



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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July 14, 2017

Bison 1 Million Campaign Launched at International Conference

One million bison, one continent and one cohesive commitment to bison herd restoration.

If the more than 600 bison producers, marketers and enthusiasts gathered at the International Bison Conference in Big Sky, MT last week achieve their goal, the North American bison herd [will swell to 1 million in the next decade or so](#). This aggressive growth goal was announced July 5th at the opening luncheon of the 5th ever IBC as the "Bison 1 Million" campaign.

The IBC in Montana last week brought together the largest gathering of the international bison community in at least 17 years. Most of the participants came from across the United States and Canada, but there were a handful of producers from Australia and Europe as well.

Representatives of [The National Bison Association](#) (NBA), [Canadian Bison Association](#) (CBA), InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) helped roll out the Bison 1 Million campaign during the formal announcement last Wednesday as a demonstration of the collaborative commitment to bison restoration among private ranchers, public herd managers, tribal leaders, conservationists, government agencies and other stakeholders in the United States and Canada.

Mike Duncan, former president of the National Bison Association, and volunteer coordinator of the new initiative, presided over the official rollout ceremony.

"We're starting the conversation and looking for ways to support the efforts of ranchers and conservationists of zoos, wherever the bison can be expanded," Duncan said.

Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association, told the audience, "Six years ago, many of us came together in the successful campaign to establish bison as the National Mammal of the United States. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to continue to work together to restore bison in commercial, conservation and cultural herds across North America,"

"It is great to be part of these bison enthusiasts who are so committed to grow bison numbers," added Terry Kremeniuk, executive director of the Canadian Bison Association.

Keith Aune, director of the Bison Conservation Program for WCS, added, "The Bison 1 Million campaign gives us an ambitious target to focus our collective energy for the benefit of bison recovery."

Patrick Toomey, rangeland specialist for the InterTribal Buffalo Council, noted, bison restoration is something that brings us all together around a common goal. It benefits people, cultures, and the land."

It's Official: Hump Day is now *Bison Hump Day*

The fifth ever International Bison Conference was just too big for only one major announcement.

While Bison 1 Million represents a major initiative to bring back more bison to North America, IBC conference organizers launched a companion initiative on July 5th intended to encourage continued growth in bison meat demand: *Bison Hump Day*.

"Some people have designated Mondays as Meatless Mondays. And, Tuesdays are widely becoming recognized as Taco Tuesdays," said Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association. "So, what would be more appropriate for Wednesday—hump day—than to become known as *Bison Hump Day*."

The new campaign features a catchy image of a bison wearing sunglasses emblazoned with Bison Hump Day. The logo notes: Restore Bison – Eat Bison Every Wed.

Carter said that the NBA and CBA will work with bison marketers, retailers, and restaurants, to promote a campaign to encourage people to incorporate bison into their meals on Wednesdays.

Speakers, Workshops Offer Smorgasbord of Information at IBC

The more than 600 attendees at the International Bison Conference in Big Sky, MT and surrounding areas last week received information on topics ranging from climate change to consumer marketing during the three-day event.

Dr. James Hurrell, director of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO, provided the opening day keynote with a presentation discussing the implications of changing climate. Workshops during the morning covered a variety of topics, ranging from historical development of bison, controlling parasites, and maintaining optimal herd health.

Daniela Ibarra-Howell, executive director of the Savory Institute, rounded out Monday's formal sessions with a presentation highlighting the role that holistic management can play in increasing profitability of ranchers, and the health of the soil.

On Thursday, Dr. David Hughes, professor emeritus of Imperial College in London, kept the audience attentive with an in-depth and entertaining overview of the changing economic climate around the world, and the emerging developments impacting consumer purchasing decisions.

Another plenary presentation that morning provided an overview of the latest developments in the Canadian code of Practices for Humane bison husbandry. That presentation was chaired by Drs. Jeffrey Spooner and Jayson Galbraith, both of whom helped coordinate the latest version of the Code of practices.

Thursday workshops covered the steps in branding bison products, and in tapping into the international marketplace.

