



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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July 21, 2017

Washington Roundup Planned Sept. 19-22

With the dust settling from the 2017 International bison Conference, the National Bison Association is turning its attention toward the next significant upcoming event: the 2017 Policy Roundup in Washington, D.C., scheduled for September 19-22.

This roundup comes at a key time for the bison business,” said Dave Carter, executive director for the National Bison Association. “With a new administration settling in, we need to make sure that the key policymakers at USDA and Department of Interior are brought up to speed on the priorities for our producers and marketers. At the same time, lawmakers on Capitol Hill are starting to work on the framework for the next Farm Bill, so we need to put our priorities in front of them as well.”

Key issues on the agenda for this year’s roundup include:

- USDA research priorities impacting bison herd health;
- Proposals to alleviate barriers for small and very small meat processing plants;
- Trade priorities, including NAFTA, tariffs on exports to the European Union, and opening Asian markets for bison;
- Farm Bill proposals to encourage expansion of bison production; and
- Increased interagency cooperation among the USDA and Department of Interior

Details for the fall roundup will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.

Wholesale Bison Prices Remain Steady in July

Continued strong demand and tight supplies of live animals kept wholesale prices for slaughter-ready bison floating at near record highs again in June, according to the monthly wholesale bison price report released by the USDA Market News Service last week.

Prices on young bull carcasses averaged \$483.34/cwt. In June, which was \$0.70/cwt higher than in May, and \$36.95/cwt. Higher than in June 2016. Heifer carcasses averaged

\$472.84/cwt. In June, which was \$4.53/cwt. Lower than the previous month, but \$41.56/cwt. Higher than in June 2016. Older bull carcasses were slightly lower in June, and older cow carcasses were slightly higher.

Bulls represented 56 percent of the younger animals processed year-to-date. That compares to an average of 60 percent for the previous six years.

The number of bison processed during the first half of 2017 were two percent lower than during the same time last year, according to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The latest USDA market price report is available at https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw_ls526.txt The NBA's Five-Year tracking summary is available in the members' section of www.bisoncentral.com.

Bison restoration campaign launches

(From New Hope Network)

In order to boost the bison population, consumers should be eating more of it. That's according to the National Bison Association, which unveiled its "Bison Hump Day" campaign at its conference in Big Sky, Montana. Association leaders hope consumers eating meat on Wednesdays, or hump days, will become a concept that is just as popular as Meatless Monday or Taco Tuesday.

"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," said Dave Cater, executive director of the National Bison Association.

"The first heritage animal is bison and, like so many others, we truly must eat them to save them," said Adam Danforth, James Beard Award-winning author of two books focused on butchering livestock. "As North America's primal protein, bison's clean, nutritious meat will support the health of citizens while responsible husbandry of the animals will regenerate landscapes and preserve farmland."

Teaching consumers how to prepare, cook and enjoy bison will be critical in achieving this new goal for bison restoration in North America.

"Bison Hump Day" is part of an overall goal to increase the bison population in North America to 1 million in the next 10 years. Including both wild and domestic herds, there are currently about 500,000 bison. Millions of bison—named the U.S. national mammal—once roamed and migrated throughout North America. But that number drastically dropped to around 1,000 at the turn of the 20th century. Herds today are spread across tribal reservations, national parks and domestic livestock producers.

Carter hopes the hump day campaign will be far-reaching, not only to increase people's awareness of bison health benefits (bison meat contains almost 50 percent less fat than beef), but to restore an important cultural and religious part in the lives of Native Americans.

Restoring bison herds also has a positive ecological impact, according to Carter. "We think that more bison on the land is a good thing, not only for people that love to eat bison and people

who love to raise bison, but for the land itself. This is the animal that helped shape the ecosystem of North America. We think that bringing more bison back helps restore acres of native grasslands and range lands,” he said.

Read more. <http://www.newhope.com/food-and-beverage/bison-restoration-campaign-launches>

Bison Business Booming for Oak Lake Rancher

(From The Southwest Post)

Buoyed by higher prices and global demand, business is booming for a bison rancher in the Oak Lake area.

