



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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April 12, 2019

Ag Census Reveals Public Role in Bison Restoration

Herds Grow as Public Embraces Deliciously Healthy Bison

WESTMINSTER, CO (April 11, 2019) – The Census of Agriculture data released today illustrates the important and positive role that the American public is playing in helping ranchers to restore bison to its native rangelands and pastures across the country, according to National Bison Association Executive Director Dave Carter.

Carter's comments came after the USDA today released the results of the 2017 Census of Agriculture, an exercise conducted every five years.

According to the latest census, the bison population on American ranches and farms now stands at 183,780, which is a 13.3 percent increase since the 2012 census.

“The majority of the native habitat of bison is under the stewardship of individual farmers and ranchers, so restoration of the herds requires that rearing bison is economically sustainable, as well as environmentally sustainable,” Carter said. “People embracing bison meat as a part of their diet are providing the incentive for those producers to bring bison back on more acres of land. Ranchers and farmers recognize that our customers are vital partners in bison restoration,” Carter said.

According to the new Census data, the farm-gate value of bison and bison products sold in 2017 topped \$120.1 million, which represented a 26.7 percent increase over 2012.

South Dakota continues to have the largest number of bison, with 30,055 head reported in 2017. The other top ten states, according to the Census, are Nebraska (28,047) Montana, (19,157), Idaho (18,634), North Dakota (12,127), Colorado (11,119), Wyoming (9,775), Texas (7,512) Wisconsin (5,899) and Kansas (5,727).

NBA Database Tracks Bison Production Trends

The National Bison Association has developed a database that tracks some of the major changes in bison production since the USDA began capturing bison information in 2002. That database is available in the member's section of www.bisoncentral.com.

"Each Census provides some very important information on it's own, but it is also enlightening to look at the changes in production, and in the number of bison operations, over the past 15 years," said Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association.

The NBA database lists the changes in bison numbers, and the number of bison operations, in each state. And, it also lists information on states with the largest herds, the largest number of operations, and the most animals on an average operation in each states.

NBA Summer Conference Plans Nearly Complete

Members of the 2019 NBA Summer Conference met this week via teleconference to continue planning of this summer's annual get together this July 7 – 10 in Bismarck, ND.

Going Forth in the North is the theme of the North Dakota Buffalo Association-hosted conference, and we hope NBA members head north, and south, to attend. We say head south, as we hope our friends to the North in Canada will join us.

The agenda is action packed and includes something for every bison enthusiast to take away, from history to the modern-day bison market. The conference will start on Sunday, July 7th with a riverboat cruise on the Missouri River with hors d'ourves and a cash bar that is limited to 100 tickets. Monday will be spent at two local historical bison sites; Fort Abraham Lincoln in Mandan, and the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck. Tuesday will be spent at the hotel where we'll hear from an array of expert speakers discussing the bison's place in regenerative agriculture, a history of the bison market from industry pioneers, a discussion of importing and exporting bison to and from Canada, the launch of the NBA's pending Bison Producer's App, and more.

Wednesday will be treated as an optional Ranch Tour day that will tour three different North Dakota bison herds, including the 2020 Dakota Territory Girls Gone Wild yearling heifer futurity class at Heart Land Bison Ranch. While we'll offer bus service to each location for an added fee, others are welcome to join us in their own vehicles and we hear that this route makes for a great motorcycle ride for those so inclined.

That's not to mention all the fun that's in store for this family-friendly conference. We're working to have registration open next week and an agenda finalized shortly after. Mark your calendars and join us in going forth in the North!

2019 Bison Food Booklet Now Available for Pre-Orders

As part of the revamping of the *Bison World* magazine, the Spring issue will feature the popular Bison Food Booklet as an insert and will also be offered as a stand-alone publication suitable for promotional use and distribution to consumers and food enthusiasts! These booklets are perfect for handing out at farmers' markets or at your on-farm store. They also make great promotional tools for your food truck or trade-show booth. We are hopeful that having this publication out

earlier in the year will make it a more valuable tool for our members to use in their promotional outreach efforts.

The 8-page booklet contains nutritional, cuts, cooking and preparation technique information as well as plenty of delicious recipes. This year's theme, *Have it all With Bison* features Easy Weeknight Meals and Decadent Dinners. **Price is \$1 per booklet.** If you are interested in ordering booklets, please email barb@bisoncentral.com with your information and the number of booklets you would like to order.

