomberg BNA)

The Agriculture Department is again pushing back implementation of an Obama-era rule tightening living standards for organic poultry and livestock, asking the public whether the USDA should move forward with the regulations at all.

In a pair of announcements, the USDA Agriculture Marketing Service said May 9 that it will delay implementing the final rule for organic animal welfare from May 19 to Nov. 14, citing a federal freeze on new regulations until the administration conducts further review. The move gives more time for the public to comment on the sweeping new regulations on raising, housing and processing certified organic chicken, pigs and other animals.

Finalized in the waning days of the Obama administration, the rule has come under fire from some trade groups and congressional Republicans, who say the tighter standards would force farmers to make expensive modifications to existing animal enclosures and drive up costs for consumers. The USDA's latest move is likely to open the door for groups to push the department to abandon the Obama-era final rule altogether.