



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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June 14, 2019

Summer Conference Registration Deadline Nearing

Just one week remains to register for the 2019 NBA Summer Conference, hosted this year by the North Dakota Buffalo Association. Registration closes next Saturday, June 22nd. The last day to reserve your lodging at the host hotel, the Bismarck Radisson, is this Monday, June 17th. Get all the details and register online at <https://bisoncentral.com/nba-summer-conference/>.

The three-day summer conference, July 7 – 10 is a diverse event that will span the heart of bison country. We have some tickets left for the Sunday evening Missouri river cruise on Bismarck's Lewis and Clark and Clark Riverboat! Tickets are just \$50/each and includes a two hour cruise with light dinner provided and a cash bar. The cruise departs at 7:30 pm from 1700 N. River Road, Bismarck, ND 58503 and returns at 9 pm – <https://www.lewisandclarkriverboat.com/>. A shuttle will be available to those coming from the hotel without transportation, which will depart at 7 pm and return at approximately 9:15 p.m.

We also have an amazing line up of bison business veterans in North Dakota's producers who will address the group on Monday afternoon at the North Dakota Heritage Center. We're pleased that this includes Dr. Ken Throlson, a pioneer of today's bison business, who will address the group both on Monday and at KenMar Buffalo Ranch on Wednesday. Tuesday's speaker lineup features an array of experts addressing bison's role in regenerative agriculture, the launch of the NBA's new Bison Producer's App, the import and export of bison with Canada, and more. Please be sure to register soon and don't miss out on this great opportunity!

Please be sure to make your hotel reservation at the host hotel, the Radisson in downtown Bismarck. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 701-255-6000 and requesting rooms in the National Bison Association room block. If reserving online, please enter group code BISO19 to receive the group rate of \$109/night at <https://www.radisson.com/reservation/clearReservation.do>. Please reserve your room by June 17, 2019.

Carter Reappointed to USDA Trade Committee

National Bison Association Executive Director Dave Carter has been reappointed to a five-year term on the USDA's Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade in Animals and Animal Products.

Carter was among 140 private sector members appointed to the Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade and six Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees for Trade this week. The appointments were announced Thursday by Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

"With export markets representing a major opportunity for the bison business, the opportunity to continue servicing on the ATAC for Animals and Animal Products is very important," Carter said. "Over the past five years, we've been able to make sure that bison is 'at the table' as the livestock sector weighs in a U.S. trade policies."

Congress established the advisory committee system in 1974 to ensure that U.S. agricultural trade policy objectives reflect U.S. public- and private-sector commercial and economic interests. USDA and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative jointly manage the committees.

The Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee provides advice and information to the Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative on the administration of trade policy, including enforcement of existing trade agreements and negotiating objectives for new trade agreements. The Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees offer technical advice and information about specific commodities and products.

The appointees will serve until June 15, 2023, and the committees will be supplemented by additional appointments over the next four years. Individuals are encouraged to apply for committee membership at any time and applications will be reviewed periodically. More information about the committees is available at <https://www.fas.usda.gov/topics/trade-advisory-committees>.

Farmers' Market Marketing Materials Available through the NBA

Bison direct marketers wanting to boost sales and profitability are encouraged to take advantage of the abundance of marketing materials available through the National Bison Association.

"The resources provided through the USDA's Farmers' Market Promotion Program have helped us produce a wealth of marketing resources for anyone selling at a farmers' market, or engaged in any other type of direct marketing," said Dave Carter, NBA executive director.

Last year, the NBA teamed with the Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts to produce short on-line videos with instructions on cooking bison steak, ground bison, and bison roast. The NBA has also produced a hand-out card with a QR Code that allows anyone to easily access those videos.

"Our farmers market project steering committee told us that the most common question from potential customers is 'How do I cook it?'," Carter said. "Now, vendors can simply hand out these cards so that the customer can log on and get cooking tips when they get home>"

The NBA has also revised and updated the “Why Bison” brochure, which is a very popular informational piece for prospective customers. And, there are still a limited number of bison feather flags which can be used at framers’ market booths to draw attention from prospective customers.