Summer Bison World Advertising Available

Production is just getting underway on the Summer issue of Bison World. Articles will cover a wide range of topics and preview our upcoming Summer Conference slated for July in Bismarck, ND.

There are a variety of advertising options available, from 1/8 page all the way to full page. Lifetime and Active NBA members will enjoy discounted rates as part of their membership perks. For those wanting to commit to long-term advertising, contract rates are available.

For more information about advertising your ranch, business or events, contact Karen@bisoncentral.com.

Book Receives Award for Detailing Buffalo Hunt History on the Northern Plains

A book that reveals western North and South Dakota's regional history along the border as the site of the last great buffalo hunts has won a 2019 Western Writers of America Spur Award. ***Buffalo Heartbeats Across the Plains*** was published by Hettinger's Dakota Buttes Visitors Council as part of a two-book set that includes ***Buffalo Trails in the Dakota Buttes***, an 88-page self-guided tour of 10 historic and contemporary buffalo sites in the area. The 256-page *Buffalo Heartbeats* is in hardcover, and both books are illustrated in full color and written by Francie M. Berg of Hettinger.

Buffalo Heartbeats explores little-known stories of the buffalo, their close cultural relationship with Native Americans, the last great hunts as well as early hunting technique before the Indian people had horses, and the buffalos near extinction and recovery.

In the selection of this book as the best in the Young Adult Nonfiction category, the Western Writers of America recognizes not only quality writing and original research, but the author's work in introducing this authentic buffalo history into the high school and junior high curriculum of North and South Dakota studies.

Since 2016 the author has presented this new information in local schools and led student field trips to historic buffalo sites in the Hettinger area. In addition, several schools on Indian reservations are now using these books in their North Dakota studies.

These were their ancestors out here on those early hunts. Some of their names are in the book,” said Berg.

To highlight this history, the Dakota Buttes Visitors Council’s historic buffalo tours for the public began in the 1990s. Hettinger will celebrate its first annual Buffalo Fest on June 1, 2019, with a full day of entertainment, historic talks, bison cook-offs, buffalo-related vendors, artisans, crafters and a tour of buffalo hunt sites.

“On our last tour we had 350 buffalo coming right up to the bus,” says Ronda Fink, chair of the Buffalo Fest.

For more information, contact Hettinger’s Chamber of Commerce (701-567-2531) or email them at: hettingerchamber@ndsupernet.com.

Buffalo Heartbeats (\$34.95) and *Buffalo Trails* (\$14.95) are available from businesses in Hettinger and Bowman, ND, and Lemmon and Bison, SD. All formats including eBooks from hettingernd.com/buffalotrails. See also NDTourism.com/BuffaloTrails.

The 777 Bison Ranch is putting carbon back into the soil

(From Yale Climate Connections)

On South Dakota’s rolling hills, the grazing pastures of the 777 Bison Ranch are thick with native grasses.

Hillenbrand: “We have three times the native plant biodiversity compared to some of our neighbors, so we’re pretty proud of what we’ve been accomplishing over the last 30-plus years now, with the bison and holistic management.”

Ranch owner Mimi Hillenbrand’s family once kept both cattle and bison, but they found that the bison were hardier and better suited to life in South Dakota. So, they switched to raising only the native livestock.

They rotate the bison around their fields in a system that mimics the days when the animals roamed across the landscape.

While grazing, the bison add manure to the soil – fertilizing it. But then they are moved to another field.

Hillenbrand: “This allows the plants to recover. So, by the time we come back to that pasture again, the plants have grown enough that we’re not putting any pressure on their roots. We’re not overgrazing.”

Read more. https://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/2019/04/bison-ranch-puts-carbon-into-the-soil/?fbclid=IwAR1nMb0o2fgheqBO8D1bHRyAtsQ2bdJv61lcQJOYRmWd6XwdEKZx_GnaZuQ

Fort Peck Tribes Fight For Surplus Yellowstone Bison

(From WBUR)

Yellowstone National Park's annual bison cull is underway, meaning up to 1,000 of the animals will be hunted or trapped and then slaughtered as a population control measure.

Much of the meat harvested from those bison will go to tribal nations in the area, but leaders from those nations say they would rather take the animals in while they are still alive.