On Friday, the conference shifted to the Flying D ranch north of Big Sky, where Ted Turner and the ranch staff greeted the attendees beneath a massive tent in a meadow surrounding by grazing bison.

Laurie Demeritt, chief executive office of the Hartman Group research firm, presented information based on the firm's study of emerging trends in the natural food channel. Demeritt offered specific advice on positioning bison in today's market. The formal conference presentations concluded with a panel exploring opportunities to bring the next generation of potential agricultural producers into bison production.

In addition of the formal presentations and workshops, the conference included several unique and entertaining events as well.

On Wednesday afternoon, famed butcher Adam Danforth and Chef Kyle Mendenhall provided a demonstration on developing and marketing new cuts of bison meat. That session was moderated by Jessie Price, editor of *Eating Well* magazine.

And, at the pre-conference July 4th gathering at the 320 Ranch near Big Sky, Dr. John Church dazzled the participants with a display highlighting the use of drones in bison ranching.

"If people came to the conference hungry for information, they found plenty to satisfy their appetite," said Roy Liedtke, president of the National Bison Association.

The NBA is in the process of compiling the major speaker presentations on bisoncentral.com.

Bull Auctioned for \$42,000 at IBC

A bull carrying Yellowstone genetics, and donated by Ted Turner, sold for \$42,000 at the International Bison Conference Benefit Auction, and will be headed to South Dakota to Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, owned by Jacki and Sandy Limpert. The bull was one of several fundraising items that generated funds critical to underwriting the cost of the IBC.

Other items in the benefit auction included the Shiloh Sharps replica 1874 Sporter No. 3 rifle, a getaway to Flathead Lake Lodge in MT donated by the Montana Bison Association, A hand-crafted bison leather chair donated by the Buffalo Collection, four Big Green Eggs donated by the Big Green Egg Co., and two of the IBC commemorative belt buckles.

On Friday, the winners were announced in the three raffle drawings. Those winners are:
Yellowstone genetics bull – Rod Sather, South Dakota
Sierra Grande Lodge Getaway – Joanne Dorey, Alberta and
Shiloh Sharps Replica 1874 Sporter No. 3 Rifle – Trevor Wolery

Finally, the online auction for two items closed yesterday, with the winners being:
Flathead Lodge Getaway – Ryan Wells
Shiloh Sharps Replica 1874 Sporter No. 3 Rifle – Steven Bricker

Editor's Note: Sampling of News Stories from IBC featured below in Weekly Update

Schedule Advertising Now for Next Edition of Bison World

Why not jump on the wave of enthusiasm and excitement created from the International Bison Conference by advertising your bison related animals, goods or services in **Bison World**? Advertising prices, which have remained the same for nearly a decade in this beautiful, glossy publication, are a great buy and a superior way to target the North American bison industry. Need more information? Want to talk marketing strategy? Contact **Bison World** Editor & Advertising Manager Marilyn Bay Drake at marilynbaydrake@gmail.com The deadline to reserve space in the October issue is Aug. 10.

To Wean or Not? To Flush or Not?

We would like to do a story for Bison World on best practices in these two areas and are searching for research and personal experience of fellow producers to share with readers. If you would be willing to answer any or all of the following, would you please contact Bison World Editor Marilyn Bay Drake at marilynbaydrake@gmail.com Include your name, operation, town & state or province. All comments/input must be gathered by July 28. Thank you.

- Do you wean your calves or leave them with the cows until they go on feed or are sold?
- Why do you wean or not wean?
- How do you believe your weaning practices impact the health of the calves? the health and fertility of the cows?
- If you wean, what age are the calves?
- Do you flush your cows before breeding?
- If not, why not?
- If so, why?
- If so, how and when do you flush them?
- What impact do you believe flushing has on cows?

*****disclaimer*****

Coalition launches 'Bison 1 million' campaign at Big Sky conference (From the Bozeman Daily Chronicle)

BIG SKY — Including both wild and domestic animals, there are a few hundred thousand bison in North America today, but a coalition is shooting for an ambitious goal: bringing that population up to 1 million in the next 10 years.

