



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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May 31, 2019

More Speakers Added to 2019 Summer Conference Lineup

The NBA this week confirmed two more speakers at this summer's NBA get together. Michael Rosmann is a farmer/clinical psychologist who is dedicated to improving the behavioral health of people engaged in agriculture. He will provide a presentation titled "Dealing with Stress and Depression When Things Go Wrong" that will help all producers maintain their mental health in this inherently stressful business.

The NBA is also pleased to confirm Brooks and Jen White, owners of Borderland Agriculture in Manitoba, who will provide a presentation on grazing bison year-round - in Canada... These are just two examples of the amazing speaker lineup we have for the Summer Conference, detailed below.

Three days of fun, networking and education are in store for our July get together. See the agenda below and learn why you won't want to miss this amazing bison opportunity. Registration is just \$160/person and you can register quickly at <https://bisoncentral.com/nba-summer-conference/> and get all the details including host hotel reservation instructions and links. We hope you can join us Go Forth in the North! Please register soon!

Agenda here...

Let's Process This for a Minute

(NBA Blog Post by Dave Carter)

Perhaps you saw this in the news a couple of weeks ago: *New evidence links ultra-processed foods with a range of health risks.*

When I saw variations of this headline spill in through my news feeds, I immediately did my 1980's best Valley Girl imitation..."Like, duh." I assume that the lead researcher in this study was none other than Dr. Obvious.

What made me really scratch my head, though, was that most of these articles were accompanied by a photo of a cheeseburger deluxe with French fries.

Cheeseburger and French fries ultra-processed? Let's break this down.

The cheeseburger consisted of one patty made from 100 percent meat (preferably bison) which consists of ground trimmings. Period.

The cheese goes through a bit more processing, but likely consists of milk, whey, yeast and salt. Then, there's the lettuce, tomatoes, pickle and onion which are...well...lettuce tomatoes, pickle and onion.

The French fries? Sliced, fried potatoes. Agreed; they aren't the epitome of health food, but deep frying doesn't qualify as ultra-processed. ®

The bun may be considered highly processed, but I generally eat my bison burgers without a bun.

The authors apparently had difficulties identifying a specific product that would qualify as highly processed, so I am happy to help them out.

The best place to determine ultra-processed is to look at the ingredient panel for various types of food. Here's one ingredient panel that caught my eye:

Water, textured wheat protein, coconut oil, potato protein, natural flavors, 2% or less of: leghemoglobin (heme protein), yeast extract, salt, soy protein isolate, konjac gum, xanthan Gum, thiamin (vitamin B1), zinc, niacin, vitamin B6, riboflavin (vitamin B2), vitamin B12.

Wait: That's the ingredient panel for Impossible Burger, the lab-created concoction being touted as the healthy, environmentally friendly alternative to meat. Not only is it ultra-processed, but the lab-created heme protein certainly qualifies as genetically modified, and the soy protein isolate is sourced from GMO soybeans.

How about this ingredient panel?

Pea protein isolate, expeller-pressed canola oil, refined coconut oil, water, yeast extract, maltodextrin, natural flavors, gum arabic, sunflower oil, salt, succinic acid, acetic acid, non-GMO modified food starch, cellulose from bamboo, methylcellulose, potato starch, beet juice extract (for color), ascorbic acid (to maintain color), annatto extract (for color), citrus fruit extract (to maintain quality), vegetable glycerin.

That's the ingredient panel for the Beyond Burger®, another lab-created meat alternative. Making any food from cellulose from bamboo, refined coconut oil, and methylcellulose certainly qualifies that product as ultra-processed.

Perhaps the graphic accompanying the article wasn't in error. Perhaps the authors just forgot to explain that the ultra-processed item in the picture was one of those laboratory-created burger "alternatives."

Read all Dave's blogs here. <https://bisoncentral.com/blog/>

U.S. Bill That Would Expand Local Meat Processing Revived

(From Meatingplace.com)

Legislation that would allow intrastate distribution of custom-slaughtered meat such as beef, pork and lamb without USDA inspection has been reintroduced in the U.S. House.

