



## National Bison Association

8690 Wolff Court, Suite 200 Westminster, CO 80031-3646  
www.BisonCentral.com Phone: 303-292-2833 Fax: 303-845-9081

### Weekly Update from the National Bison Association

A news and update service *exclusively* for members of the National Bison Association.  
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**May 18, 2018**

### **Starter Herd to be Offered at the Summer Conference!**

Among the many highlights of this year's Summer Conference in Kansas City, June 27 – 29, is the offering of a six head starter, or expansion, herd. Five hand-picked heifers and one bull from six different well known Kansas producers will be auctioned off on Thursday evening of the conference during the benefit auction. Speaking of which, don't forget your benefit auction item at this always-exciting live fundraiser. Must be present to bid. We'll be highlighting these generous donors in the coming weeks in the Weekly Update and through direct emails, but the result will be a quality starter herd that will include a diverse range of top-notch genetics from animals born and bred or an excellent addition to a current herd.

The deadline to reserve your lodging for the NBA Summer Conference has been **pushed back to June 4th** and there's still plenty of room in the discounted NBA room block. Reserve your room by calling (888) 627-8538 and request the National Bison Association room block. All conference activities, with the exception of the optional Friday afternoon ranch tour, will take place at the Westin.

The Summer Conference trade show has already sold out, and we're just three weeks until the conference registration deadline! As such, we're expecting a large gathering of bison enthusiasts from across the continent as we get together for three days of fellowship, fun and education! You'll also be receiving a hard copy registration in the mail next week, which is yet another way to register for this great conference. Please take a moment to check out the [conference agenda](#) and see why you won't want to miss out on this very producer-friendly bison event. Please [register online](#), or by calling the NBA at (303) 292-2833, by **June 8th** and see all the details on our [conference web page](#).

### **Bison Literature Review Resources Available to NBA Members**

A scientific literature review initiated by the NBA Science and Research Committee, and

underwritten by the National Buffalo Foundation, has been completed and is now available to all NBA members.

The NBA Science and Research Committee has built a Zotero bibliographic database containing almost 2000 references to scientific literature from scientific journals, university. The database named “Bison references” can be accessed here:

[https://www.zotero.org/groups/2186447/bison\\_research/items](https://www.zotero.org/groups/2186447/bison_research/items). This database provides information about the nature and source of bison related material published before May 2018, when the database was created.

NBA members can access the full documents in the database by logging into the Members’ Section of [bisoncentral.com](http://bisoncentral.com) and joining a similar Zotero group named “Bison publications.”

The literature review was conducted by Dr. Gerald Huntington, Professor Emeritus, Department of Animal Science, North Carolina State University. It was initiated by the Science and Research Committee after an NBA delegation met with Dr. Robin Schoen, chair of the Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources for the National Academy of Science in Washington, D.C. last September. Dr. Schoen advised the delegation that a literature review would be the first step in developing formal Nutritional Requirements for Bison through the National Research Council of the National Academies.

Dave Carter, NBA executive director, said, “This literature review is an extremely valuable resource for researchers and laypeople alike. There’s a wealth of information on herd health, nutrition, genetics and other topics important to growing our business, and our herds. A big thanks to the members of our Science and Research Committee for working to pull this together, and to the National Buffalo Foundation for underwriting the project.

## **Bulls Higher, Heifers Lower in April Report**

Dressed bull carcasses rose, while heifer carcasses softened in April, according to the latest monthly wholesale bison report issued by USDA’s Market News Reporting Service.

The average price paid by processors for young bull carcasses was \$492.86/cwt, in April, which was \$10.06/cwt. Higher than in March, and \$4.12/cwt higher than the previous April. Heifer carcasses brought \$471.57/cwt. In April, a drop of \$8.42/cwt. From March and \$1.46/cwt from April 2017. Prices paid for older bulls were slightly lower in April but prices on older cows were slightly higher.

Carcass weights were lower in April, with young bulls averaging 605 lbs., compared to 698 lbs. in March, and heifer carcasses averaging 545 lbs. in April, compared to 564 lbs. in March.

Year-to-date, 16,178 bison have been processed under federal inspection. This is nearly 5.5 percent below the 17,106 harvested during the same period in 2017. Bulls accounted for 60 percent of the younger animals processed through April. This compares with a nine-year average of 56 percent.