The National Bison Association unveiled its "Bison 1 Million" campaign in front of a crowd of about 600 people at its International Bison Conference here Wednesday. The association

represents bison ranchers and it is working with its Canadian counterpart, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the Intertribal Buffalo Council to push for expanding the overall number of bison on the continent.

“We’re starting the conversation and looking for ways to support the efforts of ranchers and conservationists of zoos, wherever the bison can be expanded,” said Mike Duncan, a Colorado bison rancher and former president of the National Bison Association.

This conference comes in the year after bison were named the United States’ national mammal. The National Bison Association was one of the groups pushing for that.

The National Bison Association is holding the International Bison Conference here this week. A crowd of about 600 people — many of them bison ranchers, some tribal representatives, some from conservation groups — has descended on Big Sky for the week.

Bison once roamed nearly all of the continent, numbering in the tens of millions. But at the turn of the 20th century, there were fewer than 1,000. Now, there are an estimated 391,000 in North America, spread across tribal reservations, national parks and domestic livestock operations. Adding more bison to the continent isn’t simple, and the National Bison Association didn’t offer specifics on how it would reach the goal. The campaign is meant to make the idea more prominent. They’re also trying to brand Wednesday as “Bison Hump Day” — a day for people to eat bison.

The price of bison is good for ranchers, and Duncan said he doesn’t think the market would be hurt if more bison went on the market. Those who want bison have trouble finding it, he said. Read more. http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/wildlife/coalition-launches-bison-million-campaign-at-big-sky-conference/article_cfe1c492-f415-5751-ba9f-90d4ba1a0f12.html

Bison enthusiasts gather at Ted Turner's ranch to celebrate success, consider challenges

(From the Billings Gazette)

FLYING D RANCH — Tom Pierson may earn his living as a Bristol, Wisconsin, roofing contractor, but his heart is with a small herd of bison he’s raising.

“They’re just majestic,” he said. “I like coming down the driveway and seeing my herd. And they are very low maintenance. I have no handling facility and no veterinarian bills.”

Pierson was standing on the banks of a chattering Cherry Creek on Ted Turner’s [Flying D Ranch](#) at the base of the Spanish Peaks, just southwest of Bozeman, last Friday. Across the creek a small group of domestic bison and a nearby herd of wild elk grazed in belly-deep grass. Behind Pierson were old cabins, outbuildings and a cook shack used by the ranch as a hunting camp. On this hot summer day, though, it was host to about 600 people visiting as part of the International Bison Conference.

Ted Turner is optimistic that the bison industry is destined for bigger things. A pioneer in the field, his ranchers are now the leading producers of bison in the United States.

With more than 1,100 members, the [National Bison Association](#) — which organized the five-day conference at nearby Big Sky Resort — is a group of ranchers, processors and bison enthusiasts spread across all 50 states and 10 foreign countries. Some are small producers like Pierson with 10 bison on a 60-acre farm.

“If you only have a few it’s called yard art,” he joked.

On the other end of the spectrum is Ted Turner’s collection of ranches. Altogether Turner’s outfit manages 53,000 bison, said Mark Kossler, vice president of ranch operations for Turner Enterprises Inc. On the 75 square miles of the Flying D alone are 1,800 bison calves this summer.

“We do have more bison under ownership than anyone,” Kossler said.

Turner also owns bison that have tested free of any cattle cross breeding — some descended from Yellowstone National Park bison that the ranch held in quarantine, and another from the Castle Rock herd on Turner’s 585,000-acre Vermejo Park Ranch in New Mexico, which are also Yellowstone descendants. Those clean genes make the bison even more valuable.

Turner began ranching bison in 1990. Now 78 years old, the one-time media magnate presided over the gathering at the Flying D with all of the patience of a man secure in the knowledge that his dream of bison ranching has come true.

“We got a lot done in a limited amount of time,” Turner said, a fact that he admitted being proud of.

A star with the NBA members, he was constantly posing for group photos and welcomed the gathering to his ranch for the second time; the first was in 2011.

