



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

Just Two Weeks Left to Register for the NBA Summer Conference!

The deadline to register for the NBA's Summer Conference in Kansas City, in conjunction with the Kansas Buffalo Association, is **June 8th**. That's just two weeks away! You can register quickly at our convenient online registration available at <https://bisoncentral.com/2018-nba-summer-conference-registration-form/>.

The deadline to reserve your lodging for the NBA Summer Conference has been is June 4th, and the hotel room block is about full, so please make your reservation soon. Please note that the hotel cannot honor our discounted rate after the June 4th deadline. Our host hotel, the Kansas City Westin Crown Center, is close to a variety of attractions and a stop on the free [Kansas City Streetcar](#) system that will take you all over KC! Rooms are available to attendees at the special discounted rate of \$159/night - double occupancy. 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.

We've put together an excellent program for the 2018 Summer Conference, hosted by the Kansas Buffalo Association. 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](#).

Among the many highlights of this year's Summer Conference 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, must be present to bid. Speaking of which, don't forget your benefit auction item at this always-exciting live fundraiser! We'll be highlighting these generous starter herd donors in the coming weeks in the Weekly Update and social media, 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.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this historic bison get rendezvous!

Sponsorships Still Available for Conference

Sponsorship opportunities are still available for the National Bison Association's upcoming summer conference, scheduled for June 27-29 in Kansas City, MO.

The Kansas Buffalo Association has been working with the NBA to develop an exciting and entertaining program that will include a barbecue cookoff, a starter-herd auction, virtual tours of Kansas bison ranches, and much more. Roughly 350 NBA members are expected to attend the summer conference.

"NBA conference sponsorships are a great way to support the association, while promoting your business," said Jim Matheson, assistant director of the NBA. "And, sponsorships help make our conferences more accessible and affordable for our members."

A complete list of NBA sponsorship opportunities—and the recognition to be provided—is available here. https://bisoncentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/SCSponsorships5_25_8.pdf

Marketers: Today is Deadline for Spring Survey

Today is the deadline for the National Bison Association's commercial marketers to compete the twice-yearly survey of major market trends.

The survey was distributed to the members of the Commercial Marketers' Committee last week, and that the survey will remain open through this evening. All commercial markets should have received a Survey Monkey link directing them to the survey.

Dave Carter, NBA Executive Director, said, "This survey provides us with vital information on how to best target our resources, so I encourage everyone who received a link to log on and complete this survey."

It's Holiday Season in Bison Country

(Blog Posted by Dave Carter on www.bisoncentral.com)

If red and green are the traditional colors of Christmastime, it certainly looks like the holiday season across much of bison country this month.

At the ranch where our herd grazes in eastern Colorado, and on farms and ranches across the country, brand new red-calves are bounding across rapidly greening grasslands. It's a season of celebration and optimism.

In Colorado, the wet snows forgot to come around last winter, but several days of spring rain have provided an explosion of grasses that supply the mothers with rich nutrition needed for their suckling calves. The herd came through winter in good shape. The new life among the herd, and in the soil, can't help but warm the outlook for the coming months.

There is always a sense of the reality of the business of ranching as well.

Come late fall, ranchers will bring in the herd for annual roundup. At that time, some of the calves will be held back to build herds, while others will be destined to end up in the retail meat case or on a restaurant menu.

It's a reality of the ranching business. Not the most pleasant reality, but a reality nonetheless. Part of that reality is basic economics. Without the demand from customers, there's no business reason to raise the animals. Our partnership can't afford to keep 200 pets.

But there is another reason. With apologies to the *Lion King*, it's the circle of life.

Bison and other grazers are prey animals. Their role in the evolution of the ecosystem is based largely on their ability to "farm" the native grasslands around the world. Their natural grazing habits, their hoof action on the soil, and the nutrients from their manure and urine keep the grasslands healthy, and help those grasslands serve as a giant carbon trap. The digestive systems of those grazing animals have the capability to convert the cellulose in grass—which is nutritionally worthless to us—into nutritionally-rich protein that is valuable to us.

The basic social behavior of these ruminant animals is based around their role as a prey species. And humans have long been the keystone predator.

In today's ranching world, we know that--without the harvest--there's little reason for the new crop of calves each year.

But that part of the equation will come soon enough. For now, I'll think about the red calves, green grass, and the new life of spring.

Lights, Camera, Bison.... Student Chefs Star in Bison Videos.

Three students from the Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts in boulder, CO made their film acting debut on Monday as the prepared and presented their bison-centered dishes under the watchful eyes of a professional film production crew.

