



## **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 28, 2017***

### **IBC Presentations Now Available at Bisoncentral.com**

A majority of the presentations from the 2017 International Bison Conference are now available to download at [www.ibc2017.com](http://www.ibc2017.com). The PowerPoint presentations have been condensed to PDF files. Remaining presentations will be uploaded upon receipt by NBA staff.

While the presentations are informative and valuable, they cannot replace the value of attending NBA conferences in person. Please consider joining us for our Winter and Summer conferences, and see the difference for yourself.

Our Winter Conference will be held January 17 – 20, 2017 in Denver, Colorado at the Renaissance-Stapleton. The three day conference concludes with our annual Gold Trophy Show and Sale, featuring some of the finest bison breeding stock in North America.

Our Summer Conference will be held June 27 – 29, 2018 in Kansas City and will be hosted by the Kansas Buffalo Association. The three day conference is family-friendly and will be held in downtown Kansas City at the Westin hotel.

Mark your calendars and plan to join your fellow buffalo enthusiasts for what is always a great learning and networking opportunity with plenty of fun and good food to boot.

### **Download the 2017 Bison World Food Insert and the July Bison World**

Are you taking advantage of your membership benefits? Take some time to explore the NBA's extensive [Marketing Resource](#) web page, which is filled with bison-specific, high resolution images, logos, nutritional charts, recipes and more. The Marketing Resource page also features the 2017 Bison: Good for the Planet, Good for You food booklet that was included as a supplement to your July 2017 Bison world. Follow this [link](#) to access the booklet and download at the website to print copies as handouts to clients, or simply click on the image above.

## **Matheson Attends Missouri Bison Association Summer Meeting**

NBA Assistant Director, Jim Matheson, will be attending the Missouri Bison Association's annual summer meeting in Kingsville, MO this Sunday. Matheson will provide an update on the national bison industry and the association's recent activities and plans for the future.

The Missouri Bison Association expects a great crowd who will also learn about video/photography on the ranch, the MoBA cooperative working group's update, a bison burger lunch, a roundtable discussion on parasite control, a meat processing roundtable, and a ranch tour.

Contact hosts Amy and Michael Billings at 816-726-5615 about availability if interested in attending the meeting this weekend.

## **Memorial for Annette Graener Planned for August 5th**

NBA members will remember longtime conference vendor, Annette Graener and her beautiful, bison woolwares and her constant smile. Annette passed recently and her family is organizing a memorial for her on Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> in Colorado.

From her family:

Annette's ashes will be spread at an intimate affair of family and close friends high in the mountains that she loved so much. The gathering is at Duck Lake, up on Guanella Pass. 13 miles south of Georgetown, CO. It is going to be mid-day on Sat. Aug 5. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Meredith Goldberg by Wednesday, Aug 3 at [MBGSKIER@JUNO.COM](mailto:MBGSKIER@JUNO.COM) and be prepared to spend an afternoon at the edge of the Wilderness at 11,000'. If you are unable to attend, donations can be made in Annette's name to the [National Bison Association](#) or the [Native American College Fund](#). Thank you all for your years of love and support to Annette Graener. You all, and your work with the bison, were so important to her. Sincerely, Annette's Family."

## **Consider Donating to the National Buffalo Foundation**

At the just past National Buffalo Foundation reception at the IBC in Big Sky, I politely (for me, that is) asked that each person there to take a couple of weeks after they got home from the International Bison Conference and think deeply about how each bison producing family could donate to the National Buffalo Foundation as we go forward with the research and education that will be needed as we move towards the goal of 1,000,000 bison. Whether by legacy, bequest, donation, insurance policy, gift of land ... how could *your* family make a *real difference* in the future of bison. You each know that it is only because those that came before you funded the National Buffalo Foundation as a vehicle for bison health and nutrition research that you

have answers to questions that give you a better chance at successful bison ranching. It was a serious request.

Well, I have now heard from all **BUT THREE OF YOU!** No need for me to mention names, you know who you are!