Correction: Carcass Price Projection in Error Last Week

A typographical error last week misstated the responses that commercial marketers provided in the May semi-annual survey, when questioned about the sustainable price for you bull carcasses. Here’s how the story should have read:

When asked where demand exceeded supply, 70 percent of the respondents listed pet food ingredients, 57 percent listed middle meats, and 29 percent listed trim. Marketers are less optimistic on a sustainable carcass price than in the past four years. Nearly 60 percent listed \$34.00 - \$4.25 as a sustainable price, while 11 percent each listed, \$4.26 – 4.50, \$4.51 - \$4.75, and \$4.75 - \$5.00.

National Buffalo Museum Holds Successful Fundraiser

The National Buffalo Museum hosted their annual Fundraising Auction this past week in Jamestown, ND. The event finds locals and those in the bison community gathering to enjoy an evening of fun while raising funds for the museum. Income from this fundraising event is an important part of the museum’s operating budget that allows them to expand and increase outreach efforts as they educate about the bison and the history surrounding the animal and those working with them.

The evening included silent and live auction items, raffles and, new this year, an opportunity to sponsor one of the museum herd’s bison. All in all, it was a very successful evening for the museum. Staff and volunteers spend countless hours getting ready for the evening’s festivities.

This year saw a very special presentation. The museum’s Executive Director, Ilana Xinos, took the stage to present the first ever Founder’s Achievement Award to long-time board member and supporter, Arnie Becker. Arnie has been a visionary and voice for the museum and its buffalo herd since 1991, always pushing forward with his vision for making the museum a centerpiece for the bison industry.

The National Buffalo Museum has recently added a children’s area and is hosting the Bison in Art exhibition through Labor Day. The museum is excited to welcome National Bison Association members on the Ranch Tour day during the Summer Conference. For those that would like to stop at the museum before or after the conference and are not current museum members, let the staff know you are an NBA member to receive free admission as well as half price off any of the museum’s membership options if you would like to join as a member.

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Sen. John Thune Announces His Bison Head's Name

(From the Argus-Leader)

You can now call Sen. John Thune's bison head "Murdo."

Thune stood in front of the bison head on his U.S. Capitol office wall as he opened an envelope labeled "top secret" to reveal the name on Monday afternoon.

"Great name, my hometown named after Scottish rancher Murdo MacKenzie who settled there in the early 1900s," he said

The name Murdo was chosen by a public vote after Thune's staff sought suggestions and then narrowed the choices down to Murdo, Monty Bison, Newman and Doc Holliday.

The bison head grew in popularity after Thune was captured in photos wheeling him into the U.S. Capitol, on loan from the National Bison Association. The South Dakota bison lived on the Slim Buttes Ranch in Buffalo and was taxidermied in Rapid City by Gary English of Golden Hills Taxidermy.

Story and video here: <https://www.argusleader.com/story/news/politics/2019/06/10/sen-john-thune-announces-his-bison-heads-name-south-dakota-murdo/1413443001/>

National Bison Conference Coming to North Dakota

(From the Red River Farm Network)

Bison producers from around the country will meet in Bismarck, North Dakota next month for the National Bison Association summer conference. Association Executive Director Dave Carter says it is a great opportunity for not only current producers, but also those interested in the industry. "There will be about 300 to 400 folks coming up north.

They will spend learning about bison business and seeing some North Dakota ranches," says Carter. "I encourage anyone who is interested in learning more to come out and meet some of the producers raising the animal. We want more people to become a part of our community and help us build this business." The conference runs July 7-10 in Bismarck. [Learn more here.](#)

Nolan Ryan Beef Partner Together For Inaugural Temple Grandin Responsible Cattle Care Audit

(From Food Safety News Services)

Food Safety Net Services Certification and Audit (FSNS C&A) has announced the creation of the FSNS C&A Temple Grandin Responsible Cattle Care Program. The program was developed under the guidance of Dr. Temple Grandin, driven by science, founded in practicality, and dedicated to continuing Dr. Grandin's tireless service to the meat industry, and her core purpose of continuing to improve animal welfare.