The full day of filming was part of the NBA's effort to develop three short on-line videos to help first-time bison buyers understand the ease and versatility of working with the deliciously healthy meat. The film crew worked with the students, and their instructor, Executive Chef AshleaTobeck for more than 15 hours on Monday to capture the footage that will be edited into the videos.

The videos are expected to be on-line by mid-June.

The project is being produced through funding provided by the USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program and the NBA Growth Fund.

Introducing the NBA Bison Research Library!

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 NBA members-only in the [Production Resources](#) section of the website.

The NBA Science and Research Committee has built a Zotero bibliographic database containing almost 2,000 references to scientific literature from scientific journals, university reports, conference and workshop proceedings, and industry publications such as Bison World. The database named "Bison references" can be accessed here: 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 now access the full documents in the database by logging into the Members' Section of bisoncentral.com and joining a similar Zotero group named "Bison publications." Instructions on how to join the group are detailed [here](#).

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, particularly Dr. Murray Woodbury, for working to pull this together, and to the National Buffalo Foundation for underwriting the project."

Bison Calf Born in Colorado Lab for Conservation Found Dead

(From The Daily Sentinel)

FORT COLLINS — A bison calf born in a lab through in-vitro fertilization and introduced to a conservation herd has died.

The Coloradoan reports that the calf was found dead at the bottom of a 30-foot (9-meter) drop-off in April. Managers of the Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd can't be certain how she died, but say it's possible she fell off or was the target of predators. The project's lead scientist, Jennifer Barfield, said coyotes got to the calf "and didn't leave a whole lot for" researchers to look at.

In-vitro fertilization means the egg is fertilized outside of the bison. The method offers opportunities for conservation because frozen embryos are viable for decades. Barfield said the calf was in good health for a year and her death doesn't detract from her success.

Read more. https://www.gjsentinel.com/breaking/bison-calf-born-in-colorado-lab-for-conservation-found-dead/article_cd271e20-5e8e-11e8-ae8b-d3e1eb57029a.html

Montana Bison Experiment Called Off

(From KGWN.tv)

BILLINGS, Mont. Federal officials shut down an experiment on diseased wildlife from Yellowstone National Park after inspectors questioned government protocols for handling infected bison.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture program in southcentral Montana examined whether administering birth control to bison would reduce transmissions of the disease brucellosis.

Brucellosis causes animals to prematurely abort their young and can be transmitted through birthing material. It also can infect people.

Documents released to the advocacy group Buffalo Field Campaign show the experiment was shut down last July after inspectors raised questions about keeping infected and non-infected bison in the same pen.

A month later, the government changed policies to effectively ban such practices going forward.

The Livingston Enterprise first reported the experiment's shutdown.

Department of Agriculture spokeswoman Lyndsay Cole says the research aimed to mirror how non-infected animals encounter brucellosis in nature.

Source: <http://www.kgwn.tv/content/news/Bison-study-called-off-483329201.html>

Preserving A Ranch's Scarcest Resource

(From Amazon.com)

If life's craziness has you craving something a little quieter, roomier, off the beaten path, consider walking a mile or two, or 10, in Kelly Hardy's cowboy boots. Hardy runs a buffalo and cattle ranch in the far reaches of northeast Wyoming. It's 10 square miles of range land and 40 miles from the nearest town of Gillette.

"The thing I like best about it is it's really private," Hardy said. "We're surrounded by 50,000 acres of national grasslands."

At Longreach Buffalo Company's Buffalo Butte Ranch, rush hour means a herd of buffalo gathering around Hardy and his old feed truck, miles out on the range. "The animals will come to it like it's an ice cream wagon in the city on a hot summer day," Hardy said.

Hardy grew up in Gillette, population 32,000. He likes to shop local whenever he can. He'll make the trip into town to buy his feed and other supplies, get his haircut, and take in his grandson's baseball games. But when it comes to running his ranch, Hardy admits Gillette doesn't have everything he needs.

"You can spend an entire day in town looking for something and still come back without it," he said. "I got on Amazon and searched for 'replacement bale spear' and there it was. It's pretty convenient, sitting down for 10 minutes at the computer, hitting that buy button and having it show up in a couple of days."

Hardy is just one example of the rural life, reimagined. Gone are the days of long trips into town and beyond to track down often hard-to-find items. Amazon's large selection, low prices, free shipping, and fast delivery with Prime, free him up so he can devote more time to the work that he loves. Amazon provides the conveniences of big city living, far out in the country.