Gompf owns Bison Spirit Ranch, a cow-calf and feedlot operation in the rolling hills northeast of Oak Lake specializing in breeding stock. He is also a director on the Manitoba Bison Association and has been named Premier Breeder three times at the Canadian National Show and Sale.

During his 20 years in the bison business, Gompf has seen the price of good breeding bulls rise from \$1,500 to more than \$45,000 thanks to the establishment of an international market for bison meat.

“The major marketers in the world are saying they can handle 20% to 25% more meat,” he says.

Bison meat is similar to beef in texture and taste but generally has less fat. The Canadian Bison Association notes on its website that “bison are raised and processed without additives, preservation, steroids, growth hormones or drug residues”.

“It’s a relatively small industry,” explains Gompf. “What the beef industry kills in one day is what we kill over an entire year. That being said, we don’t get any influx of bison meat coming from Brazil, Argentina, New Zealand or those other countries because bison meat is a North American-only product.”

The market has not always been kind to Gompf. After he started bison ranching with his father and brother in the late 1990s, Gompf saw prices plummet after bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or so-called mad cow disease shut-down the US market to Canadian bison and cattle producers in 2003.

“It taught bison people how to sell retail,” says Gompf, who actually credits the BSE saga with creating a smarter group of producers. “We really know how to market.”

When the border reopened for bison in 2005, Gompf was working off-the-farm to make ends meet but decided to pursue his dream of being a full-time bison rancher. He bought out his family partners and for the past 10 years has been building his brand and operation.

“It was excellent timing because I could buy animals at a good price and the market was just building and building,” he says.

Gompf is now selling about two dozen breeding bulls a year to bison ranchers across North America. His highest single sale in the past year was \$35,000 US.

Read more. <https://southwestpost.ca/2017/07/17/bison-business-booming-for-oak-lake-rancher/>

'The Wild West?' No, It's New Hampshire — But Those Really Are Bison

(From NPR)

New Hampshire police had to contend with some unlikely fugitives on the lam on Tuesday: a small herd of bison.

As many as 16 of the massive animals fled a farm owned by Armand Bolduc, busting through a fence in the morning. For several hours, the bison were ["scared and running"](#) through front lawns, forests and busy roadways, according to the Gilford Police Department.

But by evening, police and animal control officials had wrangled the bison and brought them safely back to Bolduc Farm.

In the intervening hours, a team of police officers and farm hands had to pull off "a modern day cattle drive," Lt. Kristian Kelley tells NPR in an email. He says they closed a large portion of a local highway and pushed the bison onto quieter roads and eventually into the woods.

The officers got a little help from the bison's owner, who was sure to give the animals a stern talking-to.

"The minute they saw me — because they know who I am — they knew they were in trouble," Bolduc [told the Concord Monitor](#). The paper reports he set out to help the authorities after learning of the escape late that morning. "I started hollering at them, and they turned and went into the woods."

WMUR, [a local ABC affiliate](#), notes the Bolduc family believes loud road work might have been the cause, scaring the bison and prompting them to bolt through a weak point in their enclosure. The escape came as a shock to neighbor Courtney Schwartzkopf, who witnessed the initial stampede from her car with her son.

"I just screamed for [my son] to stop because I thought they were going to run right across, and then they just kept coming," she told WMUR. As the little herd thundered past, Schwartzkopf managed to record the video she shared with NPR at the top of this post.

Read more. <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/07/19/538070290/watch-the-wild-west-no-its-new-hampshire-but-those-really-are-bison>

Hiker 'Lucky To Be Alive' After Bison Attack In North Dakota

(From the Billings Gazette)

An Alaskan hiker said he's lucky to be alive after a bison gored his thigh in North Dakota.

Michael Turk said that if the giant animal had hit his femoral artery, the largest artery in the body, he would have died.

"I know I was lucky to be alive," Turk said.