“Do you know the story?” asked Sally Ann Ranney, Turner’s companion and a longtime wildlife and environmental advocate. “This is pretty good.

“He started with three bison and now has 53,000,” Ranney said. “He’s wanted to save bison since he was a little boy. He had a vision that someday he would have a ranch to hunt and fish and raise bison.

“He’s really charted the course for the bison’s recovery and the whole industry.”

When asked about where he sees the industry going in the future Turner said, “The future is right now, and it’s good.”

That would certainly seem to be the case if you looked around the sprawling expanse of the Flying D, one of four ranches Turner owns in Montana.

“This place is pretty fabled,” said Jim Matheson, assistant director of the National Bison Association. “It’s like your own little Yellowstone.”

Full Story: http://ravallirepublic.com/lifestyles/recreation/article_13eb771b-b1bf-505a-aac6-7d974016effc.html

Mark Your Calendars: It's Bison Hump Day!

(From AgWired)

Increased demand for sustainable meat has the bison industry poised to grow significantly this year, and the industry recently announced the "Bison One Million" campaign, which sets sights on helping the North American bison population grow to one million strong this year.

North America's bison population, once on the verge of extinction in the 1880's with less than 700 bison, has steadily recovered. Today, an estimated 391,000 bison are in North American private, public and tribal herds, according to [National Bison Association \(NBA\)](#) data. Adding 609,000 head of America's official mammal to this continent's collective herd will be no easy or swift feat.

The industry isn't stopping their efforts at growing herd sizes across the continent. [National Bison Association](#) executive director Dave Carter, says the industry is building off the recent increase in consumer demand for bison products with a "[Bison Hump Day](#)" campaign in an effort to incorporate bison into dinner menus across America every Wednesday.

"Consumers love bison because the nutritional profile of the meat fits right in with people's concerns about diet and health: it's low in fat, high in protein and iron, and it's got a great cholesterol profile," said Carter. "It also fits within their interest for natural and sustainable foods. What could be more sustainable than the animal that helped shape this environment over the last several thousand years?"

Those interested in taking part in Bison Hump Day can find information on local producers and restaurants that serve bison products can check out [NBA's website](#) or download NBA's new [Bison Finder app](#).

Source. <http://agwired.com/2017/07/12/mark-your-calendars-its-bison-hump-day/>

Bison Hump Day declared in U.S.

(From Western Producer)

BIG SKY, Mont. — There's meatless Monday and taco Tuesday, and now Wednesday has its own promotion.

Bison Hump Day was announced here today during the International Bison Conference in front of more than 575 bison producers.

Dave Carter, executive director for the National Bison Association, said the declaration is a way to further promote bison.

It comes as producers and others embark on a plan for Bison One Million, a plan to increase the North American bison population from its current level of about 380,000 over the next several years.

The plan will require producers to increase their herds, but efforts will also be made to encourage herd growth on tribal lands, in conservation areas and in national parks.

Contact barb.glen@producer.com

Source: <http://www.producer.com/2017/07/bison-hump-day-declared-in-u-s/>

International Bison Conference meets in Big Sky

(From NBC Montana)

BIG SKY, Mont. - The National Bison Association announced its campaign to more than double the continent's bison population by 2027 at the International Bison Conference Tuesday.

There are currently about 400,000 bison in North America. The NBA, along with the Canadian Bison Association, Intertribal Buffalo Council and Wildlife Conservation Society, hopes to increase the herd to 1 million bison over the next 10 years.

NBA executive director Dave Carter told NBC Montana the event marks an important milestone for the groups, which haven't seen eye to eye on many occasions in the past.

"There will always be 20 percent of the issues that we're going to disagree on, but why do we let that stop us from working together on the other 80 percent?" Carter said.

Bison ranchers from the U.S., Canada, Australia and Germany were in attendance for the conference, which runs until Friday.

Representatives will outline the specifics of the Bison 1 Million plan Wednesday.