"It would really connect a lot of our Native people to our culture," Robert Magnan, director of Fish and Game for the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux tribes, tells Here & Now's Peter O'Dowd. "A lot of our culture has been lost because buffalo has always been at the center of our culture. And we reconnect them through the buffalo."

Magnan says that establishing a new herd on the Fort Peck reservation, which is already home to about 200 American bison, would help restore the tribes' cultural and economic relationship with the animals.

His department has spent over half a million dollars building a quarantine facility in hopes of someday accommodating a herd of Yellowstone bison, and to assuage local ranchers' fears that the animals could transmit the bovine disease brucellosis to their cattle.

Read more. <https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2019/04/08/fort-peck-tribes-yellowstone-bison>

Fewer Farms, Older Farmers: USDA Releases 2017 Ag Census

(From AgriPulse)

U.S. farmers are getting older, continuing a long-term trend, and the total number of farms is declining, according to the 2017 [Census of Agriculture](#) released today by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The average age of all U.S. farm producers in 2017 was 57.5 years, up from 56.3 years in the 2012 Ag Census. "Producers also tend to be experienced," NASS said in a [fact sheet](#). "They had been on their current farm an average of 21.3 years."

The amount of acreage farmed nationwide in 2017 was 900 million acres, down 1.6 percent from 2012, while the average farm size increased by the same percentage, to 441 acres. The number of farms fell from 2.11 million to 2.04 million, a 3.2 percent drop.

"All categories of mid-sized farms declined," NASS [said](#). "The largest farms (sales of \$5 million or more) accounted for fewer than 1 percent of all farms but 35 percent of all sales. Small farms (sales of \$50,000 or less) accounted for 76 percent of the farms and 3 percent of the sales."

Fewer farms accounted for the vast majority of sales. "Just 105,453 farms produced 75 percent of all sales in 2017, down from 119,908 in 2012," NASS said in a [news release](#) summarizing the report.

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue said at an event held Thursday afternoon that the department prides itself on being "facts-based and data-driven" and the data in the census is what the department relies on to make policy decisions.

"We have to have data like this to help us improve American agriculture. NASS is the only organization in America dedicated to collecting and disseminating agriculture statistics to the public," Perdue said.

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition said the census data reflect "the continued consolidation of U.S. agriculture," which has reduced the number of medium-sized farms, "concentrating wealth and power among fewer, larger agribusinesses."

"We can't sit idly by while the middle falls out of American agriculture," NSAC Interim Policy Director Juli Obudzinski said. "If we're going to reverse these trends, we need to focus on programs and policies — beginning farmer and rancher programs, local and organic agriculture, and farmer-driven research to name a few — that help our family farmers thrive, not just survive."

Photographer gets up-close with bison from San Angelo State Park

(From The San Angelo Standard Times)

The herd of bison at the San Angelo State Park are usually off wandering their area and hidden from view.

But on Saturday, April 6, 2019, the bison were on full display for visitors while on a tour with the park rangers.

Among the visitors was photographer Thomas Watson, who captured the bison up-close and personal.

"The state park rangers were nice as always, telling people all about the bison and longhorns," he said.

The bison were coaxed to the fence line by the rangers with food, and Watson said they seemed more excited about breakfast than the people.

"I thought it was refreshing to see people bringing their kids out to see them," he said. "It's nice knowing that people haven't forgotten there's a bigger world outside just waiting to be seen."

Read more. <https://www.gosanangelo.com/story/news/2019/04/10/photographer-gets-up-close-bison-san-angelo-state-park-texas-2019/3410579002/>

Salisbury Zoo Adds Two New Bison For Herd Of Three

(From The Salisbury Independent)

Salisbury Zoo adds two new bison for herd of three
Apr 10th, 2019 · by Susan Canfora · Comments: 0

The Salisbury Zoo has welcomed two young female bison, following the death of its male last June.

Zoo officials searched for compatible companions for Agnes, the older female bison at the zoo, and knew young females would be best. They also wanted bison from the East Coast, to make it easier to transport the large mammals.

With the help of a former bison farmer, the zoo registrar located them at a farm in Delaware. They were taken to the zoo on March 30 and temporarily kept in a quiet area while the three animals got to know each other.