The latest USDA wholesale price report is available at:

[https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw\\_ls526.txt](https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw_ls526.txt)

The NBA five-year tracking report is available in the members' section at [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com).

## **A Map of Bison Diet – Volunteers Still Needed**

Sitting Bull College and Jonah Ventures are leading a survey of the diet of bison across the US with funding from the USDA. The Great American Bison Diet Survey is a project aimed at understanding the diets of bison herds across the Great Plains. The goal of the project is to take a snapshot of the plants that bison eat in 100 herds across North America.

As the 100 herds will include public, tribal, and commercial herds, we are asking for 40 volunteers from the National Bison Association to help. Participating is easy and only requires collection of a few fecal samples in June, which are mailed to a central lab. To determine what plants the bison ate, plant DNA in the fecals will be sequenced. The results of the study will be shared upon completion. If you're interested in participating (or learning more), visit [whatbisonate.com](http://whatbisonate.com). There, volunteers can sign up to participate and we will send you a kit and instructions. Any questions can be addressed to Tami Plechaty at [tplechat@gmail.com](mailto:tplechat@gmail.com).

## **Texas Association Members Discuss Issues, Elect Officers, Tour Roam Ranch**

More than 60 members of the Texas Bison Association gathered in Fredericksburg, TX last weekend to discuss issues, elect officers, learn about direct marketing, and to enjoy an afternoon and evening at a nearby bison ranch.

Benjie Cox was elected as president to lead the association for the next year. He takes over from Chuck Wilson, who was stepping down from the position.

NBA Executive Director Dave Carter provided the TBA members with an update on market developments and policy issues during the general membership meeting. In the afternoon, Carter joined Texas Certified Farmers' Market Director Cal Brints in facilitating a workshop on farmers' markets and agritourism. That workshop was sponsored by the USDA's Farmers' market Promotion Program.

Following the business sessions in Fredericksburg, the participants moved to the nearby Roam Ranch, owned by EPIC Provisions founders Taylor Collins and Katie Forrest. The team from EPIC provided ranch tours highlighting the holistic management practices helping to restore biodiversity and soil health. The meeting concluded with a bison brisket dinner and benefit auction.

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## **Yellowstone Bison Quarantine Approved**

*(From The Bozeman Daily Chronicle)*

Yellowstone National Park can now officially move forward with a program to send disease-free bison to join other herds around the country.

A regional official with the National Park Service has officially signed off on Yellowstone's quarantine program, a process of isolation and testing to certify groups of bison as free of brucellosis, a disease that can cause animals to abort. The disease-free designation allows bison to be moved more freely.

Under the approved plan, bison would undergo serial testing at corrals in Yellowstone or at U.S. Department of Agriculture corrals near Corwin Springs, north of the park. Bison that test negative for brucellosis over a certain period of time would be vaccinated and held in fenced pastures for another six months or a year. If they continue testing negative, they could be released "on suitable public and tribal lands for conservation and cultural purposes."

Read more. [https://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/yellowstone-bison-quarantine-approved/article\\_444d2f4b-f3ad-51cf-a161-a94a0bab0565.html](https://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/yellowstone-bison-quarantine-approved/article_444d2f4b-f3ad-51cf-a161-a94a0bab0565.html)

## **Bison Range Planning Docs Open for Comment**

*(From The Daily Interlake)*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is taking public comments on some of its planning documents for the National Bison Range Complex.

The complex includes the National Bison Range, home to about 350 of its namesake mammals, and five other protected zones in the greater Flathead Valley. Managed as a National Wildlife Refuge, it covers about 18,800 acres.

In recent years, the 108-year-old range has been plagued by funding cuts and jurisdictional disputes between the government and the neighboring Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. In a lawsuit that stemmed from these issues, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility alleged that the Fish and Wildlife Service had failed to complete required planning processes for the range. One of these failures, it claimed, was the absence of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

In their settlement in January, the Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to complete such a plan for the range, along with an environmental impact statement, by the end of 2023. In addition, the Fish and Wildlife Service aims to complete a conservation plan for the complex's other five units.

Read more.