The PRIME (Processing Revival and Intrastate Meat Exemption) Act would allow states to decide whether to permit intrastate sales of locally raised meats to consumers, restaurants, grocery stores and other customers by expanding the current exemption from federal inspection for custom cuts intended for personal use.

Farmers and ranchers must sometimes travel hundreds of miles to one of a limited number of USDA-inspected slaughterhouses to process animals, Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-Maine) noted in a blog post.

Pingree and Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) reintroduced the legislation. Original co-sponsors of the PRIME Act include Reps. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.), John Garamendi (D-Calif.), Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.), Scott Perry (R-Penn.), Justin Amash (R-Mich.), Mark Meadows (R-N.C.), Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.), Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.), Steve King (R-Iowa), and Mark Green (R-Tenn).

Groups including the National Pork Producers Council [oppose](#) the PRIME Act, arguing a robust federal meat inspection system is key for ensuring food safety.

Sen. John Thune is seeking a name for his office bison head

(From The Sioux Falls Argus Leader)

John Thune wheeled a bison head into the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday.

South Dakota's senior U.S. senator and the Senate majority whip was captured in several photos by reporters who cover Congress, pulling a cart with the taxidermied bison to his office.

It's a South Dakota bison. It lived on the Slim Buttes Ranch in Buffalo and was taxidermied in Rapid City by Gary English of Golden Hills Taxidermy. The head is on loan from the National Bison Association.

Now it's on Thune's office wall and the senator is seeking a name for it via social media comments.

What's your idea for a name for Thune's taxidermied bison head? If you want to contribute a suggestion, comment on the related post on Thune's Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Thune praised the bison's association with the landscape, heritage and history of South Dakota, calling it a "very majestic creature."

Read more. <https://www.argusleader.com/story/news/business-journal/2019/05/24/sen-john-thune-seeking-name-his-office-bison-head/1222210001/>

Bison exhibit moves to Duncan for the summer

(From The Duncan Banner)

The bison, mistakenly called buffalo for more than 200 years, has long been a symbol of the plains, and for many Oklahomans it is an animal often seen on the sides of roads or one to avoid while hiking, but what most don't realize is we came very close to the extinction of the majestic bison.

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Center (CTHC) was lucky enough to secure the nationally touring exhibit "Bison: Ancient. Massive. Wild," which opened officially Friday.

Executive Director Stacy Cramer Moore said they were excited to have the exhibit call CTHC home for the next several weeks.

"It's been traveling for several years and the last stop was at the National Cowboy (Museum) in Oklahoma City but it's really been all over the country. We're the stop for the summer, we think it's going to Oregon next," she said. "The Kauffman Museum out of Kansas is the curator of this exhibit along with the National Buffalo Foundation."

This isn't just art or paintings, it is a fully educational and interesting trip.

"This one is really interesting because it's not just a snap shot of bison, it is really from prehistoric times all the way through the near extinction, the relationships with the Plains Indians on to the modern bison industry and its relationship with the Department of U.S. Agriculture and how we are utilizing bison and bison management today in conservation," Cramer Moore said "So kind of the full (circle) from the history to the future of the bison industry."

Read more. https://www.duncanbanner.com/news/bison-exhibit-moves-to-duncan-for-the-summer/article_08e38e12-7ff9-11e9-b2cd-8bbae2908983.html

Bison breakfast for Buffalo Commons

(From The McCook Gazette)

McCOOK, Neb. — Jean Coady of Lighthouse Marina on the Red Willow Lake north of McCook and bison rancher Darrell Meister are cooperating on a special bison breakfast at the marina from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. on June 2, the Sunday of McCook's annual Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival Friday through Sunday.

Breakfast will consist of four bison sausage links, two eggs, hash browns and toast for \$6.

Jean invites those taking in Buffalo Commons activities to come for breakfast before or after the viewing of the bison herd and spring bison babies that Darrell will start at 9:30 a.m.

Bison jerky will be available at the marina, and also during visits to Darrell's 26-head herd of American bison.

Read more. <https://www.mccookgazette.com/story/2611631.html>

New Jersey Camaro Driver Hits And Kills Two Bison In Canada,

Abandons Car

(From GM Authority)

A Camaro wearing New Jersey plates was involved in a bizarre accident with two bison in Canada's Northwest Territories earlier this month.

