



National Bison Association

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Weekly Update from the National Bison Association

A news and update service *exclusively* for members of the National Bison Association.
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July 5, 2019

NBA Heads to Bismarck for Summer Conference

More than 200 National Bison Association members will largely head North for the 2019 NBA Summer Conference in Bismarck, hosted by the North Dakota Buffalo Association.

All the details are available at <https://bisoncentral.com/nba-summer-conference/>.

The three-day conference will offer something for everyone to take away, while networking with your bison friends, old and new, at our many social activities at this family-friendly event.

Thanks to a sponsorship from Insure My Forage, the conference presentations will be professionally filmed and uploaded to the NBA member's area once edited.

The NBA office will be staff-limited next week with most of us at the conference. As such, the next issue of the Weekly Update will be distributed on July 19th.

Bison Battle in Seattle Set for July 17th

Armed with knives, sauté pans and an array of spices, three teams of aspiring chefs from Seattle's Renton Technical College's Culinary Arts Program will square off at 2 p.m., July 17 at the James Brockey Center for the *Bison Battle in Seattle*.

The Bison Battle in Seattle is a unique cooking competition and culinary experience that brings together three teams of student chefs from a local culinary program to compete for scholarships. Featured in this competition, students from Renton Technical College's Culinary Arts Program will be taking center stage for an Iron Chef competition.

Each team will have 30 minutes to devise recipes and 30 minutes to prepare an appetizer and another 30 minutes to make their entrée. Competitors will be judged on presentation, creativity, taste, texture and culinary skills.

Samples of bison in various dishes will be created for everyone to enjoy and savor during the event.

The National Bison Association, in cooperation with USDA's Farmers' Market Promotion Program, Durham Ranch, MacDonald Meat Company and local bison producers are hosting this special pop-up event featuring bison as the main ingredient in a cooking competition and tasting.

The Seattle Battle is the first of three-pop-up bison-centered events being coordinated through the National Bison Association's grant from USDA's Farmers' Market Promotion Program. A second pop-up is planned in Minneapolis, MN on September 15th, and a third is yet to be scheduled.

Dave Carter, NBA executive director, noted, "Each of the three pop-ups will have a slightly different focus. We will be capturing the information from each pop-up, with the intent to develop some guidelines that bison marketers can utilize around the country to schedule similar events."

National Bison Month with Ted's Montana Grill

(From Fox News 31)

July is National Bison Month, but is bison really all that different than beef? Bison is also known as buffalo and it is one of the most nutritionally dense and sustainable proteins available.

One place that offers some of the best bison is Ted's Montana Grill. Ted's Montana Grill was founded by Ted Turner and George McKerrow with the purpose of restoring the American Bison Herds.

To kick off National Bison Month, Ted's is celebrating by offering a lucky winner to win a 3-night vacation for two to Vermajeo, a Ted Turner Reserve in New Mexico. To enter, simply visit one of the 7 Denver locations and snap a picture of yourself enjoying your favorite bison entree. Post the photo on social media using the hashtag "Teds Vermejo Vacation". You can get all the information at Teds Montana Grill.

Read more. <https://kdvr.com/2019/07/04/national-bison-month-with-teds-montana-grill/>

'History on the Hoof': July Designated as National Bison Month

(From CBN News)

The month of July has been designated as National Bison Month to honor America's official mammal.

Once enormous herds of bison thundered across the Great Plains of North America. Between the Rocky Mountains and along the Mississippi River's west bank, from Minnesota to Louisiana, this area of the country was one vast range inhabited by millions of buffaloes.

A conservative estimate on how many bison lived on the Plains during the early 1800s varies between 20 and 60 million.

Mountain men, pioneers, and soldiers later marvelled in their memoirs at the animals' immense size and their ability to move together with some herds covering many square miles at once.

The word "buffalo" comes from a term early French explorers used when describing the animal - "les boeufs." According to The Rapid City Journal, a bull can weigh up to 2,000 pounds while a cow weighs less than half of the weight of a bull.

