



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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June 8, 2018

TODAY Is the Last Day 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 today, **June 8th**. You can register quickly at our convenient online registration available at <https://bisoncentral.com/2018-nba-summer-conference-registration-form/>. Or, simply call the NBA at 303-292-2833 and we'll get you squared away over the phone. Heck, even email jim@bisoncentral.com and let us know how many are attending and you'll be covered.

Why should you attend this summer's NBA conference? Here's a few reasons to consider:

- Close to ten educational presentations that will benefit each and every bison producer in attendance, with a majority of presenters being active bison producers themselves.
- Four bison feasts all included with conference registration, including our much-anticipated Bison BBQ Cookoff on Thursday afternoon. An outdoor event that will feature four professional culinary teams battling it out for best bison dish, to be judged by attendees.
- The NBA Summer Conference Trade Show, which features ten exhibitors showcasing their products and services that range from feed supplements to fine bison art.
- The chance to bid on the NBA Summer Conference Starter/Expansion Herd! Six top calves - five heifers and one bull - will be handpicked by some of Kansas' top producers. Must be present and registered for the conference on Thursday evening to bid. Other great items to be auctioned off include a commemorative buffalo rifle, bison paintings and much more.
- Friday will be focused on the new and prospective producer, with a presentation from one of the most successful operations in the bison business today, Ken Klemm's Beaver Creek Ranch, on how to get your herd started for longevity and success. The NBA will also conduct its well-regarded Bison Advantage Workshop before heading out for an optional ranch tour at Hanna Buffalo Company in nearby Baldwin City, KS.

And that's not to mention the fun! The Summer Conference is a family-friendly event with entertainment each evening and the best bison networking in the industry.

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](#).

So, don't forget to register by next Friday and we hope to see YOU in Kansas City soon!

Pet Food Regulators Discuss Bison/Buffalo Label Definitions

The nation's top pet food regulators moved yesterday to develop a working group to consider the National Bison Association's request to clarify feed ingredient definitions to stop water buffalo ingredients in pet food and treats as simply being labeled as buffalo. The NBA is now developing an outreach campaign to urged state/regional bison associations, and individual producers, to urge regulators to clarify the ingredient definitions regulations.

Participating in a webinar meeting of the Ingredients Definitions Committee of the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) yesterday, NBA Executive Director Dave Carter urged the regulators to amend the ingredients definition to prevent companies from misleading consumers into thinking that products containing water buffalo are actually bison. Also participating in the webinar meeting was a feed ingredient importer who opposed any change in the current regulations.

During the meeting, discussion was held on varying degrees of clarification, including a requirement that bison could be labeled as "American buffalo," while water buffalo would have to be labeled as "Asian buffalo" or "African buffalo." The committee was not scheduled to act on any proposal yesterday but did move forward to develop a working group of its members to formalize a recommendation.

AAFCO is a not-profit organization comprised of feed officials from State Departments of Agriculture, and representatives of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Although AAFCO technically has not regulatory authority, it adopts "model regulations" that are universally followed by state and federal regulators.

Following the meeting, Carter noted that the establishment of a working group is a common procedure used within AAFCO to consider regulatory changes. "This is a good step forward in the process," he said.

He added that pet food companies benefiting from the current regulatory loophole are already gearing up to fight any change.

"The Pet Food Institute, which represents most of the major pet food brands, has already been contacted by one of its members with a request to oppose any change. We need to make sure that the members of the AAFCO working group understand the importance of alleviating consumer confusion on this issue," Carter said.

The NBA is reaching out to state/regional bison associations with a list of the state feed officials on the Ingredient Definitions Committee, and some suggested bullet points for communications with those members.

Spotlight on Our Summer Conference Starter/Expansion Herd Donors

The highlight of the 2018 Summer Conference will be an expansion/starter herd being auctioned off at the Thursday evening Benefit Auction. This hand-picked herd will consist of six heifer calves and one bull calf in the herd. The animals will be selected from the donating ranches later this fall and will be grouped together at one ranch and made available to the buyer around the end of November or the beginning of December. Potential purchasers must be registered for the conference and present at the auction to bid on this unique herd.

Featuring some unique genetics, these calves have the potential to get a new producer started in the bison business or will make an excellent addition to any existing herd. In the weeks leading up to the Summer Conference, we will take a look at these donor ranches and share a little about their program.