It's not too late; give me a call (817-992-8220) or drop me a note [Cecil@buffalogold.net](mailto:Cecil@buffalogold.net) (or just send that tax deductible check to the NBF Treasurer, Bud Flocchini at 1330 Capital Blvd, Reno NV 89502)

The NBF needs each of you ... just as each of you needs the support of the National Buffalo Foundation ... today, tomorrow and especially when there are four million bison hooves on the ground.

My best wishes to each of you

Cecil Miskin; current President; National Buffalo Foundation  
[www.NationalBuffaloFoundation.org](http://www.NationalBuffaloFoundation.org)

## **Comments Sought on Proposal to Eliminate WOTUS**

The Trump Administration on Thursday published a proposed rule as the first step in a two-step process to overturn the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule that was initially scheduled for implementation in 2015.

The notice published in yesterday's Federal Register, notes, The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Army are publishing this proposed rule to initiate the first step in a comprehensive, two-step process intended to review and revise the definition of "waters of the United States" consistent with the Executive Order signed on February 28, 2017, "Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the 'Waters of the United States' Rule."

The 2015 regulation was designed to clarify the waters covered under the Clean Water Act. Agricultural groups strongly objected, citing the fact that the regulation would expand bring new regulation to upstream waters, intermittent and ephemeral streams, and other bodies of water. The rule has been on hold since 2015, based on a federal court ruling.

Thursdays notice begins the formal process of repealing that rule.

Comments on the recodification of the pre-existing rule are due Aug. 28, 2017. Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0203, at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

## **Byron farm nominated as 2017 Olmsted County Farm Family of the Year**

*(From The Post Bulletin)*

If you pass the Big Shaggy Buffalo Farm in Byron, the passengers in your car might point enthusiastically out the window and say, "Look! Buffalo!"

The proud owners of the farm and the buffalo are Jim and Connie Stannard, who have been honored as the 2017 Olmsted County Farm Family of the year.

There are 38 buffalo on their farm, but even more sets them apart. This farm has been in the family for more than 140 years, and today, the farm also has chickens and beehives. The Stannards rent out their land for corn and soybeans.

The couple are active members of the National Bison Association, the Illinois-Indiana Bison association, the Southeast Minnesota Ag Alliance, and the Minnesota Buffalo Association, in which Jim served as a board member for seven years. They also set up educational booths at the State Fair, University of Minnesota and the FFA.

The Post Bulletin sat down with the Stannard family:

### **How did you become Olmsted County Farm Family of the Year?**

Jim: We don't really know, somebody nominated us. And Kay Irwin with the extension service emailed us and said, 'You guys have been nominated,' and wanted to know if we would accept. So we talked about it and said, 'Yeah.'

### **What was the process you had to go through afterwards?**

Jim: They sent us an application form, just one of those things to describe us, what we're doing now, that kind of thing.

### **Do you have any specific duties as Farm Family of the Year?**

Jim: We go to the Farm Fest and the county fair to be recognized.

### **What do you believe sets your family apart?**

Jim: A beautiful wife.

**Connie:** (laughs) I don't know, when Kay first emailed and said we were nominated, I said, 'Why? Everyone does a lot of work at the fair and 4-H,' and I said, 'Well, we don't do anything more than anybody else.' Maybe we're different because we have buffalo. We've been on this farm for five generations, and we've been active in associations, I'm not really sure.

We've done presentations at the Kiwanis club, we do presentations at the Kasson-Mantorville school for the kids, so whenever we get a chance, we educate people about buffalo. The preschool in Rochester comes to our farm.

Read more. [http://www.postbulletin.com/news/local/it-s-an-honor-to-all-the-farmers/article\\_81b7c58e-8fb3-5983-bf2d-6913b53c18aa.html](http://www.postbulletin.com/news/local/it-s-an-honor-to-all-the-farmers/article_81b7c58e-8fb3-5983-bf2d-6913b53c18aa.html)

## **Launch Of 'Bison 1 Million' Campaign Announced at Big Sky Resort**

*(From Explorebigsky.com)*

Jonathan Sepp, owner of Flathead Bison Co. in northwestern Montana, says he's always known he was going to raise bison one day.

Sepp grew up in a military family and moved 15 times in his first 18 years. During long cross-country drives, his family would often take long rest stops in areas that serve as bison habitat, or did at one time. He says those trips planted the seed for his desire to one day own his own herd.