According to the CBC, the red Camaro was driving on rural roads within the Northwest Territories' Wood Buffalo National Park when his vehicle struck two bison, totaling the car and killing the large mammals. Residents of the sparsely populated region were then greeted with a grisly sight the following morning when they happened upon the two dead buffalo and the now-abandoned Camaro.

One local resident told the CBC they had spotted the red Chevy earlier in the week when they were waiting on the side of the road for a herd of bison to clear. While they were waiting, the Camaro driver found a smaller gap in the herd to drive his car through before carrying on his way. The witness later observed the Camaro driving the opposite way on the road again, heading back toward the bison.

"We were like, 'Wow. He has clearly no idea how risky it is to drive through a herd of bison,'" they told the CBC. "Or perhaps he does not care."

Read more: <http://gmauthority.com/blog/2019/05/new-jersey-camaro-driver-hits-and-kills-two-bison-in-canada-abandons-car/#ixzz5pKrnrcfa>

Rogue bison on the loose in Rochester area

(From The Minneapolis Star Tribune)

Authorities in Rochester are asking residents to keep an eye out for a rogue bison that's been on the loose since the weekend.

A farmer spotted the bison walking through his fields in southwest Rochester on Sunday. Officers approached the animal, but it started acting aggressively.

Olmsted County sheriff's officials have been in touch with the bison's owner. Capt. Scott Behrens says people should stay away from the bison if they see it because it could charge if it feels threatened.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/rogue-bison-on-the-loose-in-rochester/510554662/>

Oakland Zoo bids bye to 11 bison headed to Montana

(From The Mercury News)

Oakland Zoo has sent 11 bison cows and calves to the Blackfeet Nation in Montana as part of the Bison Restoration Project.

The bison, descendants of the iconic Pablo-Allard bison herd, have been living in a 13-acre habitat in the zoo's year-old California Trail area. The cows arrived in Oakland from the Montana reservation in April 2018, and the calves were born here.

The Bison Restoration Project, also called the linnii Initiative, is part of a plan to restore free-roaming bison to Blackfeet land and to National Parks.

When the 14 bison arrived at the zoo last year, the plan was to mate the cows with two bulls coming to the zoo from Yellowstone National Park. Some of the calves born from the unions would be returned, along with their mothers, to Montana in 2020, and the breeding process would continue at the zoo. The plan is create a herd of several thousand for the Blackfeet, Glacier National Park and Waterton National Park in the Rocky Mountains.

Nature, however, sped up the plan when zoo veterinarians discovered that 10 of the 14 cows were already pregnant, and the herd almost doubled within a few weeks of arriving at Oakland Zoo.

"Since we didn't expect the females to calf last year, Mother Nature nudged us into returning the bison to the wild a bit sooner than planned, said Darren Minier, assistant director of animal care at Oakland Zoo. "Luckily, we were well prepared, and have really enjoyed watching them grow."

Read more. <https://www.mercurynews.com/2019/05/28/oakland-zoo-bids-bye-to-11-bison-headed-to-montana/>

Gov, Secretary Of State Dispute Bison Bill Status

(From Montana Public Radio)

Montana legislation seeking to change the definition of "wild bison" is in limbo as the governor and secretary of state disagree over whether the bill has become law.

Republican Secretary of State Corey Stapleton sent out a tweet Wednesday afternoon saying House Bill 132 became law because Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock didn't deliver the bill to him within 10 days of vetoing it.

However, a statement from Governor's Office spokesperson Marissa Perry says that Stapleton is confused. Perry says Bullock vetoed the bill within the 10-day deadline and the Legislature was notified the same day.

The Montana Constitution says the governor must sign or veto a bill within 10 days of it landing on his desk, or else it becomes law.

When the Legislature is not in session state law requires the governor to return a vetoed bill along with the reasons for vetoing it to the secretary of state. A timeline for that situation isn't outlined.

Full story here. <https://www.mtpr.org/post/gov-secretary-state-dispute-bison-bill-status>

Bison Return To Blackfeet Homeland

(From the Independent Record)

BROWNING — The Blackfeet Indians have waited a long time for bison to return to their homeland. An extra 12 hours wouldn't hurt.