[http://www.dailyinterlake.com/local\\_news/20180517/bison\\_range\\_planning\\_docs\\_open\\_for\\_comment](http://www.dailyinterlake.com/local_news/20180517/bison_range_planning_docs_open_for_comment)

## **How North American Bison Ended Up in the Swiss Alps**

*(From Atlas Obscura)*

On the drive from the airport into Geneva, Switzerland, you may spot creatures roaming the fields that seem out of place. The hulking figures are too large to be the archetypal cows of the

lush Alpine meadows, they're far more agile, and they sport large humps on their backs. They look eerily similar to North American buffalos, and with good reason: They are the very same animals. But how did they find their way to the Swiss Alps?

Years ago, a young man from a Swiss farming family, Laurent Girardet, ventured to Alberta, Canada. He went to participate in an exchange program, work on a farm, and learn English. During his time there, he unexpectedly fell in love with the bison (the term "buffalo" is often used interchangeably, but in Switzerland they are known as bison, as their scientific name is *Bison bison*). "I always liked big spaces and everything related to bison," Girardet says.

He also liked the idea of raising animals naturally—that is, on pasturelands rather than in enclosures, and on a grass diet rather than one bolstered by antibiotic supplements. Compared to Switzerland's domesticated cows, bison were robust and healthy, too. So, he resolved to raise them instead. "We decided to walk away from traditional dairy cattle, to turn ourselves to something more natural and extensive," he adds.

Read more. <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/buffalo-in-the-swiss-alps>

## **Banff Bison Exhibit Opens with Family-Friendly Theme**

*(From The Rocky Mountain Outlook)*

Horned and hooved beasts are the main attraction of a new family-friendly exhibit in downtown Banff.

Parks Canada announced the Banff Park Museum National Historic Site has unveiled Banff Bison Return beginning May 15 and running daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The child-friendly exhibit has a "hands-on and immersive installation highlighting the reintroduction of bison to Banff National Park, and a historical exhibit documenting earlier attempts at bison reintroduction in the Bow Valley, that will be launched later in the summer," according to Parks.

In February 2017, a historic moment occurred when 16 wild bison stampeded out of pens and into the open Panther Valley in Banff National Park.

Read more. <http://www.rmoutlook.com/article/Banff-bison-exhibit-opens-with-familyfriendly-theme-20180517>

## **Baby Bison Filmed in Romania Nature Park**

*(From the Romania Insider)*

A baby bison was recently filmed in the VanatoriNeamt Nature Park in Romania.

Romanian forest management company Romsilva shared the video on its Facebook page and said this is the 13th baby bison born in the wild in Romania in the six years since the first bison were released in the park, and the first baby bison this year.

The area of the VanatoriNeamt Nature Park was included last year in the Top 100 Sustainable Destinations in the world. It was the first time a region in Romania was included in the top.

The Park is located in the north part of Neamt County, at the border with Suceava. It has an area of 30,818 hectares, of which 26,190 hectares of forests, according to Romsilva.

The European bison were reintroduced in Romania in 1958, and six years ago the first European bison were released in nature at VanatoriNeamt Nature Park. At this moment there are 37 European Bison in the park, including 13 born free.

Read more. <https://www.romania-insider.com/baby-bison-filmed-romania/>

## **AMS Announces 2018 Rates for Voluntary Meat Inspection Services**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) this week announced the 2018 rates it will charge for voluntary grading, inspection, certification, and laboratory services for a variety of agricultural commodities including meat, poultry, and shell eggs. The rates are intended to cover costs incurred by AMS and maintain required operating reserves for each program as mandated by Congress.

AMS is phasing in some rate adjustments over a multi-year period to reduce the impact on industry operations. This year, rates will increase for the grading and certification of meat, poultry, and shell eggs effective on October 1, 2018. Audit service rates will remain unchanged. The AMS voluntary grading, inspection, and certification services are tools paid for by the users on a fee-for-service basis. Agricultural businesses seek out these services to ensure the quality and availability of wholesome food for consumers across the country.

The rate for poultry and shell egg resident service will increase by 8 percent, from \$48.00 an hour to \$52.00 (regular time), and the rate for meat commitment service—including bison inspection-- will increase by 11 percent, from \$66.00 an hour to \$74.00 (regular time). Other meat, poultry, and shell egg grading and certification rates are similarly adjusted.

On November 13, 2014, the USDA published a final rule in the Federal Register that established standardized formulas for calculating the fees charged by AMS user-funded programs ([79 FR 67313](#)). Since 2014, AMS has [published](#) the user fee rates through a unified process for setting fees across all of its voluntary user fee programs.