Full story here. <https://blog.aboutamazon.com/job-creation-and-investment/preserving-a-ranch-scarcest-resource>

Missouri First State to Pass Fake Meat Bill

(From AgDaily.com)

Missouri has become the first state to address the fake meat issue with legislation, sending a signal to other states to follow suit. The bill prohibits misrepresenting a product as meat that was not derived from harvested livestock. The legislation comes at a time when laboratory grown meat is being debated throughout the country and in Washington, D.C.

Missouri Cattlemen's Association (MCA) Executive Vice President Mike Deering expects other state cattle organizations to lead fake meat legislation in their respective state.

"This isn't a Missouri issue. This is about protecting the integrity of the products that farm and ranch families throughout the country work hard to raise each and every day," said Deering. "I never imagined we would be fighting over what is and isn't meat. It seems silly. However, this is very real and I cannot stress enough the importance of this issue. We are beyond pleased to see this priority legislation cross the finish-line."

Full text:

<https://www.agdaily.com/news/missouri-first-fake-meat-bill/>

Beating Flies Naturally

(From Agriculture.com)

Face and horn flies got the upper hand one summer at Linda Simmons' ranch near Twin Brooks, South Dakota. It happened despite two years of feeding insecticide in the cows' mineral.

The swarming flies spread pinkeye to some 70 calves and 15 cows, all receiving a prophylactic antibiotic to prevent worsening conditions. "The treatment cost was around \$5,000," she says.

Searching for nonchemical control options, Simmons developed a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grant project (projects.sare.org/sare_project/fnc14-977/) to experiment with nonchemical fly-control systems that would also have the effect of conserving beneficial insects.

Her first step was to implement rotational grazing, a practice known to thwart flies since cattle are frequently moved. Simmons cross-fenced her 335 acres of main pasture into eight paddocks.

Read more. <https://www.agriculture.com/livestock/cattle/beating-flies-naturally>

Video Emphasizes Recovery Period in Grazing Cycle

(From NCAT ATTRA)

A seven-minute video with Dave Pratt, of Ranch Management Consultants, explains how moving stock through a grazing rotation prematurely results in a cumulative shortening of recovery periods for forage that ends up reducing carrying capacity.

Pratt explains that producers who give in to "Impatient Cow Syndrome" lose potential forage with each early paddock move. When one early move triggers additional early moves, recovery time decreases significantly.

Read more. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-T_9w-TTRw&feature=youtu.be

Grass-Cast: A New, Experimental Grassland Productivity Forecast for the Northern Great Plains

(From USDA ARS)

Every spring, ranchers face the same difficult challenge—trying to guess how much grass will be available for livestock to graze during the upcoming summer. Now an innovative new Grassland Productivity Forecast or “Grass-Cast” has published its first forecast to help producers in the Northern Great Plains reduce this economically important source of uncertainty.

This new experimental grassland forecast is the result of a collaboration between the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC); Colorado State University and the University of Arizona.

Grass-Cast uses over 30 years of historical data about weather and vegetation growth—combined with seasonal precipitation forecasts—to predict if rangelands in individual counties are likely to produce above-normal, near-normal, or below-normal amounts of vegetation for grazing.

According to ARS economist Dannele Peck, Director of the USDA Northern Plains Climate Hub, Grass-Cast’s accuracy depends on how far into the future they try to look. The program’s accuracy improves as the growing season unfolds, so it should be consulted more than just once during the growing season.

Read more. <https://www.ars.usda.gov/news-events/news/research-news/2018/grass-cast-a-new-experimental-grassland-productivity-forecast-for-the-northern-great-plains/>

Senators Seek to Address ELD Issue Through Livestock Trucking Bill

(From AgriPulse)

A Senate bill that would ease trucking requirements for livestock haulers has the backing of two major U.S. cattle groups and a bipartisan contingent of lawmakers.

Nebraska Republican Ben Sasse’s Transporting Livestock Across America Safely Act was officially introduced on Wednesday. The bill would exempt livestock haulers from federal hours of service requirements until crossing the threshold of 300 air miles away from their origin point.

Haulers would also be able to take a break at any point in their drive without it counting against their trucking time, which would be stretched from 11 to 18 hours.

"Our ranchers and haulers are professionals who make the well-being of livestock their top priority and that includes safe transportation," Sasse said in a statement. "The Department of Transportation's current regulations endanger livestock during hot summers and cold winters — which Nebraskans know well — causing significant stress on the animals and concern for the drivers."

A bipartisan group of 10 senators cosponsored the bill: Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., Sen. Doug Jones, D-Ala., Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., Sen. Tina Smith, D-Minn., and Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont.