The 51-year-old former Army combat medic was camping June 30 in the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

"I planned to be there a week and go to the South Unit before coming here," Turk said. He said he passed the bison on Buckhorn Trail when he went to photograph the sunset. He encountered the same bison on his return, but didn't keep the recommended 25-yard distance as he walked by.

"I was too close, it was my fault. It was getting dark," Turk said.

Turk said the bison rammed him and that he regained consciousness in the bushes. "I remember, I think I took one last picture of it as I was coming back. He looked at me and put his head down and started running at me," Turk said. "I don't remember him hitting me but I remember I woke up in the bushes."

Turk said he stopped the bleeding before nearby campers, including airmen from Minot Air Force Base, rescued him.

"They were awesome," he said. "I give them my utmost appreciation."

Turk said he plans to return to the park to visit the South Unit and the Pacific Crest Trail as originally planned, but he said if there are any bison present he plans to give them plenty of space.

"Definitely keep your distance, limit your photos to maybe one or two pictures and move on — no sense in lingering," he said.

Source. http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/hiker-lucky-to-be-alive-after-bison-attack-in-north/article_60586b75-8cfd-5b1d-a4b4-465b95980238.html

Thompson Park Zoo receives \$100,000, will pursue bison exhibit

(From the Watertown Daily Times)

WATERTOWN — The New York State Zoo at Thompson Park plans to add a bison exhibit to its offerings thanks to new state funding announced Wednesday.

In addition to the bison exhibit, the zoo will use the new \$100,000, obtained by state Sen. Patricia A. Ritchie, R-Heuvelton, to increase its elk population with four female elk and repair an exhibit space it had for fishers, which is not on site but an animal that the zoo has had in the past.

The zoo will also use the money to improve its holding spaces.

"This is another step forward," said zoo director Lesley Clark. "We're not going to stop. We're reaching for the sky, and we won't stop until we get there,"

She added the money will be a major component in the zoo's educational activities for the next few years.

Sen. Ritchie said the money had been sought for the last few years, and was negotiated during the "final hours" of the recent legislative session.

"This is something that so many people in the Watertown area, the north country will use," she said. "For me, coming back brings back a lot of great memories, bringing my kids here. I look forward to bringing my grandchildren here. This is something everybody can share in."

Peter W. Schmitt, a former zoo board member and a management consultant, called the new money a "dream come true."

He noted the difficulties in running a zoo in a smaller area, and said the funding will help its operations.

"I think the assistance we're getting from Patty Ritchie, and the support of the city and county have really made a difference to letting us operate in a very positive and professional manner," he said. "These are exciting times for our zoo."

Read more. <http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/news03/thompson-park-zoo-receives-100000-will-pursue-bison-exhibit-new-elk-video-20170720>

A Million Bison Would Save Us All

(From a Column in the Bozeman Chronicle)

There may finally be a solution to the bison problem.

Or not.

Depends on what you view as a problem.

During a recent meeting in Big Sky, the National Bison Association announced plans to boost the number of bison in North America to 1 million within 10 years.

That's great news if you think there are too few, and even sort of great news if you think there are already too many.

There are certainly too many in Yellowstone Park and attempts to curtail their numbers are seldom well received.

A lot of folks would also like to see bison allowed to roam beyond the borders of the park. Few of those folks, however, are ranchers, who fear the critters threaten the health of their cattle herds. (Unless, of course, they're bison ranchers, who like emu ranchers, keep telling us how much better their meat is than beef.)

Regardless of what side of the fence you're on, a million bison would have its benefits.

Today there are only a few hundred thousand bison — in the wild and on ranches — in North America. Their scarcity makes them special. Get that number up to a million and they'd be a bit more common.

Nobody would care if Yellowstone needed to kill and butcher a few every year. The park could manage its own herd instead of letting the excess spill into Montana, making them our problem. And the park would be a safer place to visit. If buffalo were just buffalo instead of rare national icons there wouldn't be such a rush to take pictures of them, especially selfies, which have proven to be very hard on tourists.