The full announced was published in the Federal Register here. (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/05/14/2018-10132/2018-rates-charged-for-ams-services>).

## **Key USDA Positions Filled**

The U.S. Department of agriculture filled key positions this week, with several acting administrators being named to permanent status, while some individuals outside of the agency were tapped to fill other posts. Below is a compilation of the appointments made this week:

## **Summers tapped to lead Ag Marketing Service**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that Bruce Summers, the acting administrator of its [Agricultural Marketing Service](#)(AMS), which oversees the [National Organic Program](#) (NOP), has been promoted to administrator.

Summers became AMS acting administrator when Elanor Starmer left the position in January 2017 as Trump was inaugurated. Summers had been promoted to AMS Associate Administrator in October 2016. He had started working at the USDA in the 1990s in the agency's Fruit and Vegetable program.

As AMS administrator, Summers will be responsible for 4,000 AMS employees and oversight of a variety of programs including grading of commodities such as meat, produce, dairy and cotton, the USDA Market News Service, and the NOP.

## **Carmen Rottenberg Named FSIS Administrator**

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue this week named Carmen Rottenberg as Administrator of the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)

Rottenberg most recently served as Deputy Administrator for FSIS, and since August 2017, as Acting Deputy Under Secretary for USDA's Office of Food Safety.

She has held several leadership roles in FSIS's Office of the Administrator, including the Chief Operating Officer and Chief of Staff. In these roles, she has spearheaded FSIS efforts to modernize inspection systems and implement science-based and innovative solutions to better protect consumers from foodborne illnesses.

Through her leadership, she has ensured that FSIS programs are customer-focused and delivered efficiently, effectively and with integrity. Rottenberg holds a Bachelor's Degree from Hope College and a Juris Doctorate from American University. She will continue to serve as Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety until a nominee for this position has been confirmed by the Senate.

## **Paul Kiecker appointed FSIS Deputy Administrator**

Paul Kiecker has been serving as Acting Administrator for FSIS since August 2017. In this role, he has led, and strategically guided FSIS's mission-critical programs aimed at protecting public health. He came to this position with decades of experience in the field and on the front lines of food safety, having begun his career as a food inspector. He has held numerous leadership positions within FSIS, including as a District Manager, Executive Associate for Regulatory Operations and most recently as Deputy Assistant Administrator for FSIS's Office of Field Operations.

## **Richard Fordyce of Missouri picked to run FSA**

Richard Fordyce, a former director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, has been selected as administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency.



In that role, Fordyce will oversee the agency's effort to support agricultural production across the country through a network of 2,100 county and 50 state offices.

"As a fourth-generation farmer, Richard brings firsthand knowledge and experience to this role," U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said. "I am confident that he will continue to help USDA become the most efficient, effective, customer-focused agency in the federal government as he leads this customer-focused mission area."

Fordyce most recently was state executive director for FSA in Missouri. Prior to his appointment by the Trump administration, he ran the Missouri Department of Agriculture from 2013 to 2017. In 2015, Fordyce was awarded the Missouri Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award and the Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow Alumnus of the Year.

He has served in roles for the National Biodiesel Board and the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council. He was also appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to serve as one of the Missouri directors on the United Soybean Board and served in that capacity for 11 years.

He and his wife, Renee, have two children and grow soybeans and corn and raise beef cattle on their family farm.

## **South Dakota Livestock Group Backing New Markets for State Inspected Meat Act**

*(From WNAX.com)*

South Dakota Senator Mike Rounds has introduced the New Markets for State Inspected Meat and Poultry Act. South Dakota Stockgrowers Association President Gary Deering says the measure will be beneficial for the state's cattle and poultry producers

He says there's good bipartisan support for the measure with Maine Senator Angus King co-sponsoring it. Deering also says there's a lot of ag group backing for it and his organization has supported this type of measure for some time.

Deering says the legislation if approved will aid local communities and help consumers get their meat locally.

Round's legislation if passed will correct the inequities in the current law which allows beef approved from South American countries to be sold across state lines in the United States while state inspected products can't go across those same state lines.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/ycgw7jnm>

## **SD State Vet Among Appointees to Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection**

*(From The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service Bulletin)*



U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue this week announced the appointment of 5 new members and 12 returning members to the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI).