Read more. <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2019/july/history-on-the-hoof-july-designated-as-national-bison-month>

Fort Peck Bison Arrive In Wind River

(From The Billings Gazette)

Bison migrations have really changed since the introduction of the stock truck.

On Thursday, five genetically pure bison bulls arrived at the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. They came from the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana; they're offspring of a herd delivered from a private ranch south of Bozeman that had been holding them after they were released from Yellowstone National Park. After four years and several thousand road miles, the bison have almost returned to their starting point.

"Restoring buffalo to the Wind River Reservation not only revitalizes the landscape and brings wildlife diversity, but rebuilds our tribe's cultural and historical connections to the land," said Jason Baldes, Eastern Shoshone tribal member and bison coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation. "We are buffalo people, and our ancestors are smiling upon us as we bring our people and the buffalo together once again."

The transfer came together through the National Wildlife Federation's Tribal Partnerships Program, which helped arrange the tribe-to-tribe delivery. The five bulls were released on a 300-acre protected pasture, bringing the Wind River herd to 33 animals. The delivery coincided with the 60th annual Eastern Shoshone Powwow.

"We've seen great success in revitalizing buffalo on our lands," said Robert Magnan, director of fish and game for the Fort Peck Tribes. "We're eager to share that success with the Eastern Shoshone Tribe and others who strive to bring buffalo back to their rightful home in our consciousness and on our landscapes."

Read more. https://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/fort-peck-bison-arrive-in-wind-river/article_68c1ce06-66eb-504c-8c70-58c39951fd57.html

Governor, Secretary Of State Agree Veto On Bison Bill Will Stand

(From The Missoulian)

A disputed bison bill will not become law after Gov. Steve Bullock and Secretary of State Corey Stapleton agreed to end a lawsuit filed over the legislation.

In a court filing Monday, Bullock, who is running for president in 2020, and Stapleton, who is running for Montana's U.S. House seat, agreed to avoid the time and cost of drawing the case out and agreed to make permanent a preliminary injunction issued by a Helena judge last month.

The disagreement comes over House Bill 132, which would have changed the definition of what constitutes "wild" bison in a way that could have hamstrung projects like the American Prairie Reserve, which plans to grow its bison herd from 800 to roughly 10,000.

The bill passed the 2019 Legislature but Bullock vetoed it April 29, saying it would have created more confusion than clarity, especially with bison in Yellowstone National Park. That same day, the Legislature, which had already adjourned its 90-day session, posted the veto letter on its website and changed the status of the bill to vetoed.

A month later, Stapleton said on Twitter that the bill had become law because Bullock's veto was not sent to his office within 10 days of the action. Stapleton issued a chapter number for the bill and put it into state law.

Read more. https://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/governor-secretary-of-state-agree-veto-on-bison-bill-will/article_44f911c2-46fc-576f-a348-3b5c2decee35.html

Idaho Man Was Playing Badminton In His Backyard When Herd Of Bison Ran Down The Road

(From The Idaho Statesman)

Luke Mackowiak was enjoying a peaceful Saturday night with his family playing badminton in the backyard. Suddenly he heard a noise, looked around and couldn't believe his eyes.

"We hear, 'clap, clap, clap, clap' and here come six buffalo running down our road," Mackowiak said. "Then there's a motorcycle chasing them and another truck."

The Mackowiaks live in a Jefferson County neighborhood near 4000 East north of County Line Road.

Neighbors went outside and started taking photos of the bison, who worked their way into a nearby field as some sheriff deputies tried to round up the animals.

James Brower, a spokesman with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, told EastIdahoNews.com the agency has not been contacted about the bison but that isn't unusual because the animals are likely domestic and fall under the jurisdiction of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

Read more.

<https://www.idahostatesman.com/news/northwest/idaho/article232127112.html#storylink=cpy>

Sand Dunes Updates To Manage Elk And Bison

(From the Valley Courier)

The National Park Service (NPS) released its Abbreviated Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Ungulate Management Plan (UMP). This is a public comprehensive plan June 27 to manage elk and bison in the park.