Suppliers volunteer to participate in this innovative approach to improving the conditions under which cattle are managed throughout their life. This system focuses on objective scoring at meat harvesting facilities for indicators of responsible care and management of animals intended for human consumption. Participants in this program have committed themselves to developing a management system that uses routine monitoring to enhance the lives of the animals on which we depend. This is achieved by assessing the condition of animals received at the meat processing facility.

Several of the measures that will be monitored at the plant are lameness, cleanliness, injuries, and internal health. While this program provides a means for greatly improving animal welfare through the reduction of serious welfare issues, it cannot measure cattle handling or painful procedures that occur prior to arrival at the meat processing plant.

Nolan Ryan Beef® is the first beef company to utilize the FSNS C&A Temple Grandin Responsible Cattle Care Audit to assess animal conditions prior to harvest. This audit occurs in addition to annual third-party animal welfare audits conducted at their partner facility that monitor humane handling at the meat processing facility.

During this audit, animals are inspected upon arrival the plant for lameness, health condition, injuries, cleanliness, and signs of overall level of care from their previous point of ownership. Only suppliers providing proper animal care will be included in the Nolan Ryan Beef®.

Nolan Ryan, Texas rancher and majority owner of Nolan Ryan Beef®, shares “As a lifetime cattle rancher who has a heart and passion for animals, I’m honored to partner with FSNS C&A and Dr. Grandin in the utilization of this program. We feel this is an essential step in ensuring the continuous improvement of animal welfare throughout the supply chain.” Perry Coughlin, President and CEO of Nolan Ryan Beef®, adds “We understand the proper care and handling of livestock is an ethical responsibility for everyone involved in this industry. Not only does it make good business sense, but it aligns with our mission and core values.”

Fragile US-Mexico Deal Doesn't Include Ag Purchases *(From AgriPulse)*

The U.S. and Mexico are lauding an agreement struck Friday to prevent new tariffs, but the tenuous pact relies on Mexico's ability to decrease immigration to the U.S. and does not include some form of promise for Mexico to import more U.S. ag commodities.

“There is now going to be great cooperation between Mexico & the USA, something that didn't exist for decades,” President Donald Trump said in a series of tweets this weekend. “However, if for some unknown reason ... there is not, we can always go back to our previous, very profitable, position of Tariffs — But I don't believe that will be necessary.”

Trump announced a little over a week ago that the U.S. would hit Mexico with a 5% tariff on all of its exports if the country did agree to stop Central American migrants from reaching the U.S. border. That tariff would have gone into place today and then gone up to 10% on July 1, 15% on Aug. 1, 20% on Sept. 1 and 25% on Oct. 1.

But for now, the pact is in place — a pact that does not include a commercial arrangement that Trump appeared to be talking about in yet another tweet. Mexico, already the largest foreign market for U.S. dairy, pork and grain, has “AGREED TO IMMEDIATELY BEGIN BUYING LARGE QUANTITIES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT,” Trump said. But Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard said Monday there is no side deal on agricultural trade.

“We don’t have a specific agreement on (agricultural) products,” Ebrard said in Mexico City press conference when he was asked about Trump’s tweet.

WOTUS Hearing Calls For More Clarity From Trump Administration

(From AgriPulse)

Democrats, Republicans and witnesses at a Senate [hearing](#) today all agreed on the need for clean water, but disagreed on whether the Trump administration’s proposed WOTUS rule is the best way to get it.

Two of the witnesses, North Dakota Ag Commissioner Doug Goehring and Wyoming producer Todd Fornstrom, president of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, both said they support the proposed rule, which would reduce the scope of the federal government’s jurisdiction over “waters of the U.S.,” or WOTUS. The remaining witness, Pima County, Arizona, Supervisor Richard Elias, said ceding more authority over water to the states would be problematic because two-thirds of them have laws prohibiting state regulations from being more stringent than the Clean Water Act.

Goehring and Fornstrom said the proposed rule, which has drawn thousands of comments, is a good start, but more clarity is needed.