Source, and Video: <http://www.nbcmontana.com/news/ktvm/international-bison-conference-meets-in-big-sky/575618795>

What's Holding Back U.S. Bison Market?

(From Sustainable Food News)



U.S. foodservice and retail sales of bison meat came in at \$341 million last year, according to the [National Bison Association](#) (NBA).

The annual revenue is [about flat with 2015](#), and almost [2 percent higher than 2014](#), but the Westminster, Colo.-based trade group said bison demand has grown by double digits for the past six years.

But, a recent industry survey of commercial marketers of bison, the majority of which sold product to foodservice accounts versus retail, shows 85 percent believe supplies are lagging demand - by more than 20 percent, according to nearly one-third of respondents.

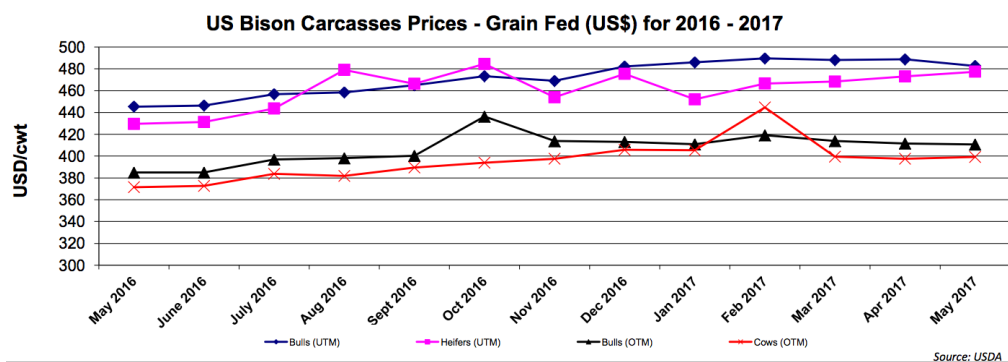
At today's prices for bison, more than 92 percent of respondents said they could market more product - and about 54 percent said they could market 16 percent more product.

While 69 percent of bison marketers say their market share is growing versus other red meats, they are seeing other center-of-the-plate proteins emerging as primary competitors for bison, including:

- grass-finished beef - 50 percent
- organic beef - 25 percent
- other specialty meats (red deer/elk, wild boar, ostrich, wagyu, etc.) - 17 percent
- natural beef - 8 percent

About three quarters of respondents said these proteins are successfully competing against bison because of price, perceived equivalent health benefits, and availability. Interestingly, 85 percent of respondents said they have had zero inquiries for certified-organic bison meat in the past six months.

The NBA said that the average price received for a young bull carcass topped \$4 a pound in 2011, and has increased steadily since then. At the end of 2016, marketers were paying producers more than \$4.60 per pound for young bull carcasses.



Earlier this week at the International Bison Conference in Big Sky, Mont., the NBA and the [Canadian Bison Association](#) (CBA) launched a bison restoration campaign called Bison 1 Million, with a goal to grow the North American bison herd to a million animals by 2027. Today, there are close to 400,000 bison roaming the pastures and rangelands of North America, about 90 percent of them are on private ranches.

In May 2016, President Obama [gave the bison market a boost](#) by formally signed the National Bison Legacy Act, establishing bison as the country's official national mammal.

"To grow the herd, consumers must eat more bison more frequently," the NBA said.

In tandem with the Bison 1 Million initiative, the trade groups also launched a campaign called Bison Hump Day to encourage consumers to eat bison on Wednesdays.

"We know about Meatless Mondays and Taco Tuesdays, so we think it's high time for a healthy protein-centric day of the week," said Dave Carter, NBA executive director. "Chefs and consumers can begin to buy a greater variety of bison cuts, from steaks to roasts, and each Wednesday, know they are restoring and growing the bison herd across North America."

Bison License Plate Now In Production

(From the Pawhuska Journal Capital)

OKLAHOMA CITY — "We are thrilled to announce that the bison license plates are officially in production," said Mike Fuhr, state director for The Nature Conservancy of Oklahoma. "It took longer than we anticipated to get the plates into production and we are grateful to our fellow Oklahomans who pre-ordered for their support and patience. This may be the only time we say this, but we are eager to soon see bison roaming the streets of Oklahoma!"