There's a scattering of bison being raised domestically from one end of the country to the other, so few that people still get excited when they see them. Increase that number a bit and the reaction goes from "Wow, look, a buffalo," to "Oh, it's just another buffalo."

A total of 15 people who thought bison were special were injured in Yellowstone in 2015. The park warns visitors to keep their distance, but the temptation is simply too great for many. An elderly Utah couple, who just couldn't stay away, was head-butted last month by a bison at Mud Volcano.

I'm sure they thought it was special.

There's safety in numbers. Here's hoping a million bison will be enough to save us all.

Read more.

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/opinions/chronicle_columnists/parker_heinlein/a-million-bison-would-save-us-all/article_aa8fae7e-a237-5d5f-b8e9-35939c4b357f.html

New Land Access Training Program Will Help Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Secure Land and Succeed in Agriculture

(American Farmland Trust Press Release)

American Farmland Trust announced today that [24 Land Access Trainers](#) will help beginning farmers and ranchers secure agricultural land as part of a nationwide, four-year-long project. AFT selected the trainers, who are located in each of the 10 U.S. farm production regions, through a competitive process.

AFT picked professionals from Cooperative Extension, state departments of agriculture, community planning agencies and nonprofit organizations including land trusts. Each expert has experience working with beginning farmers and ranchers and nearly all are familiar with land access issues in their region. Together, the group serves a diverse array of beginning farmers and ranchers involved in different types of agriculture.

According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, the number of beginning farmers and ranchers in the United States has decreased 20 percent from 2007 and hit a 30-year low. Through the Land Access Trainers program, AFT will help new farmers and ranchers overcome one of the most significant barriers to entering either profession: securing suitable land.

"Many factors conspire to make land unaffordable to rent or buy— from competition from nonfarm development and established farmers, to increasingly large parcel sizes," said Julia

Freedgood, co-project director and AFT's Assistant VP of Programs. "We've also found that there's relatively little support provided to beginning producers to help them understand their options. This project aims to fill the gap."

The Land Access Trainers will work with AFT to develop comprehensive land access curriculum. They also will pilot and deliver the curriculum in their regions and help AFT create a national network of service providers to sustain the project and provide ongoing support to beginning farmers and ranchers.

"We have an amazing group of passionate and experienced trainers," Jennifer Dempsey, co-project director and Director of AFT's [Farmland Information Center](#), said. "We look forward to working with them to create needed training tools to help beginning farmers and ranchers across the country get onto land and grow their operations."

AFT is a national nonprofit organization that works to protect farmland, promote sound farming practices and keep farmers on the land.

Read more. <https://www.farmland.org/press-releases/new-land-access-training-program-will-help-beginning-farmers-and-ranchers-secure-land-and-succeed-in-agriculture>

USTR Releases NAFTA Renegotiation Objectives

(From meetingplace.com)

United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer on Monday released a summary of the negotiating objectives for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) renegotiation. In a statement, Lighthizer said the Trump Administration would seek an agreement that reduces the U.S. trade deficit and improves market access in Canada and Mexico for U.S. manufacturing, agriculture and services.

USTR has included deficit reduction as a specific objective for the NAFTA negotiations, noting that since NAFTA was implemented in 1994, the U.S. bilateral goods trade balance with Mexico has gone from a \$1.3 billion surplus to a \$64 billion deficit in 2016. Market access issues have arisen in Canada with respect to dairy, wine, grain and other products — barriers that the current agreement is unequipped to address.

The negotiating objectives also include adding a digital economy chapter and incorporating and strengthening labor and environment obligations that are currently in NAFTA side agreements. Additionally, among other objectives, the Administration will work to eliminate unfair subsidies, market-distorting practices by state owned enterprises, and burdensome restrictions on intellectual property.