"It is our goal to protect public health, prevent foodborne illness, and promote confidence in the U.S. food safety inspection system, which is the most reliable and well-documented in the world," said Perdue. "These committee members, with their breadth of experience and expertise, will help inform USDA on best practices as we continue to protect public health with the latest advances in science and technology."

NACMPI was established in 1971 by the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). NACMPI is a discretionary advisory committee that advises on food safety concerns and other matters affecting federal and state inspection program activities. It also contributes to USDA's regulatory policy development.

The new NACMPI members appointed to serve two-year terms are:

Mr. Thomas Gremillion, Consumer Federation of America  
Mr. James Jenkins, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry  
Dr. Amilton De Mello, University of Nevada  
Ms. Tina Rendon, Pilgrim's Pride Corp  
Ms. Kimberly Rice, U.S. Foods

Reappointed NACMPI members are:

Dr. Manpreet Singh, University of Georgia  
Dr. Randall K. Phebus, Kansas State University  
Dr. Patricia Curtis, Auburn University  
Mr. Brian Sapp, White Oak Pastures  
Ms. Sherri Jenkins, JBS, USA  
Dr. Betsy Booren, Olsson Frank WeedaTermanMatz, PC  
Dr. Alice Johnson, Butterball  
Dr. Michael Crupain, Dr. Oz Show  
Dr. Tanya Roberts, Center for Foodborne Illness Research and Prevention  
Mr. Kurt Brandt, United Food and Commercial Workers Union  
Dr. Dustin Oedekoven, South Dakota State  
Dr. KrysztofMazurczak, State of Illinois

For further information on NACMPI, please visit the FSIS website.

Source: <http://tinyurl.com/y7oud26h>

## **FSIS boosts outreach to small, very small plants**

*(From Meatingplace.com)*

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is launching an initiative to prioritize outreach to small and very small establishments in each of the 10 districts throughout the country, enhancing its existing outreach resources, the agency said in its Constituent Update newsletter.

More than 90% of the approximately 6,000 plants inspected by FSIS are considered small or very small. Outreach to these businesses is critically important — ensuring they have the tools, guidance, and resources needed to comply with FSIS regulations and deliver products that are safe and wholesome.

As part of the outreach, FSIS' Enforcement, Investigation, and Analysis Officers (EIAOs) will dedicate 25 percent of their time to outreach activities, working directly with owners and operators from small and very small establishments to discuss food safety and regulatory compliance, review available tools and resources, and respond to inquiries. Direct outreach activities may include one-on-one discussions, regional workshops, conferences and roundtable discussions, the agency said.

This outreach initiative complements other FSIS resources available to provide support to small and very small establishments, including the Small Plant Help Desk (SPHD).

## **EIA Confirmed in Two Texas Counties**

*(From TheHorse.com)*

The Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) reported May 14 that the Texas Animal Health Commission has confirmed equine infectious anemia (EIA) in a Maverick County Quarter Horse and a Bexar County Quarter Horse.

"The Bexar County horse has been euthanized and the premises will remain under quarantine until requirements for release have been met," the EDCC said. "The Maverick County horse is currently being maintained in a quarantine facility. TAHC staff is working closely with owners and veterinarians to monitor potentially exposed horses and implement biosecurity measures."

Equine infectious anemia is a viral disease that attacks horses' immune systems. The virus is transmitted through the exchange of body fluids from an infected to a noninfected animal, often by blood-feeding insects such as horseflies, and more rarely through the use of blood-contaminated instruments or needles.

Full text:

<https://thehorse.com/157959/eia-confirmed-in-two-texas-counties/>

## **Center for Rural Affairs Backing Next Generation in Ag Legislation**

*(From WNAX Radio)*

The Center for Rural Affairs and the National Young Farmers Coalition are pleased with the introduction in the Senate of the Next Generation in Agriculture Act. Rural Affairs Policy Associate Anna Johnson says the bill co-sponsored by Senators Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Susan Collins of Maine restores needed programs for beginning farmers and ranchers left out of the House Farm Bill.

She says the legislation provides for improved access to farmland for beginning producers. Johnson says the bill also includes creation of new positions at USDA that would help beginning farmers and ranchers.

The introduction of the Next Generation in Agriculture Act come as the Senate is considering its version of the new farm bill. It also comes as farmers in the U.S. over 65 now outnumber farmers under 35 by a margin of six to one.