Zoo paths were then opened for regular viewing.

The Delmarva Zoological Society helped with the acquisition, using money raised during the Just Zoo It! Campaign.

Read more. <https://salisburyindependent.net/salisbury-news/salisbury-zoo-adds-two-new-bison-for-herd-of-three/>

Prairie-to-Table Dining at The Cowboy

(From WBUR)

April 18 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, 1700 Northeast 63rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111 United States + Google Map

Western States Plaza and Gardens (Rain back-up location: S.B. "Burk" Burnett Board Room)

Join Museum President & CEO Natalie Shirley and experience flavors of the American West through great food and drink. The special prairie-themed menu is prepared and presented by the Petroleum Club of Oklahoma City.

Cash bar.

General Pricing: \$65

Museum Members: \$55

Reservations required; register by April 12 at Register now at
<https://nationalcowboymuseum.org/prairie-to-table-at-the-cowboy-registration/>

DINNER MENU

Appetizer: Paleo chili with sour cream and green onions

Salad: Arugula, cactus, avocado, roasted corn and wild rice salad with maple syrup vinaigrette; rolls and butter

Main Course: Slow roasted boneless bison short ribs with sin-dried cherry sauce; mushroom risotto; roasted squash boat filled with earthy vegetables

Dessert and Beverage Service: Dulce de leche cheesecake; chocolate mousse with caramel sauce and fresh berries; coffee and tea.

Farmers Who Suffered Livestock Losses Due To Extreme Weather Get Help From Expanded Aid Program

(From The Omaha World Herald)

Producers who suffered livestock losses due to the string of cold weather events stretching from January to March will be eligible for assistance under the Farm Service Agency's Livestock Indemnity Program, Nancy Johner, Nebraska's FSA Executive Director announced Tuesday.

The directive expands the window of eligibility from January 1 to March 30 for assistance under LIP. Producers also have a new deadline of April 29, 2019, to submit a Notice of Loss to their local FSA office.

“The Livestock Indemnity Program provides producers with a vital safety net to help them overcome the financial impact of extreme or abnormal weather,” Johner said in a press release.

“Extended cold combined with above-normal precipitation during the months of January, February and early March created an adverse weather event that has had a significant impact on some livestock producers. We encourage them to reach out to our office by the April 29 notice of loss deadline.”

LIP compensates livestock owners and contract growers for livestock death losses in excess of normal mortality due to an adverse weather event. The payment rate is based on 75 percent of the average fair market value of the livestock.

Read more. https://www.omaha.com/news/nebraska/nebraska-farmers-who-suffered-livestock-losses-due-to-extreme-weather/article_912d7b1a-26a1-5656-a543-1814b9ab3b48.html

Bernhardt Wins Confirmation As Interior Secretary

(From AgriPulse)

David Bernhardt, who has served in a variety of senior positions at the Interior Department, was confirmed as secretary by the Senate on Thursday by a 56-41 vote, a victory for cattle producers, energy companies and other interests who see him as an ally on public land management and endangered species regulation.

Three Democrats, Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona and Martin Heinrich of New Mexico, as well as Independent Angus King of Maine, joined Republicans to confirm Bernhardt. Senators Cory Booker, D-N.J., Kamala Harris, D-Calif., and David Perdue, R-Ga., did not vote.

The sprawling department has a wide-ranging impact on agriculture, especially but not exclusively in the West. Interior agencies include the Bureau of Land Management; Fish and Wildlife Service, which enforces the Endangered Species Act; Bureau of Reclamation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Bernhardt has been serving as acting secretary since December, when Ryan Zinke resigned as investigations into his real estate dealings began to pile up.

Reaction to the vote was swift from groups opposed to Bernhardt. "Rushing to move forward with Bernhardt's nomination without clarification on his numerous ethical lapses and investigative requests is not only a disservice to the American people, but it also means that Interior will again be led by a secretary shrouded in scandal," Western Values Project executive director Chris Saeger said.

But shortly after the vote, Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska, took to the floor to defend Bernhardt's integrity and say he is well qualified to lead Interior.

"I know this wasn't an easy confirmation process, but when you look at his background, this is actually one of the most qualified individuals to serve as secretary that we've had in many, many years," Sullivan said.