Sepp was one of 600-plus people who attended the International Bison Conference in and around Big Sky July 4-7. Sepp said he was in good company at the conference, which is held every five years and alternates between the U.S. and Canada.

"I've heard that like 80 percent of bison ranchers do not come from an ag background. It's mostly people who love the animal, like me," Sepp said, adding that he hopes gathering information from larger producers will help him extend the long-term viability of his Hot Springs, Montana, operation.

Sepp explained that marketing and securing finances to get into the business have been the biggest challenges he's encountered. "It is notoriously difficult to convince a banker, an investor—whatever individual—that bison is a good idea," he said.

But Sepp, a former commander of a test parachute program in the United States Air Force, believes in the animal. He saved money and launched Flathead Bison Co. three and a half years ago. He currently runs anywhere from 20 to 100 head of bison on land he owns, as well as land he leases from the Flathead Indian Reservation.

Sepp has had help on the marketing front: His girlfriend Brittany Masters is a marketing ace who's helped him bring Roam Free Bison Bites, a seasoned jerky product, to consumers. He arrived at Big Sky Resort with an Airstream trailer that was completely retrofitted to both sell his product and demonstrate why he invested in it. He even has virtual reality goggles to visually replicate a small mixed-age herd of bison grazing.

Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association, believes in bison too. Carter helped launch the effort to make bison the national mammal three years ago—over a beer in Big Sky, incidentally.

And on July 5, the association announced another big initiative. It aims to grow the current population from an estimated 391,000 head in private, public and tribal herds to 1 million by 2027. They're calling it the "Bison 1 Million" campaign.

Although the hurdles—access to capital, land and mentorship, among others—are formidable, several speakers indicated that the consumer market is ripe for more bison.

“The opportunity is very, very vast,” said Laurie Demeritt, CEO of Hartman Research Group, a company that tracks demand trends in the food and beverage industry. “There’s absolutely a halo of health and wellness around bison in the minds of most consumers.”

She added that the appeal for premium and organic products largely centers on what’s not in the product.

According to Carter, who co-owns a herd in eastern Colorado, there are a number of animal husbandry practices that make bison appealing to some segments of the population. Bison producers do not de-horn, castrate, artificially inseminate or give growth hormones to their animals, he said.

During the final day of the conference, attendees arrived by the busload at Ted Turner’s Flying D Ranch south of Gallatin Gateway for a tour of the facilities.

Turner, the 78-year-old founder of CNN and a member of the National Buffalo Hall of Fame, offered a quick hello under large white tents that had been set up for the occasion. Flying D Ranch manager Danny Johnson gave a run-down of the spread: 3,600 head rotating through nine pastures in a contiguous piece of land that measures 145 square miles.

“The herd has never seen something like this,” said Johnston, gesturing to the bison grazing 100 yards away. “You think you’re the spectators [but] they’re watching you right now.”

Larry Feight, president of High Country Ag Marketing, says securing enough land, both public and private, to accommodate a herd that’s crested the 1-million mark will be tough.

“God isn’t making any more land,” said Feight, who displayed electrical fencing wares at the Big Sky Resort portion of the conference. “It’s going to take a lot of land mass to make that goal.” Faye Brown with the Tanka Fund—a national campaign to return bison to the land, diets and economies of American Indian people—said she’d like to ensure that Native Americans producers are represented in the herd growth.

“In Indian Country right now, raising bison puts you in debt. We need to change that,” she said, adding that 60 percent of all Native American reservation land is not owned or controlled by tribes.

“Twenty to 30 years down the road, it would be wonderful to see ... lots of young people and lots of reservation producers,” Brown said.

## **Bison burger wins 'Slider Throwdown'**

*(From WITN – NBC)*

**GREENVILLE, NC (WITN)** - The winning slider from Wednesday's 'Slider Throwdown' at Greenville's Uptown Market dropped by WITN News at Sunrise Thursday morning to show off the winning dish.