After assembling at 10 a.m. Tuesday on a former cattle ranch just south of Browning, Linnii Days coordinator Teri Dahle learned the truck hauling a dozen yearling bison from California had broken down in northern Nevada. The yearlings, who left Elk Island National Park in Alberta as unborn calves in a group of 14 bison cows getting donated to the Oakland Zoo last year, were coming to join a growing herd of Blackfeet buffalo and complete a circle of restoration a century in the making.

More on that shortly. The delay gave members of the Linnii Initiative a beautiful morning to accomplish another goal: sanctifying and renaming, and repurposing the ranch as the centerpiece of the tribe's return to buffalo culture.

Sacred Horn Society members Michael Bruised Head and Peter Weasel Moccasin came down from Calgary, Alberta, to lead a pipe ceremony with Blackfeet Reservation members Tyson Running Wolf and Jesse DeRosier. About 60 people made an open circle around the pipe holders; women arced to the right and men to the left with an opening gap facing the eastern Sweetgrass Hills. After songs and prayers, the four men lit and smoked two pipes, grabbing handfuls of smoke and passing it over their heads, down their bodies and into the dirt where they sat. Then they passed the pipes to the witnesses, who each took four puffs. Children too young for the ceremony received four taps on the shoulders from the pipe stem.

"It's been 130 years since the Sacred Horn Society was back," Bruised Head said after the pipes returned. "Now these hills will have a name so you can remember it — so when you drive by, these hills will have more meaning."

The new name translates as Buffalo Spirit Hills, and drivers to Browning and Glacier National Park will pass it along the highway. *linnii* is a complex word in the Blackfeet language, meaning something that takes away hard things and gives good things in their place, the way in Blackfeet tradition the buffalo saved the starving people by giving them a resource to live off.

Its grasslands stun the imagination. Walk 10 minutes away from the headquarters building and over a few hills, and civilization vanishes. Not even a fence line can be seen for miles of rolling green, stretching seemingly all the way to the Rocky Mountain Front.

Full story here. https://helenair.com/news/state-and-regional/bison-return-to-blackfeet-homeland/article_1836483a-ee4-5e1b-9d89-f11a7a2627c4.html

Galveston judge rules Obama water rule invalid

(From The San Antonio Express)

A federal judge in Galveston has ruled the Obama administration failed to adequately notify the public of key wording changes in its controversial 2015 rule redefining "Waters of the United States."

The 14-page decision by U.S. District Judge George C. Hanks, issued Tuesday, sends the so-called WOTUS rule back to the Environmental Protection Agency.

But the EPA already is taking public comment on a revision to what President Donald Trump called “one of the worst examples of federal regulation.”

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton already had won an injunction blocking the rule in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. District courts in North Dakota and Georgia have entered injunctions that remain in effect in 24 other states.

The Obama rule was meant to end years of confusion over what waters should fall under the federal Clean Water Act of 1972.

Opponents of the change have called it a land grab. Texas farmers and ranchers balked at what they said was an overreach that would subject them to costly red tape, blocking common farming practices related to stock tanks and fields where rainwater pools.

Read more. <https://www.expressnews.com/business/local/article/Galveston-judge-rules-Obama-water-rule-invalid-13906356.php>

Grass-Fed Beef Sales Hit \$480 Mil', Up 15%

(From Sustainable Foods News)

U.S. grass-fed beef sales at retail hit \$480 million for the year ending April 20, up 15 percent year-over-year.

That's according to a [report by Bloomberg](#), which cited grocery sales data from Nielsen as proof of the growing popularity of the beef variety.

“Restaurants have also jumped on the bandwagon, with shipments from distributors to independent and small chain restaurants increasing by 15% for the year ending in March, according to an NPD analysis,” Bloomberg said.

The report called out the disadvantage U.S. grass-fed beef producers have in the U.S. marketplace, compared to cheaper imports. That disadvantage stems from the USDA's current policy of allowing grass-fed beef imports to be “processed” at a USDA-inspected plant in order to receive the ‘Product of U.S.A. stamp.’