On Nov. 1, 2016, The Nature Conservancy began accepting pre-orders for a bison-themed special interest plate to benefit their conservation efforts in Oklahoma. Within less than two months, the Conservancy collected the required 500 pre-orders. Pre-orders were accepted until February 1, 2017 with a total of 1,200 collected!

Pre-orders are now being processed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission. Those who pre-ordered can expect to receive their new bison license plate in the mail this summer from the commission.

Anyone else wanting a bison license plate may place an order at tag agencies statewide or by visiting nature.org/okbison to download a form and mail to the Oklahoma Tax Commission. Order fulfillment may take a few months. Plates will be received in the mail from the agency. "Once people begin receiving their plates, we'd love to see pics," said Fuhr. "We'll be showing off bison plate pride via our communications channels, so send them to us!"

Oklahomans may send pics of their bison license plates to okbison@tnc.org or post on the Conservancy's Facebook page at facebook.com/nature.ok or tag the Conservancy on Twitter [@nature_ok](https://twitter.com/nature_ok).

The initial registration fee for the bison license plate is \$38 and annual renewal fee is \$36.50. A portion of the initial registration fee and annual renewal fee (\$20) will benefit The Nature Conservancy.

Two hooves up for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission who volunteered to be the Conservancy's state agency host and help funnel the proceeds from plate sales to the Conservancy's cause. It takes a village!

Nearly 15,000 Oklahomans voted for their favorite of eight bison-themed license plate designs in an online contest in September. With 3,405 votes, the "Pioneers of the Prairie" design by Chris Miller at Cubic Creative in Tulsa was the winning design selected by the public for a new Oklahoma specialty license plate.

Read more. <http://www.pawhuskajournalcapital.com/news/20170712/bison-license-plate-now-in-production>

Quarantine Talks Continuing for Yellowstone Bison

(From the Bozeman Daily Chronicle)

State and federal livestock officials have provided Yellowstone National Park with guidelines for turning part of its bison trap into a temporary brucellosis quarantine facility for certifying animals as free of the disease.

Montana's state veterinarian Marty Zaluski said the Montana Department of Livestock and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service sent a checklist they'd use to inspect a quarantine facility and testing protocols to the park within the last week. The documents offer guidelines for how the park would need to upgrade its Stephens Creek Capture Facility in order to quarantine bison there.

The move represents a step forward in the agencies' talks about certifying bison as brucellosis free at the park's Stephens Creek Capture Facility. Last April, park officials began looking at quarantining bison there as a way to get 24 animals the park has held for more than a year to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation.

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/ybpa7cr3>

Hiker survives vicious bison attack

(From the New York Post)

WATFORD CITY, N.D. — An Alaska man is recovering after being attacked by a bison while hiking in western North Dakota's Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Park official Eileen Andes said the 65-year-old hiker encountered the large animal on a trail after taking photos of a sunset. He tried to walk around the bison but didn't provide a wide enough berth, the [Minot Daily News reported](#).

The bison apparently threw the man into a bush, knocking him unconscious, Andes said. When the man regained consciousness, he was bleeding from a leg laceration but made his way to the trailhead. When he saw more bison, he climbed several feet up a butte.

"The guy kept yelling, 'help, help, and help,'" said Christopher Velazquez, one of three airmen from Minor Airforce Base who were camping nearby and heard the man's faint calls.

The airmen and another camper rushed to help when the bison moved to the back of the hill. Airman Jake Nixon said the hiker had stuffed his socks into his wound, but that the socks and his pants were covered in blood. Their fellow rescuer tied his shirt around the hiker's wound to stop the bleeding.

The hiker was treated at a hospital and released Saturday.

Read more. <http://nypost.com/2017/07/11/hiker-survives-vicious-bison-attack/>

California's Catalina Island Bison Bring Tourists, Concern

(From Voice of America News)

Did you know bison live on a small island off the coast of California?