"We wanted to make it something that could be creative and different and they did not disappoint, we had nine different sliders, we have a burger, we had some different types of chicken, some fried chicken, some chicken and waffles, with candied bacon some of

them...french dip with bourbon bacon, we even had a dessert slider with a peanut butter whoopie pie," said Umbrella Market Manager Robin Ashley.

The people's choice winning entry however, was a bison burger slider with pepperjack cheese with a bacon and tomato jam by Christy's Euro Pub.

### **Previous Story:**

A 'Slider Throwdown' is being held at Greenville's Umbrella Market on Wednesday, July 26.

The market hosts a 'food throwdown' cookoff each Wednesday evening.

Meredith Hawk, with the Umbrella Market, joined the WITN News at Sunrise Tuesday morning to talk about the event.

Read more. <http://www.witn.com/content/news/Slider-Throwdown-at-Greenvilles-Umbrella-Market-436490283.html>

## **American West Heritage Center hosting bison tours**

*(From The Herald Journal)*

When James Earle Fraser designed the buffalo-head nickel in 1913, he said he wanted to produce a coin that could not be confused with any other country's currency.

"In my search for symbols, I found no motif within the boundaries of the United States so distinctive as the American buffalo," Fraser said.

To some, the massive mammal represents strength and endurance. To others, it's a symbol of man's ignorance of conservation, according to David Dary, author of "The Buffalo Book."

To give locals a close-up view of bison in Cache Valley, the American West Heritage Center is hosting a series of Bison Tours and Chuck Wagon Dinners this summer, including one Wednesday evening at 5:30.

"We're just doing our best to bring education to the valley about that and increasing those numbers," said Sarah Gunnell, rental coordinator at the American West Heritage Center.

Gunnell said part of that education effort is explaining the difference between American bison, found only North America, and buffalo, found in India, Africa and Asia. The fence around the 12 to 15 bison, including three calves, also provides an educational opportunity.

Bison can run up to 35 miles per hour and jump 8 feet high, Gunnell said, and a typical barbed-wire fence found in cattle fields won't do much to stop them. The American West Heritage Center built a steel cable enclosure for their bison.

"They do not understand fence rules like cattle do," she said. "Fences don't really mean anything to them."

Read more. [http://news.hjnews.com/allaccess/american-west-heritage-center-hosting-bison-tours/article\\_14b4d0ff-9d86-579d-978d-8712a3ea70a1.html](http://news.hjnews.com/allaccess/american-west-heritage-center-hosting-bison-tours/article_14b4d0ff-9d86-579d-978d-8712a3ea70a1.html)

## **Bison Day at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge**

*(From The Newton Daily News)*

Take a step back in time at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge's Annual Bison Day.

All ages are welcome to spend a day on the prairie and discover the wonders of the bison. The free event will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 5. Activities include live music, live wildlife displays, arts and crafts, games, discovery hikes, children's story-time and a weaver's guild demonstration. Participants will also enjoy hands-on activities including archery, rope-making and a scavenger hunt.

Throughout the day, visitors can tour the bison and elk enclosure, see live bison, and even listen in on a talk from a biologist to learn all about the herd at Neal Smith NWR. A 2 p.m. Bison Chip Toss contest will complete the day's activities with prizes for each of the winners. All of these activities are free and open to the public! Bison burgers and hot dogs will also be available for purchase. Be sure to bring along your sense of wonder and a well-practiced throwing arm.

For more information on the event, contact Doreen Van Ryswyk at 515-994-3400 or [Doreen\\_vanryswyk@fws.gov](mailto:Doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov).

Source. <http://www.newtondailynews.com/2017/07/21/bison-day-at-neal-smith-national-wildlife-refuge/acrba3/>

## **9th Circuit Revives Bison Observer's Civil Rights Claims**

*(Courthouse News Service)*

WEST YELLOWSTONE, Mont. (CN) – Anthony Patrick Reed may one day get his day in court on behalf of Yellowstone National Park's wild bison, after the Ninth Circuit ruled Monday that a jury should have determined whether the volunteer for the Buffalo Field Campaign had his First and Fourth Amendment rights violated during a 2012 federal government hazing of bison back into Yellowstone National Park.