Today, we will be spotlighting Instinct Bison Producers, owned by Ryan Brady and Jera McGraw as well as Sandsage Bison Ranch which is operated by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. Each ranch will be selecting a heifer calf to contribute to the herd.

Instinct Bison Producers

Ryan Brady and Jera McGraw formed Instinct Bison Producers in 2013 and expanded in 2015 by partnering with Dick Gehring, Black Kettle Buffalo. Instinct Bison Producers, near Ingalls, KS, focuses on pasture-raised bison in their cow/calf operation, offering quality genetics through mindful management of the animals and land on which they thrive. Ryan and Jera are happy to offer support to new producers based on their own hard-earned, trial and error knowledge.

Sandsage Bison Range

The Sandsage Bison Range and Wildlife Area is owned by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and is managed by the Public Lands Division as a multi-use facility. The primary management goals include conservation of an area representative of the Sandsage Prairie Ecosystem, its floral and faunal elements including North American Bison. Founded in 1916, five sections of the Kansas National Forest were transferred by Presidential Proclamation to the Kansas Fish and Game Department for use as a game preserve. The bison herd was established in October 1924 when one bull and two cows were transferred from the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Other original animals included ten head from the Charles Goodnight herd and a single bull from the Beaty Ranch near Lakin, KS.

Over the years several bloodlines have been introduced to the herd including those from Ft. Robinson, NE; Wind Cave National Park, Maxwell Game Refuge, National Bison Range and additional animals from the Wichita Mountains. Herd numbers have fluctuated over the years with reports of 200+ head in the 1960s to as few as 10 head in 2012 due to extreme drought. We currently have 41 head and are working to stabilize herd numbers at 50 head on a year around basis.

Absentee Bidding Available on Starter/Expansion Herd

For those of you who will not be able to attend the Summer Conference in Kansas City, MO later this month, the NBA will be offering absentee bidding on the Starter/Expansion Herd that will be sold at the Benefit Auction on Thursday evening, June 28.

To be eligible to bid on this exclusive offering, we are asking that you pre-register by Tuesday, June 26. Be prepared to give us your maximum bid and we will carry your bids to the auction and bid on your behalf. When you register to bid, please have the maximum bid amount, your contact information and method of payment information ready and we will get you signed up! This is a fantastic opportunity to take home some unique genetics to add to your herd. Don't miss out!

To sign up for absentee bidding, please contact Karen at (303) 292-2833, extension 301 or email her at Karen@bisoncentral.com.

NBA Seeking RFPs for GTSS Auctioneer and Breed Representative

The NBA is requesting proposals for auctioneer and breed representative services for the 2019 Gold Trophy Show and Sale taking place on Saturday, January 26, 2019. The GTSS committee has developed an RFP document outlining the dates, service/work and submission requirements.

Interested parties should email Jim@bisoncentral.com to obtain a copy of the RFP. Deadline for submission is July 15, 2018. All RFPs are to be submitted electronically as outlined in the document.

2018 Bison Food Booklet Available

Back by popular demand, the Bison Food Booklet, inserted into the July Bison World, will again 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.

The 16-page booklet contains nutritional, cuts, cooking and preparation technique information as well as cooking trends, a restaurant profile and plenty of delicious recipes.

Pricing information will be forthcoming in the next week. In the meantime, if you are interested in ordering booklets, please email Karen@bisoncentral.com with your information and an approximate number of booklets you would be interested in ordering.

Update: National Buffalo Museum Herd Has New White Bison

(From the Jamestown Sun)

A new white bison from Shirek Buffalo Ranch, a descendent of White Cloud, was quick to get out into the summer pasture where the bison herd overseen by the National Buffalo Museum roams each day.

“She got out of there (the trailer in which she was transported) so fast, it was like a shot,” said Ilana Xinos, National Buffalo Museum executive director.

Xinos said the museum is trying the year-old bison cow out on a trial basis with the herd.

“We’ll see how things go, sometimes it takes a little time for the herd to adjust to a new face,” she said.

Xinos said the North Dakota Buffalo Foundation, the nonprofit organization that founded and operates the National Buffalo Museum, has a committee that reviews any animals being considered for inclusion in the bison herd. When the white bison was born last year, the committee had been talking with Shirek Buffalo Ranch officials about adding the white bison cow to the herd. The North Dakota Buffalo Foundation Board of Directors decided in May to bring the cow here, at least for a trial basis.

White Cloud became a Jamestown and North Dakota icon as White Cloud lived for almost 20 years as part of the museum’s bison herd. An albino, White Cloud bore another white bison calf, a son who was named Dakota Miracle through a contest. Dakota Miracle is still a part of the museum’s herd.