USDA Grant Supports Anaplasmosis Research Study

(From Feedstuffs)

A research grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for nearly \$1.2 million is supporting work at Kansas State University toward combating anaplasmosis, a disease that affects cattle in the U.S. and globally.

Kathryn Reif, assistant professor in the diagnostic medicine and pathobiology department in the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, said the project focuses on optimizing antimicrobial use to control active infection of the hemoparasitic pathogen, *Anaplasma marginale*, the causative agent of bovine anaplasmosis.

"Different strains of the pathogen are actively circulating in the U.S.," Reif said. "We are using a combination of *A. marginale* strains, some of which we recently isolated from Kansas cattle herds, to help determine how strains differ in their susceptibility to tetracycline antimicrobials, specifically chlortetracycline, the most common antimicrobial used to control anaplasmosis. We hope that by looking at three different chlortetracycline treatment protocols for cattle, we can provide practical recommendations for the Food & Drug Administration and, ultimately, for cattle producers toward controlling this disease."

Full text:

<https://www.feedstuffs.com/nutrition-health/usda-grant-supports-anaplasmosis-research-study>

Pennsylvania Small Business Advantage Grants

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for \$1 million of grant funding available to Pennsylvania farmers and small business for pollution-prevention, energy-efficiency, and natural resource-protection projects through the Small Business Advantage grants. For the first time, grants will be available to farmers and ranchers for projects that reduce and prevent pollution on working lands.

Pennsylvania-based small business owners with 100 or fewer full-time employees are eligible. Projects must save the business a minimum of \$500 and 25% annually in energy consumption, or pollution-related expenses. Businesses can apply for 50% matching funds of up to \$9,500 to adopt or acquire energy-efficient or pollution prevention equipment or processes.

Applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis, and will be accepted until fiscal year 2018-19 funds are exhausted, or April 12, 2019, whichever occurs first.

Read more.

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/GrantsLoansRebates/SmallBusinessOmbudsmanOffice/Pages/Small%20Business%20Advantage%20Grant.aspx>

Missouri Conservation Partners Grants

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Missouri is offering \$800,000 in grants for partners promoting public awareness and implementation of Farm Bill conservation activities. NRCS is looking for partners who can help inform farmers, ranchers, and specialty crop growers about NRCS programs.

Areas of emphasis for the grants include outreach workshops and conferences, technical workshops and field days focused on soil health strategies or native plant community adoption, organic and specialty crop workshops, water quality improvement and drainage water, technical assistance implementation, and enhancement of climate data tools.

Proposals are due by April 15, 2019.

Read more. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mo/newsroom/releases/da74732f-062e-4b71-ba06-1b259a064301/>

New CSP signup period announced

Farmers have until May 10 to apply for funding under the Conservation Stewardship Program, the largest working lands conservation program in the country, the Natural Resources Conservation Service announced Friday.

NRCS Chief Matthew Lohr [said](#) CSP continues to be a “very effective tool” for private landowners working to achieve their conservation goals.

For the most part, this signup will be similar to past years, but new contracts will be eligible for increased payment rates for practices such as cover crops (shown above) and crop rotations that can prevent runoff of nutrients from cropland. Those higher rates were among the changes that the 2018 farm bill made in the program, not all of which are being implemented in this signup.

The bill also replaced the previous 10-million-acre annual cap on the program with a yearly spending limit, which is \$700 million for fiscal 2019.

Alyssa Charney, senior policy specialist at the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, [applauded](#) NRCS for “quickly moving forward with the farm bill updates” to increase those payments.

“CSP is the only conservation program that provides support for comprehensively addressing natural resources across an entire operation,” Charney said.

Some 70 million acres are enrolled in CSP, which helps producers improve soil health, water quality, and wildlife habitat.

In addition to the increase in payment rate for certain practices, CSP also will provide specific support for organic and for transitioning to organic production activities, and a special grassland conservation initiative for certain producers who have maintained cropland base acres.

NRCS has authority under the bill to implement conservation programs under the rules of the 2014 farm bill for this enrollment period. It allows NRCS to keep FY19 enrollments on schedule while they work through rule changes.

CSP traveled a rocky road during development of the farm bill. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway, R-Texas, targeted it for elimination, but the final agreement with the Senate kept the program alive, while reducing its overall funding.