In particular, Fornstrom said the Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers should specify that in order for a stream to be defined as “intermittent,” it must have “a minimum duration of continuous surface flow — for example, 90 days.” Under the proposal, tributaries of navigable waters would be jurisdictional if they contribute perennial or intermittent flow to those waters. The proposal also asked for comment on whether intermittent streams should even be regulated. Ephemeral streams, which contain water in response to precipitation, are already out under the proposal.

Fornstrom, who testified on behalf of the American Farm Bureau Federation, also said ditches should no longer be a standalone category of waters under the Clean Water Act. AFBF does not want to see a category of jurisdictional ditches because that “may create the misimpression that the default status of ditches is that they are jurisdictional.”

“Ditches is one of those issues we need to overcome,” said Sen. Jon Ernst, R-Iowa.

Goehring said he agrees with the agencies’ plan to exclude most ditches and artificial channels from federal jurisdiction, but “to the extent the agencies intend to assert jurisdiction over ditches that are constructed in tributaries, they should revise the ‘tributary’ definition to clarify that the definition encompasses artificially created tributaries.”

Kansas City Picked As New Location For ERS, NIFA

(From AgriPulse)

Citing hundreds of millions in savings over a 15-year period, Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue today [announced](#) the Kansas City region has been chosen as the new home for the Economic Research Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. But ERS will not be moved under the Office of Chief Economist, as previously proposed.

"The Kansas City Region has proven itself to be [a] hub for all things agriculture and is a booming city in America's heartland," Perdue said in a news release. "There is already a significant presence of USDA and federal government employees in the region, including the Kansas City 'Ag Bank' Federal Reserve. This agriculture talent pool, in addition to multiple land-grant and research universities within driving distance, provides access to a stable labor force for the future. The Kansas City Region will allow ERS and NIFA to increase efficiencies and effectiveness and bring important resources and manpower closer to all of our customers." The American Federation of Government Employees, which represents employees at the Economic Research Service, said ERS employees greeted the announcement "with no enthusiasm."

"Secretary Perdue has stated that his rush to finalize the relocation is an attempt to limit the anxiety and burden on employees," AFGE Local 3403 said in [response](#) to the news. "In reality, his announcement today will bring nothing but further burden to the agency with an acceleration of the loss of mission-critical staff and senior leadership who cannot or will not move to a new location. Despite the assurance that the relocation is not an attempt to shrink the agency, ERS has been prevented from on-boarding new employees during this time of induced uncertainty." The local also said "notification that a final site would be announced today was not provided to either ERS employees or managers, both of whom learned of the announcement through the press." ERS employees received an email with a [statement](#) from Perdue at 10:37 a.m. EDT, more than a half hour after the news had been announced by members of Congress. Perdue will address staff of both agencies at an all-hands meeting in USDA's Jefferson Auditorium at 3 p.m. ET. In an email to the ERS local, a USDA labor relations officer said there will be "increased security" at the meeting.

"I want you all to know that this decision was not entered into lightly," Perdue told the employees. "And having recently undergone a major relocation of my own, I understand that this decision creates personal disruption for some of our colleagues and their families. But I want to make sure that this transition and the coming months are as smooth and as minimally disruptive as possible."

"State and local governments have offered generous relocation incentives packages totaling more than \$26 million, which will help offset relocation expenses," he said. Employees at the agencies now have 30 days to decide whether to move, and then 90 days to actually relocate.

Bison Talk and Wildflower Walk

(From the Newton Daily News)

Join a volunteer ranger at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge at 1:30 p.m. Saturday and participate in a short program on the natural history and management of the American Bison. Then take a guided walk to the butterfly garden located just outside the visitor center to enjoy and learn about prairie wildflowers.

Call 515-994-3400 to register or email Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.

Source. <https://www.newtondailynews.com/2019/06/13/bison-talk-and-wildflower-walk/aicq06i/>

A Once-in-a-Lifetime Hunt for Bison in Utah's Henry Mountains

(From Outdoor Life)

Utah's Henry Mountain bison herd is one of the only wild herds left in the Lower 48. Buffalo in that unit roam across some of the most rugged territory on earth.