In the plan, the NPS outlines tools to alter elk distribution in the park while continuing to allow public elk hunting in the preserve. Additionally, the NPS plans on partnering with The Nature Conservancy as it assumes responsibilities of managing bison density and distribution in the park. Over the long term, the NPS will adaptively manage elk and bison to meet desired conditions for wetland ecological integrity.

“We value the contributions of our partners throughout the process, including Colorado Parks and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy and tribes,” said Great Sand Dunes Superintendent Pamela Rice. “The National Park Service is in the unique position of working with our partners to meet mutual goals for elk and bison management and furthering the bison conservation legacy of The Nature Conservancy and the Department of the Interior. We look forward to our continued work with the public and our local, state, federal and tribal partners.”

Elk and bison have long been present in the park. The elk herd in the eastern San Luis Valley has grown to more than 5,000, and The Nature Conservancy manages approximately 1,700 bison on the Medano Ranch. Historic levels of elk are leading to adverse impacts on sensitive areas of the park, including the wetland vegetation communities where the existing bison herd also spends a disproportionate amount of time. This planning effort will support the long-term protection of resources and is compatible with activities across the broader eastern San Luis Valley landscape, to the extent practicable.

Source. <https://alamosanews.com/article/sand-dunes-updates-to-manage-elk-and-bison>

Colorado Ranch With Its Own Bison Herd Asks \$45 Million

(From the Wall Street Journal)

A massive northern Colorado ranch that has been in the same family since the 1970s is coming on the market for \$44.9 million, making it one of the most expensive ranch properties for sale in the state.

Named Diamond Tail Ranch, the property is about 45 miles southwest of Laramie, Wyo., and spans the Laramie River Valley at the base of snow-capped peaks.

Full story here. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/colorado-ranch-with-its-own-bison-herd-asks-45-million-11562081717>

Two Animal Anthrax Deaths Prompts Warning From Texas Health Officials

(From Outbreak News Today)

In a follow-up to a recent report out of Texas, the Texas Department of State Health Services is advising the public how to reduce the risk of people contracting anthrax and other diseases from livestock and game animals.

Two confirmed animal anthrax cases in Uvalde County and another 18 other animal deaths prompted the warning.

Anthrax is caused by spore-forming bacteria commonly found in the soil in southern and southwestern Texas. Deer, sheep, goats, cattle, horses and other animals can contract anthrax when they swallow or inhale anthrax spores while grazing. Animals usually die within two days of showing signs of infection.

Anthrax in humans is rare, though people can contract it through handling a dead or sick animal infected with anthrax. Infection in humans usually occurs through the skin. The infection typically starts out itchy and resembles an insect bite that within two to six days progresses into a painless sore with a depressed black center. Infection can also occur when people consume meat from an infected animal.

Full text:

<http://outbreaknewstoday.com/two-animal-anthrax-deaths-prompts-warning-from-texas-health-officials-56393/>

Eradication Of Bovine Tuberculosis: A One Health Issue

(From OIE Panaroma)

From the statistics published by WHO and the declarations made to the OIE, it is painfully obvious that bovine tuberculosis is still a major disease and a cause of concern for a great many countries, as it represents a socio-economic burden that is costly in terms of human lives and resources. This public health and animal health challenge merits special attention through the prism of a One Health approach.

The OIE is committed to working in partnership with WHO, FAO and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease to make a significant contribution to improving the situation. We are working together to strengthen the capacity of our Member Countries to combat bovine tuberculosis, notably by publishing the Roadmap for Zoonotic Tuberculosis. We are also working to ensure that relevant diagnostic tools and technical standards reflect the latest technical advances, both in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code and in the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals.

There is an urgent need to replace the current international standard bovine tuberculin and establish a reference standard for the development of 'second generation' diagnostic tests. This explains why the OIE supports the international collaboration established with the aim of developing and validating a replacement international standard bovine tuberculin. The OIE also supports the research being undertaken to develop innovative approaches to diagnosis and prevention, in particular, through its involvement in the STAR IDAZ platform.