Specific to agricultural trade, USTR outlined the following objectives:

- Maintain existing reciprocal duty-free market access for agricultural goods.
- Expand competitive market opportunities for U.S. agricultural goods in NAFTA countries substantially equivalent to the competitive opportunities afforded foreign exports into the U.S. market, by reducing or eliminating remaining tariffs.
- Seek to eliminate non-tariff barriers to U.S. agricultural exports including discriminatory barriers, restrictive administration of tariff rate quotas, other unjustified measures that unfairly limit access to markets for U.S. goods, such as cross subsidization, price discrimination, and price undercutting.
- Provide reasonable adjustment periods for U.S. import-sensitive agricultural products, engaging in close consultation with Congress on such products before initiating tariff reduction negotiations.
- Promote greater regulatory compatibility to reduce burdens associated with unnecessary differences in regulation, including through regulatory cooperation where appropriate.

Sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS)

- Provide for enforceable SPS obligations that build upon WTO rights and obligations, including with respect to science-based measures, good regulatory practice, import checks, equivalence and regionalization, making clear that each country can set for itself the level of protection it believes to be appropriate to protect food safety, and plant and animal health in a manner consistent with its international obligations.
- Establish a mechanism to resolve expeditiously unwarranted barriers that block the export of U.S. food and agricultural products.
- Establish new and enforceable rules to ensure that science-based SPS measures are developed and implemented in a transparent, predictable and non-discriminatory manner.
- Improve communication, consultation and cooperation between governments to share information and work together on SPS issues in a transparent manner, including on new technologies.
- Provide for a mechanism for improved dialogue and cooperation to address SPS issues and facilitate trade where appropriate and possible.

A more [detailed text](#) of USTR's negotiating objectives is available, including those related to customs, rules of origin, technical barriers, regulatory practices, transparency, competition, labor, environmental, trade remedies and dispute settlement, among others.

USDA Detects a Case of Atypical Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy in Alabama

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced an atypical case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), a neurologic disease of cattle, in an eleven-year old cow in Alabama. This animal never entered slaughter channels and at no time presented a risk to the food supply, or to human health in the United States.

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) have determined that this cow was positive for atypical (L-type) BSE. The animal was showing clinical signs and was found through routine surveillance at an Alabama livestock market. APHIS and Alabama veterinary officials are gathering more information on the case.

BSE is not contagious and exists in two types - classical and atypical. Classical BSE is the form that occurred primarily in the United Kingdom, beginning in the late 1980's, and it has been linked to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (*vCJD*) in people. The primary source of infection for classical BSE is feed contaminated with the infectious prion agent, such as meat-and-bone meal containing protein derived from rendered infected cattle. Regulations from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have prohibited the inclusion of mammalian protein in feed for cattle and other ruminants since 1997 and have also prohibited high risk tissue materials in all animal feed since 2009. Atypical BSE is different, and it generally occurs in older cattle, usually 8 years of age or greater. It seems to arise rarely and spontaneously in all cattle populations.

This is the nation's 5th detection of BSE. Of the four previous U.S. cases, the first was a case of classical BSE that was imported from Canada; the rest have been atypical (H- or L-type) BSE.

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has recognized the United States as negligible risk for BSE. As noted in the OIE guidelines for determining this status, atypical BSE cases do not impact official BSE risk status recognition as this form of the disease is believed to occur spontaneously in all cattle populations at a very low rate. Therefore, this finding of an atypical

case will not change the negligible risk status of the United States, and should not lead to any trade issues.

The United States has a longstanding system of interlocking safeguards against BSE that protects public and animal health in the United States, the most important of which is the removal of specified risk materials - or the parts of an animal that would contain BSE should an animal have the disease - from all animals presented for slaughter. The second safeguard is a strong feed ban that protects cattle from the disease. Another important component of our system - which led to this detection - is our ongoing BSE surveillance program that allows USDA to detect the disease if it exists at very low levels in the U.S. cattle population.

NCBA Signs Coalition Letter In Support of Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank

(From PressReleasePoint.com)

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 18, 2017) - The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) today joined with more than 100 other agricultural groups and industry leaders in calling for Congress to establish and fully fund a robust Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine bank as part of the 2018 Farm Bill. The letter was sent to U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R-Kansas) and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), as well as U.S. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway (R-Texas) and Collin Peterson (D-Minn.)