Bison are large **mammals** native to the United States. They are also known as buffalo. People usually see bison in places like Yellowstone National Park, which covers parts of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

In 2016, the bison was named the official mammal of the United States.

But how did these large animals, known for living in the northern part of the United States, get to a small island southwest of Los Angeles?

Well, like many things related to Los Angeles, it had to do with Hollywood and the movie business.

Julie King is the director of **conservation** and wildlife management at the Catalina Island Conservancy. She said 14 bison arrived on the island in 1924.

The animals were supposed to be a part of a movie. They did not get into the movie and were left behind by the filmmakers.

The bison have now lived on the island for almost 100 years. At one time, there were about 600 of them. That is because they had no **predators**, such as large cats, wolves, bears and humans. Now, due to birth control and a conservation plan, there are only 120 on the island. The Catalina Island Conservancy takes care of the bison **herd**.

When there are too many animals, they are moved to other parts of the U.S. Some of the bison from Catalina were moved to Native American lands in North and South Dakota. Bison used to live there, but had not been seen in those areas for 100 years.

You can now find bison in every state, but in the late 1800s, they almost completely disappeared.

The bison on Catalina are smaller than the ones on the mainland. That is because they are not native. There are fewer grasses on the island than in places like Montana.

Read more. <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/catalina-island-bison/3932894.html>

Censky Nominated as Deputy Ag Secretary

President Donald J. Trump on Thursday nominated Stephen Censky to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Censky was CEO of the American Soybean Association for the past 21 years.

According to a report on Agri-Pulse.com, Censky grew up on a soybean, corn and diversified livestock farm near Jackson, Minn. He graduated from South Dakota State University and began his career working as a legislative assistant for then-Sen. Jim Abdnor (R-S.D.).

Censky worked for USDA in the Reagan and George H. W. Bush administrations. He was administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service. He also earned a postgraduate degree in agriculture science from the University of Melbourne in Australia.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue said in a statement, "Our work has only just begun ... and the experience and leadership skills of Stephen Censky will only enhance our efforts. He will bring enthusiasm and a dedication to this country which will be great assets to USDA's customers. I am extremely pleased with the nomination for this key position and am hopeful that the Senate will take it up in short order."

Budget Office Releases Farm Bill Projections

(From the San Angelo, TX Standard-Times)

The Congressional Budget Office has released projections on expected spending of farm programs for the current budget year, plus ten years, which will serve as a guide for the writing of the 2018 Farm Bill.

The 107-page 2018 Agriculture Appropriations Bill, released on June 29, calls for \$144.9 billion in funding. An estimated \$20 billion is for discretionary spending, which is \$876 million below the last fiscal year.

The bill calls for \$4.6 billion more than President Trump's budget, sent from the White House earlier this year, but is \$8.5 billion less than the 2017 fiscal year enacted level.

The bill includes funding for food and medical product safety, animal and plant health programs, rural development and farm services, agricultural trade, financial marketplace oversight and nutrition programs.

The legislation prioritizes funding for programs in rural communities, farmers, ranchers and nutrition for those in need. Policy provisions are also included to reign in unnecessary and burdensome regulations, according to the committee's news release.

Farm bill math could create a few possible scenarios. Depending on negotiations between the budget and agricultural committees the next farm bill could be required to be budget neutral, meaning any increase in spending in one part of the bill would require a decrease in spending elsewhere in the bill or it could be required to have a net reduction.

According to the committee, these budget directives, scoring a bill (estimating the additional outlays and potential savings relative to the baseline) is one of the most critical components of farm bill development.

Many of the provisions of current farm programs move in opposite direction of commodity prices. For example, several years of lower prices have resulted in higher commodity support

payments. Estimates of total farm program expenditures during the 2016 to 2026 fiscal years are now estimated at \$64.2 billion dollars, up \$3.5 billion over CBO's March 2016 projections.

Source: <http://www.gosanangelo.com/story/money/agriculture/2017/07/09/windmill-country-budget-office-releases-farm-bill-projections/456238001/>