## **General Mills Is Spending More to Develop Ingredients That Customers Can Trace**

*(From the Minneapolis Star-Tribune)*

General Mills became a food giant by pioneering ideas to get people in and out of the kitchen more quickly. Now, it has moved to the front lines of an agricultural movement it didn't start. A series of investments in recent months for its growing portfolio of natural and organic products has been aimed at fortifying the land where its food is grown.

And those moves, which roped General Mills into a growing movement called regenerative agriculture, show the influence a small startup can have on its larger parent company. General Mills awakened to the movement when it purchased Epic Provisions, a meat-snack producer, in 2016.

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"This area of regenerative agriculture has really gotten a lot of attention and we've been on our own journey over the last three years," said Jerry Lynch, the company's chief sustainability officer. "We've done a lot of work both understanding it and also in trying to help measure it."

Best known for its traditional packaged foods, like Cheerios cereals, Betty Crocker mixes and Progresso soup, General Mills has substantially expanded its reach in natural, organic and Earth-friendly grocery products over the past decade. It's a top-five organic-ingredient purchaser and the second-largest buyer of organic fruits and vegetables in North American packaged food.

## **The 7 Most Effective Fat-Burning Foods, According to Science**

*(From Byrdie.com)*

If you're looking to boost your metabolism, proper nutrition can offer up some easy solutions—outside of the gym. Integrating fat-burning foods into your diet can serve to boost thyroid function, revving up your entire system to naturally detox the body.

From avocados to lean protein, fat-burning foods are invaluable for building lean muscle mass, reducing cravings, and kick-starting weight loss. Foods that naturally have a high thermogenic effect offer up the best bang for your metabolic buck. You'll be burning off calories even as you chew. There also exist a handful of specific nutrients and compounds that skyrocket metabolism. Our favorite peak performance foods for ridding the body of excess fat stores also happen to be a delight in the kitchen. Establishing a routine that you look forward to each day will set you up for success. Enter our list of MVPs. Science is about to make summer ab upgrades all too easy.

## Bison

Lean meats have a high thermogenic effect on the body. In fact, 30% of the calories in lean meats are burned up in digestion. Red meat provides essential proteins for building muscle and bone. It also contains immune-boosting zinc and plenty of B12. Bison meat ranks among the highest-quality meats you can consume. Rich in amino acids and CLA (conjugated linoleic acid), bison also contains 35% more protein and less than half of the fat and cholesterol of beef.

Full story. <https://www.byrdie.com/fat-burning-foods/slide4>

## **Starving Animals Under the Care of Rescue Facility; Chimacum Owner Charged**

*(From the Peninsula Daily News)*

Seven starving bison are under the care of a Quilcene rescue facility after they were removed from a Chimacum Valley field last month.

A 72-year-old Chimacum man awaits trial on animal cruelty charges.

Seven of the eight animals found at a property at state Highway 19 and Beaver Valley Road were removed April 25 and taken to Center Valley Animal Rescue at 11900 Center Road in Quilcene by order of Jefferson County.

Animal Control Deputy Terry Taylor had recommended prosecution based on the observations of veterinarian Jan Richards and Sara Penhallegon, director of the rescue, who met him on the property earlier in April, according to court records.

The property tenant, Dennis Lee "Denver" Shoop, 72, has been charged with eight counts of first-degree animal cruelty. He pleaded not guilty at his arraignment in Jefferson County Superior Court last Friday. The trial date is set for July 30.

The maximum penalty for each count is 15 years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine.

Shoop was released on his own recognizance until trial with the requirements that he not go to the rescue shelter and that he relinquish temporarily control of all the bison; the bison may be moved to a sanctuary ranch, and the males were to be castrated, according to Superior Court Judge Keith Harper's order.

Penhallegon and staff members devised a plan to rescue the animals and keep people safe during the process of taking them to the shelter. Four bulls and three cows were put in a stock trailer and transported to Center Valley Animal Rescue.

Penhallegon, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and licensed veterinary technician, had never treated buffalo before.

She contacted the National Bison Association for direction on how to care for them.

"They were a wealth of information for me," she said. "It is a big effort to try to save these animals."

Full story. <http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/news/starving-animals-under-the-care-of-rescue-facility-chimacum-owner-charged/>