The hunting is hard, and drawing a permit is even harder. Drawing happens only once in a hunter's lifetime—and that's if you're lucky.

In 2018 my buddy Dan drew a tag. He, his 73-year-old father Jeff, and I loaded a pack string of horses and disappeared into the backcountry.

We wanted, in some small way, to replicate the buffalo hunts of a century and a half ago, so we wore an article or two of period-correct clothing, and Dan hunted with a beautiful 45-70 Winchester '86 customized by [Doug Turnbull](#). Four days later we emerged, our packhorses loaded with buffalo meat. Here is our story.

Full story here. <https://www.outdoorlife.com/bison-buffalo-hunting-utah-henry-mountains/>

Agritourism Checklists Help Measure Risk

(From Iowa State University)

Farmers and landowners who open their property to the public face some unique risks and responsibilities.

To help ensure their operation is following best practices, a group of agritourism experts with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach has put together six checklists that cover the many types of liability an owner may face.

The checklists cover biosecurity, emergency preparedness, food safety, pesticide safety, play area safety and negligence mitigation.

Compiled by Kendra Meyer, Visit Iowa Farms program coordinator at ISU Extension and Outreach, the checklists ask producers to mark "yes" or "no" to each question, or "not applicable."

The checklists are not to be considered a certification, but they do help producers understand their strengths and weaknesses, Meyer said, and identify areas where they may need to improve.

"The checklists serve as a measurement tool to help guide agritourism operators through best practice techniques to use on their farm, to alleviate the risks that arise once employees and visitors come onto their farm," Meyer said.

Topics include employee and visitor health and hygiene, employee training, recordkeeping, food preparation and storage, legal risks and much more.

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/new-checklists-help-agritourism-operators-measure-risk>

Program Focuses on Revitalizing Middle-Size Agriculture

(From Civil Eats)

Four years ago, Christina and Zach Menchini started Campfire Farms, 30 miles south of Portland, Oregon. They decided to raise pigs on pasture to support animal welfare and replenish the soil after decades of pesticide-heavy Christmas tree farming.

They slowly ramped up production—from 20 to 40 to 60 pigs—over their first few seasons, selling the pork exclusively at three different farmers' markets. While Christina loves the customer connections that retail markets provide, and the Menchins were able to charge a premium for the meat they sold, they soon realized they needed to take a hard look at the financial sustainability of their business. Growing the business was daunting. The couple apprenticed together at an operation based on the farmers' market model, and the wholesale market was uncharted terrain. "It was hard to imagine what that would look like," she says.

The Menchins are far from alone in this challenge. The hollowing-out of the agricultural middle has been taking place for several decades, as American farms have grown and consolidated at a rapid pace. The 2017 Agriculture Census data recently out confirmed the continuing decline of medium-sized family farms, as the overall number of farms dropped by 3 percent and the only categories that saw any growth were very large and very small operations.

"If we don't invest in beginning farmers and the advancement of our family farms, and if we don't put checks on increasing consolidation in agriculture, we're going to be at risk of losing the ag of the middle entirely," said Juli Obudzinski, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition Interim Policy Director, in a recent statement. "Seventy-five percent of all agricultural sales are now coming from just 5 percent of operations."

Read more. <https://civileats.com/2019/06/11/mid-sized-farms-are-disappearing-this-program-could-reverse-the-trend/>

Grazing Exchange Introduced in South Dakota

South Dakota Soil Health Coalition has released a new online portal that connects livestock producers with people who have cropland or forage available to graze. The website is a free, publicly accessible map, developed through a grant agreement with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The site offers a platform for producers to connect throughout the state of South Dakota and the surrounding region. The map overlay shows sites where fields are available for grazing, as well as producers who are willing to move livestock to grazing sites.

Additional educational resources on the site include fact sheets on a variety of topics related to livestock integration, crop residue, and cover crops, contracting resources, as well as the contact information or links for organizations that can provide further technical assistance. Integrating livestock onto cropland and managing grassland properly combine to form one of the five basic principles of soil health.