Read more. <https://www.jamestownsun.com/news/science-and-nature/4454976-update-national-buffalo-museum-herd-has-new-white-bison>

Blue Mounds State Park Debuts Tours of Bison Pasture

(From The Globe)

From the cackle of a pheasant rooster and the staccato of Western Meadowlarks to the sight of deer on the run and cinnamon-colored bison calves trailing behind their mothers, a new custom-built Prairie Tour Vehicle (PTV) gives visitors to Blue Mounds State Park an experience like no other in Minnesota’s State Parks and Trails system.

The vehicle is the result of years of discussion, planning and design, and offers its riders an authentic off-road experience and 360-degree view of the vast prairie landscape that is the Blue Mounds bison pasture. While initially called a Bison Buggy during the planning process, Park Naturalist Amber Brooks said the PTV tours are about so much more than the bison.

The bison, though, are definitely the highlight — if in fact they are in viewing proximity of the vehicle on tour days.

Blue Mounds State Park is home to one of the most genetically pure bison herds in the country, and Brooks talks about their near-extinction and the work that went into building up the

population as part of the tour. She pulls from her cloth sack a cap from a bison horn, a sampling of bison fur and the vertebrae from a bison's spine showing the characteristic shoulder hump.

Read more. <https://www.dglobe.com/news/science-and-nature/4454356-blue-mounds-state-park-debuts-tours-bison-pasture>

Woman Gored by Bison in Yellowstone

(From NBC Montana)

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — Yellowstone National Park officials say a 59-year-old woman is in good condition after a bison gored her. The incident is still under investigation.

Officials say it happened on the morning of June 6 at Fountain Paint Pot in the Lower Geyser Basin. They say Kim Hancock of Santa Rosa, California was with a crowd of people who got within 10 yards of the bison on the boardwalk. Yellowstone officials say when the bison crossed the boardwalk, it became agitated and charged the crowd, goring Hancock. The bison immediately left the area.

Park officials say rangers treated Hancock for a hip injury and transported her to the Big Sky Medical Center.

This is the fourth person to be injured by wildlife in Yellowstone National Park in a little over a month. This is the second incident involving a bison in 2018. There was an incident last year and five in 2015.

Read more. <http://nbcmontana.com/news/local/woman-gored-by-bison-in-yellowstone>

Yellowstone Head Says Trump Administration Forcing Him Out. The Reason: Too Many Bison

(From Associated Press)

Yellowstone National Park's superintendent said Thursday he's being forced out as a "punitive action" following disagreements with the Trump administration over how many bison the park can sustain, a longstanding source of conflict between park officials and ranchers in neighboring Montana.

Superintendent Dan Wenk last week announced he intended to retire March 30, 2019, after being offered a transfer he didn't want to take.

He said was informed this week by National Park Service Acting Director Paul "Dan" Smith that a new superintendent will be in place in August and that he will be gone by then.

"I feel this is a punitive action but I don't know for sure," Wenk told The Associated Press. He wasn't given a reason and said the only dispute he's had with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was over bison.

Ranchers in neighboring Montana have long sought reductions in Yellowstone's bison numbers because of worries that they could spread the disease brucellosis to cattle and compete with livestock for grazing space outside the park.

Wenk and park biologists have said the current population of more than 4,000 bison is sustainable. But Zinke and his staff have said the number is too high, Wenk said, and raised concerns that areas of the park such as the scenic Lamar Valley are being overgrazed.

Zinke is a former Montana congressman. His close attention to projects back home has stirred speculation he has future political ambitions in the state.

Read more. <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ct-yellowstone-chief-bison-20180607-story.html>

Senate Ag Committee releases draft farm bill text

(From AgriPulse)

The Senate Agriculture Committee's draft farm bill would make additional improvements for dairy producers and the Agriculture Risk Coverage program while expanding the Conservation Reserve Program and renewing a research foundation and other popular programs that are slated to run out of money.

The [Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018](#) tracks the 2014 farm bill and would create few new programs. Among the exceptions: An animal disease vaccine bank, although it would have no mandatory funding, and a pilot program to provide produce to low-income people through health-care providers.