Regarding the challenges facing efforts to control bovine and zoonotic tuberculosis, I must emphasise once again that national coordination of actions and coherence of programmes are preconditions for success. Surveillance, including in wildlife, and the follow-up of notification

reports to the OIE are also of major importance in combating the disease, as is synergy with the network of OIE Reference Laboratories that provide crucial support.

Full text:

<https://oiebulletin.com/?panorama=1-edito-en>

Scientists Discover How To Lower Livestock Methane Emissions

(From Sustainable Food News)

Researchers from New Zealand's University of Otago have identified new processes that control methane production in the stomach of sheep and similar animals like cattle and deer.

The discovery is an important one in the quest to lower global agricultural methane emissions. Animals account for about a third of New Zealand's emissions.

The research, which included collaborators from universities around the world, was published in the [*International Society for Microbial Ecology Journal*](#).

Specifically, the researchers identified the microbes and enzymes that control the supply of hydrogen, the main energy source for methane producing microbes, known as methanogens. "Much of our work to date has focused on the development of small molecule inhibitors and vaccines to specifically target the production of methane by methanogens," said Professor Greg Cook. "This new work provides an alternative strategy where we can now begin to target the supply of hydrogen to methanogens as a new way of reducing animal methane emissions."

Professor Sergio Morales says previous research had already shown that microbes play an important part in controlling methane levels. Now for the first-time researchers understand why. The researchers studied two types of sheep – those producing high amounts of methane and those producing less. They found the most active hydrogen-consuming microbes differed between the sheep. Importantly, in the low methane-emitting sheep hydrogen consuming bacteria dominated, which did not produce methane.

Their findings lay the foundation for strategies to reduce methane emissions by controlling hydrogen supply. One strategy is to introduce feed supplements that encourage non-methane producers to outcompete methanogens.

"Controlling the supply of hydrogen to the methanogens will lead to reduced methane emissions and allow us to divert the hydrogen towards other microbes that we know do not make methane," said Morales.

U.S. Ecosystems Shifting Hundreds Of Miles North, Study Finds

(From Sustainable Food News)

Whole ecosystems are shifting dramatically north in the Great Plains, a phenomenon likely linked to human influences such as climate change, says new University of Nebraska-Lincoln research that analyzed nearly 50 years' worth of data on bird distributions.

The northernmost ecosystem boundary shifted more than 365 miles north, with the southernmost boundary moving about 160 miles from the 1970 baseline.

The findings could inform the development of an early-warning system that would give land managers decades to prepare for ecosystem shift or collapse, allowing them to accommodate or foster the change rather than simply reacting, the researchers said.

Early warning, long the siren song for extreme weather events such as tornadoes, is likewise an emerging goal in ecology. Ecologists long thought that ecosystems respond to external pressures – climate changes, invasive species – in idiosyncratic, largely unpredictable ways.

But the team's new study, [published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*](#), managed to quantify the spatial component of that change for the first time. In doing so, it suggests that ecological responses are much more ordered and predictable than previously thought.

Beyond Meat, Impossible Foods And The Plant-Based Burger Of The Summer. Here Are The Diet Facts You Need To Know

(From CNBC)

A vegan with high cholesterol sounds almost as paradoxical as a hamburger without meat. However, not only do both of these exist, but they both share common ancestors – [Beyond Meat](#) and Impossible Foods.

The health-conscious and environmentally woke populace of America has championed these two companies as heirs to the vegan throne, pushing the country forward to a meatless yet tasty future. However, dietitians have mixed feelings about whether or not these plant-based products should be viewed as “healthy.”

“They’re not much healthier than a meat-based burger,” said Julieanna Hever, a plant-based dietitian and the author of *Plant Based Nutrition (Idiot’s Guides)*. “I’m concerned about the saturated fat levels as well as the excessive amounts of amino acids.”

Indeed, one Impossible Burger contains 40% of the recommended daily intake of saturated fat while the Beyond Burger fares slightly better at 30%.

The impact of the “health halo” consumers place on plant-based meats has been translating quite directly into Hever’s experience as a dietitian.