An outbreak of FMD will have a devastating effect on all of agriculture - not just livestock producers - and will have long-lasting ramifications for the viability of U.S. agriculture, the maintenance of food security in this great nation, and overall national security," the letter stated. "An outbreak of FMD would immediately close all export markets. The cumulative impact of an outbreak on the beef and pork sectors over a 10-year period would be more than \$128 billion... The annual jobs impact of such a reduction in industry revenue is more than 58,000 in direct employment and nearly 154,000 in total employment."

As the letter was delivered to Capitol Hill, NCBA President Craig Uden stressed the importance of investing in a FMD vaccine bank, rather than trying to contain an outbreak after the fact.

Read more.

<http://www.pressreleasepoint.com/ncba-signs-coalition-letter-support-foot-and-mouth-disease-vaccine-bank>

Multiple Agencies Offer Livestock Drought Resources in North Dakota

(From Drovers CattleNetwork.com)

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture, North Dakota State University Extension Service and the North Dakota Stockmen's Association have partnered to create a comprehensive resource for livestock producers dealing with drought.

"With more than 70 percent of the state in a moderate to extreme drought, livestock producers need tools to help manage the situation," Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring said. "This resource makes it easier to find the information and programs that producers may need."

"Producers are being faced with many difficult decisions: salvaging failed crops for forage, culling strategies, finding feed, pasture and water quality concerns, and more," said Carl Dahlen, associate professor and Extension beef cattle specialist. "It is imperative that producers understand the management options available to deal with drought conditions and are aware of other resources for these difficult times."

The resource includes links to information about livestock and crop production; feeds and feeding; forages and grazing; water quality; farm and family stress; the drought hotline and interactive map; mediation services; animal health; transporting livestock, hay and water; feeding resources; drought calculators; the U.S. Drought Monitor; and ND Response. It also links to programs available through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency, the North Dakota State Water Commission, the USDA National Resources Conservation Service and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

The comprehensive resource, which includes phone numbers and web addresses, may be found at <https://www.nd.gov/ndda/drought-resources> or <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/drought> and will be available in paper format at local events across the state.

Source:

<http://www.cattlenetwork.com/news/industry/multiple-agencies-offer-livestock-drought-resources-north-dakota>

Oklahoma Agriculture Enhancement and Diversification Program

The Oklahoma Agriculture Enhancement and Diversification Program provides funds in the form of 0% interest loans or grants for the purpose of expanding the state's value added processing sector and to encourage farm diversification. Funds must be used to produce alternative ag products or process and/or market Oklahoma ag products.

Farm Diversification Grant projects should deal with the diversification of a family farm, ranch, or agritourism venue to non-traditional crops or livestock, on-farm processing of agricultural commodities, or development of an agritourism venue that will promote access to a new market. Applications are evaluated quarterly.

The next application deadline is October 2, 2017.

Read more. <http://www.oda.state.ok.us/mktdev/aedp.htm>

Minnesota EQIP Funding

Minnesota agricultural producers who are interested in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) need to apply to USDA NRCS by August 18, 2017, for funding in 2018. Applications for EQIP are accepted on a continuous basis; however, NRCS establishes

application acceptance or submission deadline dates for evaluation and ranking of eligible applications. Contracts will be awarded to producers with the highest rankings until funds are exhausted.

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

Applications for 2018 funds are due by August 18, 2017.

Read more.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mn/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1335661>

Drought Funding in Alabama

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is providing funding to assist landowners impacted by last year's extreme drought in Alabama. Funding will be provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and will address fencing, water troughs, pasture, hay land re-establishment, wells, and prescribed grazing.

Alabama landowners living in counties identified as high priority will be assigned the highest priority for financial assistance because they were impacted the most by the drought.

Apply by July 28, 2017.

Read more.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/al/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1335282>