In July 2012, Reed tried to document the federal government's hazing of wild bison back into Yellowstone National Park. After a Gallatin County sheriff's deputy told Reed to move his car out of the line of bison, Reed complied and moved to a nearby gravel road. Deputy Douglas Lieurance threatened to arrest Reed, and ultimately issued Reed a misdemeanor citation for obstructing the herding operation.

Reed sued in Montana federal court in 2013, naming Lieurance, Gallatin County sheriff Brian Gootkin and Gallatin County as defendants. Reed argued Lieurance's actions violated his First

and Fourth Amendment rights and related Montana constitutional rights, and that Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin, the Sheriff's Office, and Gallatin County have a policy or practice of providing constitutionally inadequate training to law enforcement officers.

Read more. <https://www.courthousenews.com/9th-circuit-revives-bison-observers-civil-rights-claims/>

## **Diet segregation in American bison of Yellowstone National Park**

*(From BMC Network)*

Large mammals like bison often show substantial disparity in size between the sexes. These size differences can also result in other differences in behaviour. In this guest blog, John Berini and Catherine Badgley discuss their new research, [recently published in BMC Ecology](#), that examines how differences in diet can cause male and female bison to become spatially segregated during certain times of the year.

In mammals, sexes often differ in adult body size, with adult males being substantially larger than their female counterparts. This variation in body size can lead to significant differences in nutritional requirements, a phenomenon commonly referred to as diet segregation. Females, due to their smaller size and shorter digestive tract, tend to process food more rapidly than males do, and as a result, require higher quality food. Because of their larger size, males are more efficient at converting low-quality food into usable energy, and thus, are more concerned with quantity.

Differences in nutritional demands between sexes can lead to different habitat requirements, particularly among large mammalian herbivores. One such example is the American bison (*Bison bison*), which once roamed freely over much of North America. Although American bison primarily eat grass, they also consume minor amounts of herbs, shrubs, and twigs.

In American bison, the sexes vary greatly in size, with the average male weighing 350 kg more than the average female. During the late-summer mating season, male and female bison form large herds, and remain in these groups for approximately one month. Throughout the rest of the year, females and calves remain in groups, while males typically spend this time roaming the landscape as individuals. If segregation behavior in bison is influenced by sex-specific nutritional demands, then differences in the diets of males and females should be more apparent during certain times of year than others (e.g., mating season vs. the rest of the year).

Read more. <http://blogs.biomedcentral.com/bmcseriesblog/2017/07/27/diet-segregation-american-bison-yellowstone-national-park/>

## **NCAT Accepting Applications for Armed to Farm Training in October in Montana**

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is accepting applications for its week-long sustainable agriculture training program for military veterans, Armed to Farm (ATF). This ATF training will take place October 9-13, 2017, in Charlo, Montana. ATF allows veterans and their spouses to experience sustainable, profitable small-scale farming enterprises and explore agriculture as a viable career through farm tours, hands-on experience, and interactive classroom instruction.

The event is free for those chosen to attend; lodging, transportation to local farms, and most meals will be provided. The number of participants will be limited, and applications are due by August 18, 2017.

Read more. <https://www.ncat.org/applications-available-october-armed-farm-veteran-training-montana/>

## **Leopold Conservation Award® Program Seeks Nominees**

Sand County Foundation, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association are accepting applications for the \$10,000 Leopold Conservation Award, which honors Wisconsin farmers who demonstrate exemplary stewardship and management of natural resources.

The Leopold Conservation Award recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. Nominations may be submitted on behalf of a landowner, or landowners may nominate themselves.

Applications must be postmarked by August 4, 2017.

Read more. <http://wfbf.com/ag-newswire/leopold-conservation-award-program-seeks-nominees-in-wisconsin/>

## **North Dakota Livestock Water Supply Program**

North Dakota State Water Commission has reactivated the Drought Disaster Livestock Water Supply Project Assistance Program. Eligible livestock producers in drought proclamation counties (listed online) may qualify for up to \$3,500 in cost-share assistance, for up to three projects, on the following items: new water wells; new rural water system connections; new pipeline extensions, pasture taps, and associated works; and labor, materials, and equipment rentals for work completed by the producer to develop new water supply projects.

Read more. <http://www.swc.nd.gov/>