Read more. https://www.sdsoilhealthcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/News_-_New-South-Dakota-Grazing-Exchange-Website-Officially-Released.pdf

Most 'Meat' In 2040 Will Not Come From Dead Animals, Says Report

(From The Guardian)

Most of the meat people eat in 2040 will not come from slaughtered animals, according to a report that predicts 60% will be either grown in vats or replaced by plant-based products that look and taste like meat.

The report by the global consultancy AT Kearney, [based on expert interviews](#), highlights the heavy environmental impacts of conventional meat production and the concerns people have about the welfare of animals under industrial farming.

“The large-scale livestock industry is viewed by many as an unnecessary evil,” the report says. “With the advantages of novel vegan meat replacements and cultured meat over conventionally produced meat, it is only a matter of time before they capture a substantial market share.”

The conventional meat industry raises billions of animals and turns over \$1tn (£785bn) a year. However, the [huge environmental impacts](#) have been made plain in recent scientific studies, from the emissions driving the climate crisis to wild habitats [destroyed for farmland](#) and the pollution of rivers and oceans.

Companies such as Beyond Meat, Impossible Foods and Just Foods that use plant ingredients to [create replacement burgers](#), scrambled eggs and other products are growing rapidly. AT Kearney estimates \$1bn has been invested in such vegan products, including by the companies that dominate the [conventional meat market](#). Beyond Meat raised \$240m when the company went public in May and its shares have more than doubled since.

Read more. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jun/12/most-meat-in-2040-will-not-come-from-slaughtered-animals-report>

USDA Lowers 2019 Red Meat, Poultry Forecast

(From Feedstuffs)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's June "World Agricultural Supply & Demand Estimates" (WASDE) report revealed a reduction in the forecast for 2019 red meat and poultry production versus the May report. USDA said the decrease to 104.2 billion lb. was due to lower projected beef, pork and turkey production, which more than offset higher broiler production.

According to the WASDE report, the lower beef production forecast of 27.2 billion lb. largely reflects reduced steer and heifer slaughter in the second half of the year. The pork production forecast, at 27.3 billion lb., was lowered from last month primarily because the pace of slaughter to date has been slower than expected. USDA raised the broiler production forecast to 43.1 billion lb. based on recent hatchery data and expectations for heavier bird weights. Turkey production, on the other hand, was lowered slightly to 5.9 billion lb.

USDA also lowered the 2020 red meat and poultry production forecast to 105.7 billion lb. from the previous month.

"Production growth for livestock and poultry is expected to be slower as producers respond to higher feed costs," USDA noted, adding that the beef production forecast was reduced due to lower expected steer and heifer slaughter as incentives to add weight on pasture will slow the pace of feedlot placements.

Full text:

<https://www.feedstuffs.com/markets/usda-lowers-2019-red-meat-poultry-forecast>

Workshop Proposals Sought for Sustainable Agriculture Conference

We are currently accepting workshop proposals for our 34th annual Sustainable Agriculture Conference, held November 1-3, 2019 in Durham, NC!

As the premier food and farming conference in the Carolinas, CFSA's Sustainable Agriculture Conference will feature more than 60 sessions presenting practical and innovative information and research for farmers, producers, educators, activists, and foodies. We are looking for presenters who are experts in the field of sustainable agriculture to present on topics that include:

- Advanced Topics in Organic Growing
- Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
- Beginning and Aspiring Farmer Resources
- Business Planning and Finance
- Farmer Health & Wellness
- Food Equity
- Foodie, Culinary, and Value-Added Specialties
- Horticulture
- Livestock
- Permaculture
- Policy
- Research
- Soil Health
- Specialty Crops

Read more. <https://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/workshop-proposals/>

Grants for Iowa Farmers Impacted by Flooding

The Center for Rural Affairs is partnering with Farm Aid and Iowa Farmers Union to help farmers impacted by recent flooding in Iowa.

If you are an Iowa farmer in an area damaged by the recent flooding, you may be eligible for a \$500 grant to help with personal expenses.

The grant is to be used for household expenses, including medical bills, and may not be used for professional expenses related to farm operation.

Read more. <https://www.cfra.org/2019FloodGrant>