As expected, the biggest difference with the House farm bill is the absence of major reforms to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Here is a look at some of the Senate bill contents pertinent to bison producers:

.Conservation. The acreage limit on the Conservation Reserve Program would be increased to 25 million acres, up from the current limit of 24 million acres. The increase would be offset by capping CRP payments at 88.5 percent of local rental rates. The House bill would increase CRP to 29 million acres and cap CRP payments at 80 percent of local rents. The House bill would increase CRP to 29 million acres.

New enrollment in the Conservation Stewardship Program would be capped at 8.8 million acres a year, down from the current limit of 10 million acres. But the draft bill includes some changes that increase support for conservation planning and put more focus on encourage practices that improve soil health. The House bill would eliminate CSP.

Funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program would be gradually raised from \$1.473 billion in 2019 to \$1.595 billion by 2023. Half of EQIP funding would be reserved for livestock producers. The House bill would eliminate the livestock setaside.

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program, which combines spending from USDA programs and non-federal sources, would be funded at \$200 million a year, twice what it now

receives. Under the House bill, RCPP would no longer be funded out of CSP and EQIP and instead would get its own funding source at \$25 million a year.

Research: The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, which was created by the 2014 farm bill, would receive another \$200 million, the same amount as Congress originally provided in seed money. The House bill would provide no new funding for FFAR.

Trade promotion. As in the House bill, the Senate draft would combine USDA's export promotion programs for funding purposes, including the Market Access Program and the Foreign Market Development Program, one of the 39 programs that is slated to expire this year. **Vaccine bank.** The Senate draft authorizes creation of the vaccine bank doesn't earmark funding for it. The House bill would provide \$150 million in one-time funding.

The Senate draft, which reflects a bipartisan compromise between Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and ranking Democrat Debbie Stabenow of Michigan steered clear of some regulatory-relief provisions that are in the House bill.

The full text of the bill is available here:

<https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Agriculture%20Improvement%20Act%20of%202018.pdf>

Brookfield Zoo Staff Examine New Way to Measure Animal Welfare

(From WTTW)

Brookfield Zoo staff have been exploring a new method for evaluating the physiological well-being of animals in zoos and aquarium.

Researchers from the Chicago Zoological Society, which manages the zoo, recently examined a group of animals by looking at a set of proteins known as immunoglobulin, which for years has served as a marker for physical and psychological well-being in humans.

Their findings, published this month in the journal *Hormones and Behavior*, show that concentrations of a certain type of immunoglobulin (Immunoglobulin A) tend to stabilize at higher levels when animals are exhibiting positive welfare. Conditions that create stress for animals, meanwhile, lead to lower levels of the proteins, according to the study.

The discovery is significant because it could establish a new frontier for research on animal welfare, which has until recently focused on reducing negative experiences.

Full text:

<https://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2018/06/05/brookfield-zoo-staff-examine-new-way-measure-animal-welfare>

Evidence of Bison and Blackfeet in the Montana Rockies

(From the Central Oregon Bulletin)

"In 1916, Captain Louis, a chief of the band of Piute Indians near Burns, told the writer that there used to be buffalo all over the Malheur Valley." Thus wrote Vernon Bailey in his book "The Mammals and Life Zones of Oregon," published June 1936.

A hard winter is thought to have wiped out the last of the herd in the early 1800s.

Once I walked along the Deschutes River with a friend and he led me up onto a cliff to show me a petroglyph of a bison surrounded by hunters. There was an arrow in the animal and another in the bent bow of an archer.

Long ago they killed a buffalo in this spot. Or they told of a buffalo taken elsewhere. I'm reading a new book called "Memoirs of a Backcountry Bio" by Vic and Vicki Coggins. When I bought the book, the first thing I did was turn to the chapter on bison.

Vic Coggins, recently retired from a career with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, quotes Bailey's book and provides other historic references to bison in Oregon. This chapter caused me to recall a picture I have of a bison head found near Summer Lake. An obsidian tip is buried in the skull. That ancient warrior may not have survived to carve a petroglyph!

Full story: <https://www.bendbulletin.com/outdoors/6265514-151/evidence-of-bison-and-blackfeet-in-the-montana>

Trump Suggests Separate Trade Deals with Mexico, Canada

President Donald Trump said he might prefer to end the North American Free Trade Agreement in favor of two bilateral agreements with Canada and Mexico, according to news reports.

"I wouldn't mind seeing NAFTA where you go by a different name, where you make a separate deal with Canada and a separate deal with Mexico. Because you're talking about a very different two countries," Reuters quoted Trump as telling reporters.

Last week, the White House announced that Trump would implement tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada, Mexico and the European Union. Those trading partners responded with their own lists of retaliatory tariffs, with Mexico targeting U.S. pork in particular.