Us-Canada Trade Conflicts Continue

(From DTN/Progressive Farmer)

WASHINGTON (DTN) — Canada could announce a new list of retaliatory tariffs on more U.S. goods, including agricultural products, as early as next week. The tariffs would maintain parity with the U.S. over steel and aluminum tariffs the Trump administration imposed against Canada.

David MacNaughton, Canada’s ambassador to the U.S., highlighted the tariffs Monday as he spoke to members of the North American Agricultural Journalists at the group’s annual meeting in Washington. MacNaughton said Canadian officials are reconfiguring retaliatory tariffs to keep roughly \$15 billion in products from the U.S. under either a 25% or 10% tariff.

As a result of some exclusions and modifications, MacNaughton said, Canadian officials “will be refreshing that retaliation list,” likely within the next week, to maintain dollar-for-dollar retaliation.

The retaliation will include “a significant number of agricultural products.” Possible new targets for tariffs could be apples, pork, ethanol and wine, he said. Once a list goes out, there will be up to 45 days of consultations to see which products would have the biggest impact on the U.S. and least impact on Canadians.

“There are a variety of agricultural products we would look at and see to what degree they would impact Canadian producers and consumers,” MacNaughton said. “But I would think it would be a fairly long list.” He added, “I can’t imagine we wouldn’t at least put those kinds of products on consultation.”

The Canadian tariffs are in response to “Section 232” tariffs placed on steel and aluminum imports by the U.S. last year. The Trump administration maintains the tariffs on imported steel and aluminum are needed for national security reasons, but the tariffs also helped force Canada and Mexico to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, which has become the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The USMCA still needs ratification by all three countries to go into effect.

Full story here. <http://krvn.com/agricultural/us-canada-trade-conflicts-continue/>

Farm Bill Hopes To Tackle Unwelcome Guests: Feral Swine

(From AgriPulse)

Producers from Florida to California hope a new 2018 farm bill pilot program will help reduce feral swine populations, which have caused billions in damage to farm and ranch land across at least 35 states.

The 2018 farm bill provided \$75 million to USDA's Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to fund a pilot program to control feral swine - the first time the farm bill has funded such a program. The 2014 farm bill called on USDA to recognize the problem of feral swine as a high priority, but didn't allocate funding.

Separate from the farm bill, Congress appropriated \$20 million for the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program in the 2014 budget. Since the program's launch in August of that year, funding from Congress has increased and is now at \$30.5 million for fiscal 2019. The overall goal of the FSDM program is to work with all levels of government to minimize damage of feral swine and control the problem.

Around \$37.5 million of the money from the 2018 farm bill will go to NRCS to fund on-farm trapping and other technology. APHIS will use the other 50 percent to continue testing population reduction methods already established.

“It’s just another pest we have to manage,” said Jimmy Dodson, who grows cotton and sorghum near Corpus Christi, Texas. “In some cases, it’s the number one pest for sorghum and corn.” The voracious foragers continue to run rampant across Texas and at least 34 other states. Over six million feral hogs roam the U.S., mostly in the southern part of the country. Texas alone has 1.5 million wild hogs. Northward movement of feral swine has doubled from 4 miles to 8 miles per year from 1982 to 2012, according to a 2017 [study](#).

Feral swine destroy anything in their path such as cropland, roads, fencing and even wildlife. There are all kinds of animals living in the same environment, “cattle, deer, quail, you name it, they’re out there,” Dodson said.

The invasive species are not native to America. Settlers brought feral swine over as a food source in the 1500s and Europeans brought them in the 1900s for sport hunting.

Promotion Of ‘GMO’ Impossible Burger ‘Deceptive’

(From Sustainable Food News)

Natural food industry representatives and consumer advocates denounced Impossible Foods, maker of the GMO-derived Impossible Burger, for promoting their product at Natural Products Expo West, saying they were engaging in deceptive marketing.

Impossible Foods served patties of their burger to attendees at the world’s largest natural food trade show—but there was no mention that the product was genetically engineered at the company’s exhibit booth or in their marketing literature.

“We’re disappointed that the company is using a ‘natural products’ show to promote its certainly not-natural product,” says Frank Lampe, vice president of communications and industry relations for the United Natural Products Alliance. “The halo effect of being perceived as natural by its presence at the show does not serve the natural products industry or its consumers and is a disingenuous move by Impossible Foods.”