Senate Appropriators OK Ag, Energy and Water Bills

(From AgriPulse)

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved bills to fund the USDA, FDA and Army Corps of Engineers that steer clear of environmental issues addressed by the House's versions of those same spending bills.

Last week, the House Appropriations Committee **approved** a fiscal 2019 energy and water spending bill with a rider to repeal the "waters of the U.S." rule published by EPA in 2015, prompting criticism from Democrats and environmental groups. The Senate energy and water (E&W) bill approved Thursday contained no such rider.

The closest the Senate came to addressing Clean Water Act issues was a provision in its energy and water bill similar to one in the House E&W bill that would affirm CWA language exempting "normal farming practices" from permit requirements.

The **energy and water bill** would, like the House version, increase funding for the Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works program, to \$6.9 billion, \$110 million above the current year's level but about \$300 million less than the House's \$7.28 billion.

In addition to the WOTUS rider, House and Senate appropriators will have to decide what direction to provide USDA and FDA regarding labeling of genetically engineered salmon. The House bill was amended to require that GE salmon comply with the bioengineered food disclosure law approved in 2016, which now is being turned into regulations by the Agricultural Marketing Service.

FSIS Publishes Guidelines, Seeks Comments, Over Custom Exempt Slaughter

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service today published a notice in the Federal Register announcing the Availability of FSIS Guideline for Determining Whether a Livestock Slaughter or Processing Firm Is Exempt from the Inspection Requirements of the Federal Meat Inspection Act.

The notice also stated that FSIS is requesting comments on a guideline for businesses that slaughter livestock or process meat and meat food products on the exemptions to the inspection requirements of the Federal Meat Inspection Act.

The guideline explains each of the exemptions, when they apply, and which FSIS regulatory requirements must still be met. A downloadable version of the guideline is available to view and print at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulatorycompliance/compliance-guides-index> once copies of the guideline have been published. FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on this guideline.

Comments must be submitted on or before July 24, 2018. Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: This website provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions at that site for submitting comments.
- Mail, including CD-ROMs, etc.: Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3758, Room 6065, Washington, DC 20250–3700.

Millennials drive rise in fresh-meat buying: study

(From Meatingplace.com)

Shoppers are buying more fresh meat compared with a year ago, led by Millennials, who are purchasing more than all other generations combined, according to a study by Acosta, a sales and marketing firm in the consumer-packaged goods industry.

Overall, 18 percent of shoppers are buying more fresh meat versus last year, while 12 percent are buying less, mainly due to price and striving to eat healthier, the report said. Beef and chicken dominate, making up 70 percent of all fresh meat sold. The study also found sales of natural/organic meat are outpacing conventional options.

Among Millennials, purchases of fresh meat surged, up 41 percent from a year ago. Eighty-one percent of Millennials, 74 percent of Gen X and 66 percent of Boomers said protein content is extremely or very influential when making grocery store purchases. The study showed the generations view protein differently, with older consumers more concerned with the health benefits of protein, and younger generations caring about exercise recovery and feeling full.

“Our research shows that protein continues to be a mainstay in shopping baskets, but the kind of proteins shoppers are buying is evolving,” Colin Stewart, senior vice president for insights at Acosta, said in a press release. “Plant-based meat alternative sales are booming and popular with vegetarians and meat-eaters alike. Another trend we’re seeing with protein is that shoppers are paying more attention to labels and product claims but are overwhelmed and confused about what they mean.”

Here's What You Should Be Eating After a HIIT Workout

(From Shape)

Tough HIIT workouts take it out of you, but they don't require an intense refueling plan. "When it comes to HIIT, the work rate is really short, so you won't need an extra fueling strategy like an endurance athlete," says registered dietitian Tiffany Chag. "The two big things you should focus on are to rehydrate after a workout and to make sure you're getting doses of protein throughout the day."

She recommends aiming to eat a portion of protein the size of one or both of your palms, every four hours during the day. Chag's no-fail post-HIIT option is simple: a salad topped with chicken, salmon, or bison. Protein shakes and powders aren't necessary, she says, but if you want to build or maintain lean muscle mass and need a grab-and-go option, they'll do the trick. (On that note, here's [why one nutritionist says the added-protein trend has gotten out of control.](#))

While you won't have to change your diet drastically on HIIT days, it still pays to be more nuanced about which protein and carbs you opt for replenishment. Here are four more recs from nutrition professor Melissa Murphy, Ph.D., of Bastyr University in California.