“At the “finishing” phase of a cow's life, raising grass-fed beef in Australia cost 59 cents for every pound gained, according to an [April 2017 report](#) on the market from Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture. For a large U.S. grass-fed producer, that cost rises to \$1.55 per pound. For a small U.S. producer, it can be as high as \$4.26,” Bloomberg said.

The article went on to describe how Perdue Farms' recent [acquisition of organic, grass-fed beef producer Panorama Meats](#) seeks to end the “disconnect” by “building a market for grass-fed beef that's truly Made in America, even if it costs more than the imported kind.”

USDA Advances CRP Continuous Signup Despite Peterson's Demands

(From AgriPulse)

USDA plans to reopen continuous signup for the Conservation Reserve Program next week, despite demands by House Agriculture Chairman Collin Peterson that the department delay enrollment.

Peterson fears the continuous signup will steal acres from the general signup, which won't take effect until December. Payment rates for continuous CRP acres are much higher than they are for general signup.

Enrollment for continuous CRP practices, which includes implementing practices like grassed waterways, filter strips, and wetland restoration, will begin June 3. General signup is not expected to open until, at the earliest, December according to USDA's Farm Service Agency.

"We've seen a very robust enrollment through continuous, because general [signup] is so competitive," Martin Bomar, a spokesman for USDA's Farm Service Agency told *Agri-Pulse*.

FSA Administrator Richard Fordyce told Peterson at a recent House Agriculture subcommittee hearing that the general signup was being delayed to give time for the agency to finalize new regulations required by the 2018 farm bill. He said it was not necessary to delay the continuous enrollment.

Peterson went so far as to threaten to sue the agency if it didn't shut down the continuous signup.

Wildlife groups are concerned about losing acreage from CRP overall because of the delay in the general signup, which likely means the new contracts won't be enrolled in the program until October 2020, they say.

"A general signup would clearly help show the demand and get the most acres enrolled the quickest," government affairs director, of Pheasants Forever, Jim Inglis tells *Agri-Pulse*.

"We think there is a high demand for the program, but we really don't know because farmers haven't had a chance to really enroll at this point."

The last general signup for CRP was December 2015.

\$19 Billion Disaster Aid Bill Blocked Again In The House By GOP Dissenter

(From FOX News)

The House on Tuesday again failed to approve a [\\$19.1 billion disaster aid bill](#) after a single GOP congressman dissented -- just days after it was unexpectedly stalled by another Republican holdout.

The aid bill was initially stalled on Friday by Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas, after the House tried to move the measure via unanimous consent. On Tuesday, Rep. Sanford Bishop, D-Ga., asked that the House approve the bill by unanimous consent, but this time it was Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., who objected.

"The issue here is \$19 billion..it is the definition of the swamp," Massie said. "Everyone wants to be a hero by coming in and writing checks."

The bill had cleared the Senate 85-8 earlier last week, but the House attempting to move the measure via unanimous consent means that it required everyone present had to agree to it. Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said the House would try again Thursday to get the measure passed. But, if it is blocked again, the House is expected to wait until after June 4 to approve the bill via a roll call vote.

Struggle, Threatening a New Front in Trade War

(From Bloomberg News)

Even though President Donald Trump held fire earlier this month on auto tariffs that have the potential to further roil Europe's struggling economy, a succession of domestic dilemmas on both sides of the Atlantic threaten to frustrate efforts at a trade pact before they've even begun.

Ten months after Trump and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker struck a Rose Garden truce meant to clear the way for negotiations to reduce tariffs on industrial goods and eliminate regulatory hurdles, those talks are showing few signs of going anywhere meaningful.

European officials have blamed a Trump administration that has had little time for dealing with a bureaucracy in Brussels already held in low regard by many in the U.S. president's orbit. Distracting Trump has been a breakdown in talks with China and a need for a quick deal with Japan to assuage American agricultural interests.

"I don't think the U.S. is ready to start on the tariff negotiations," Cecilia Malmstrom, the EU's trade commissioner, told reporters in Paris earlier this month after meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

Full story here. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-05-30/u-s-eu-trade-talks-stumble-threatening-new-trade-war-front?utm_source=Agri-Pulse+Daily+Harvest+2018&utm_campaign=e584737cad-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_05_30_09_58&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6978e27d37-e584737cad-48790993