“Hosting the Impossible Burger at Natural Products Expo West raises questions of deceptive marketing. Consumers believe ‘natural’ means that no artificial ingredients or genetically engineered ingredients were used,” says Dana Pearls, senior food and technology policy campaigner at Friends of the Earth.

Jim Thomas, co-executive director of ETC Group, which tracks new genetic engineering technologies, says Impossible Foods exhibiting at Expo West was “like inviting in an arms manufacturer to exhibit at a peace convention.”

“What were the organizers of the world’s leading natural and organic show thinking when they invited in such a controversial GMO company to peddle their misleading industrial fakery?” he asks. “What’s next, a booth for Bayer to promote Roundup? Shall we just start calling it Expo Whatever?”

The Impossible Burger is one of several new plant-based—or in this case lab-created—meat products that provide the look and taste of meat while claiming to be more environmentally friendly than industrial meat production. The product is served in several thousand restaurants in the U.S., including chains like White Castle and The Cheesecake Factory (where it is falsely described as “natural” on the menu). Burger King recently announced it would test market the Impossible Burger in 60 restaurants in St. Louis.

But the Impossible Burger has been controversial because it is made using genetic engineering. The burger’s key ingredient is called heme, which is produced using a genetically engineered yeast that is fermented and multiplied. The GMO-derived heme gives the Impossible Burger its meat-like taste and red blood-like color. In 2015, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration raised questions about the safety of the engineered heme after Impossible Foods applied for GRAS (generally recognized as safe) status. Despite FDA’s concerns, Impossible Foods put its GMO burger on the market for public consumption in 2016 anyway. Impossible Foods later submitted results from short-term rat feeding studies to the FDA and, last year, the agency said that it had no more questions about heme’s safety.

Bill codifies USDA oversight of lab-grown meat

(From FeedStuff)

In an effort to codify an agreement regarding oversight of lab-grown meat between the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety & Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Food & Drug Administration, Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R., Miss.) introduced legislation giving USDA primary responsibility to regulate, inspect and label cell-cultured meat and poultry marketed to the American public.

The Cell-Cultured Meat & Poultry Regulation Act of 2019 ([S. 1056](#)) would place cell-cultured food products derived from livestock, poultry or any other amenable species under FSIS jurisdiction by amending the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act -- the primary laws governing FSIS jurisdiction and oversight responsibilities.

Over the past year, FSIS and FDA have claimed responsibility for cell-cultured meat and poultry regulation. In the absence of statutory requirements, the agencies signed a formal agreement in March outlining a joint regulatory framework for lab-grown meat. The agreement states, however, that it "does not create binding, enforceable obligations against either agency" and that it is subject to "the availability of personnel, resources and funds."

"While I am encouraged by the USDA-FDA framework, it is nonbinding and subject to modification or termination every three years," Hyde-Smith said. "My bill essentially codifies the terms of that agreement. The fact that FDA and USDA have agreed to identify necessary changes to statutory authority confirms the need for a legislative fix, as I've proposed."

Agriculture and livestock organizations across the country have been vocal about their desire for FSIS to have jurisdiction, Hyde-Smith noted.

"As a cattle producer myself, I am proud of the beef we grow -- and let me be clear: Beef is raised in a pasture, not a laboratory," she added.

"If companies producing lab-grown products want to be considered equal to U.S. farm-raised beef, they need to undergo the same level of inspection and scrutiny as the U.S. cattle industry. I don't believe they deserve to ride on the coattails of real cattle farmers with respect to labeling. The USDA mark of inspection carries weight. I am confident USDA is the appropriate agency to handle this responsibility," Hyde-Smith said.

FSIS Issues New Fact Sheet of Food Product Dating

FSIS is announcing the availability of an updated fact sheet on food product dating. The fact sheet is aimed at reducing food waste through encouraging food manufacturers and retailers that apply product dating to use a "Best if Used By" date label. FSIS recommends the use of a "Best if Used By" date label because research shows that this phrase is easily understood by consumers as an indicator of quality rather than safety. FSIS is also responding to comments received on the previous version of the fact sheet that it announced in the December 2016 Constituent Update.

A downloadable version of the updated fact sheet is available to view and print at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/19013cb7-8a4d-474c-8bd7-bda76b9defb3/Food-Product-Dating.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>.