Full story here. https://www.cnbc.com/2019/07/04/beyond-meat-impossible-foods-and-the-diet-truth-of-the-summer-burger.html?utm_source=Agri-Pulse+Daily+Harvest+2018&utm_campaign=bf2bac0bc2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_07_05_10_04&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6978e27d37-bf2bac0bc2-48790993

USDA Confirms Vesicular Stomatitis Virus in Texas and New Mexico

(From USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Bulletin)

The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa, confirmed findings of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) Indiana serotype (IN) infection on premises in Kinney and Tom Green Counties in Texas, and a third premises in Sandoval County, New Mexico. These three premises are under State quarantine. There has been no diagnosis of VSV-IN in the United States since 1998. While there are other animals on these premises, only horses presented clinical signs to date. The Kinney County premises is the 2019 VSV index case for the United States.

VSV is a viral disease that primarily affects horses and cattle and occasionally swine, sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas. The disease is spread by insects and direct contact with infected animals. Black flies, sand flies, and biting midges are known carriers of this disease, but other insects may also be capable of transmission. The virus can also be spread on shoes, clothing, hands, and contaminated equipment. Biosecurity measures and vector mitigation are in place to reduce the spread of virus within the affected herds. It is possible for humans to also become infected with the disease when handling affected animals. All individuals handling lesioned animals are therefore cautioned to use personal protective equipment to prevent animal to human transmission.

Situation reports and information on the current VSV cases can be accessed here. Additional information on VSV is also available.

If you suspect VSV in your livestock, contact your local State Animal Health Official or APHIS-VS Area-Veterinarian-in-Charge.

Source:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/24ebe47>

Producer Council Recommends Data Needs For Federal Animal ID Reporting

(From Beef Magazine)

One of the USDA's overarching goals for increasing traceability is to advance the electronic sharing of data among federal and state animal health officials, veterinarians and industry. Sharing basic animal disease traceability data with the federal Animal Health Events Repository (AHER) allows state animal health officials and the USDA to quickly trace sick and exposed animals to stop the spread of disease and importantly rule out which animals are not exposed. Currently, sharing information to AHER is voluntary for the states and other systems collecting it.

While in agreement that necessary information should be available to proper authorities in times of an emergency disease event, the Producers Traceability Council recently examined concerns from across the livestock industry about privacy and where data should be stored. Council members discussed and asked questions around the issue of who else may have access to data available to AHER, as well as what information is necessary and how that information is collected and by whom.

The Producers Traceability Council is an independent offshoot of the Cattle Traceability Working Group. The council was established to provide guidance on key issues relating to advancement of the nationwide Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) requirements.

During its recent meeting in Denver, the council developed preliminary recommendations to the livestock industry that include the following consensus points on database liability:

In order to advance livestock traceability for emergency disease events, the minimal amount of data that is required should be collected and transferred electronically to AHER, meeting data standards and USDA standards for security.

Producers have the flexibility and security to house data in third party management systems. It is recommended that third party data management systems be required to share with AHER the minimal data points necessary for disease traceback.

As regulations change, the industry should work with policy and legal experts to further expand protection of producers' private information.

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/y27x9me3>

Collaboration Key To Meeting Consumers' Animal Welfare Expectations

(From Feedstuffs)

Collaboration between veterinarians and producers is crucial in order to meet public demands of high animal welfare, according to international experts at recent Boehringer Ingelheim's Expert Forum on Farm Animal Well-Being. Over 100 delegates from 17 countries recently gathered in Prague for the 12th edition of the conference.

Since 2008, the Forum has brought together animal scientists, retailers, veterinarians, producers and industry advocates to discuss the latest research, data and visions on improving the welfare of animals that supply essential global food chains.

This year's event asked the question: Do consumers and citizens want the same thing? The difference between the two was highlighted by Laura Higham of FAI Farms, who spoke of the "citizen shift," in which individuals who wish to have a greater influence over society - including animal health and welfare - are utilizing spending power to drive ethical food supply chains.

Higham also discussed the variance in farm assurance schemes and whether or not the current schemes meet consumers' expectations for better animal welfare.

Full text:

<https://www.feedstuffs.com/news/collaboration-key-meeting-consumers-animal-welfare-expectations>