On Monday, the president tweeted: "Farmers have not been doing well for 15 years. Mexico, Canada, China and others have treated them unfairly. By the time I finish trade talks, that will change. Big trade barriers against U.S. farmers, and other businesses, will finally be broken. Massive trade deficits no longer!"

Angela Hofmann, deputy director of Farmers for Free Trade, responded to the president's tweet in a press release:

"We have a surplus in agriculture trade. So, by the president's own metric, U.S. agriculture trade has been winning. The only thing that could put that at risk are harmful tariffs that will tax the very exports our farmers depend on for their livelihoods. We can and should address non-tariff barriers, but we can't do it in a way that puts major ag export markets at risk."

Court Finds Cattle Producers Harmed by Lack of Country-of-Origin Labeling; Moves Issue onto Administration's Plate

(Tri-State Livestock News)

Today, the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Washington granted summary judgment to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in a lawsuit filed by R-CALF USA and the Cattle Producers of Washington (CPoW). The lawsuit alleged that the USDA was unlawfully allowing imported beef to be both sold to consumers without a country of origin label and sold to consumers with a "Product of USA" label even if the animal from which the beef was derived was born, raised and slaughtered in a foreign country.

The court, after finding that cattle producers demonstrated they had suffered financial harm as a result of the lack of country of origin labeling (COOL) on imported beef, and that the financial harm they suffered was "fairly traceable" to the USDA's actions, nevertheless ruled against the cattle producers.

"The fact that the court agreed with us that independent pork and beef producers are harmed by COOL makes it even clearer that the Trump Administration and Congress must act now to protect them," said David Muraskin, lead counsel for R-CALF in the suit.

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/ybuhlmg>

Labeling Bill Seeks to Curb States

(From AgriPulse)

A bill introduced in the House and Senate would stiffen standards for product labels by forcing states to provide scientific backing for any label claims.

The [Accurate Labels Act](#) was introduced by Republican Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas and Reps. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., and Kurt Schrader, D-Ore.

The bill's backers include the Grocery Manufacturers Association and the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, whose CEO, Chuck Conner, said state labeling requirements are confusing to consumers and are "hurting farmers, manufacturers and small businesses." Farm groups are trying to block California from designating glyphosate as a known human carcinogen that would subsequently, require a warning label.

Conservation Innovation Grants Offered in Maryland

NRCS is announcing the availability of Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) in Maryland to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. Applications will be accepted from eligible entities for projects carried out in the state of Maryland. A total of up to \$150,000 is available for CIG in FY 2018. All non-Federal entities and individuals are invited to apply for projects between one and three years in duration.

The maximum amount for a single award in FY 2018 is \$75,000.

Applications are due by June 15, 2018.

Read more. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/md/programs/financial/cig/>

Bison, Tuna Steak Burgers and More on Menu at Winter Park Village's New Hangry Bison

(From The Orlando Sentinel)

Good luck finding regular old ground beef on the menu at Winter Park Village's new Hangry Bison restaurant.

Sure, there's bison, spicy Italian sausage and even the meatless Impossible burger, but owner Joe Liguori said he wanted something a bit more sophisticated for his new eatery. The new restaurant combines a menu for burgers, spirits and beer.

"I started with a salmon burger and it just grew to seven other kinds of protein," Liguori said. "I wanted to give people the chance to make the exact burger that would fit their flavor preference and give them everything they wanted to do it."

The closest they have to a ground-beef burger is ground beef short rib, he said.

Read more. <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/consumer/os-cfb-hangry-bison-winter-park-village-20180607-story.html>

Reports Update Research Results at Iowa State University Research Farms

AMES, Iowa — The results of more than 120 agricultural research trials conducted last year at Iowa State University's Research and Demonstration Farms are available online and can be downloaded at no charge.

"These research reports are a valuable resource for farmers, agricultural educators and agribusiness people needing the latest information on crops, soils, horticulture and livestock management," said Mark Honeyman, associate dean for operations for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

The college, in partnership with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, conducts research on Iowa farmland every year. Staff at the farms also coordinate demonstration trials with producers on their farms in those areas.

The reports are annual agricultural research and demonstration project updates, offering updates on agricultural research and agricultural-related scientific activities. They are available at: <https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/farmprogressreports/>

Read more. <https://www.cals.iastate.edu/news/releases/reports-update-research-results-iowa-state-university-research-farms>