



BIG SKIES, BRIGHT HORIZONS  
**INTERNATIONAL  
BISON CONFERENCE**  
**JULY 2017**

## **Call for Papers**

**International Bison Conference  
Big Sky Resort, Big Sky Montana  
July 4-8, 2017**

### **Introduction**

The North American bison industry is experiencing an unprecedented period of stability, profitability and growth. Bison producers are once again rebuilding herds to meet the new demand for meat.

Although bison production has made significant advances over the last several decades, the sector still faces significant challenges in terms of production practices, governmental regulations, processing infrastructure and marketing capabilities. The bison industry needs to take advantage of and share the vast knowledge about practices that has been accumulated, from feed supply to market management.

This conference will focus on important issues concerning bison heritage, herd health, climatic challenges, production practices and marketing opportunities. Key figures from around the world will present the diversity of bison livestock systems, including opportunities and challenges on the horizon.

### **Main objectives of the conference**

- Identify best practices in bison production and marketing;
- Advance animal health and welfare in bison production systems;
- Facilitate trade in bison products; and
- Continue to develop the infrastructure for a vibrant commercial bison business.

### **Target groups**

- Bison producers, processors, retailers and traders;
- Governmental or intergovernmental organizations involved in the sector;
- Researchers, consultants and other service providers;
- Veterinarians and animal nutritionists;
- Journalists; and
- Members of the general public who share a passion for the North American Bison.

### **Representative list of conference topics**

The main issues covered by the conference program include:

#### **Bison Heritage and History**

- The role of American bison in shaping the ecosystem of North America
- The interaction of bison with indigenous cultures
- The lessons from prehistoric bison for modern bison producers
- Driving Bison to the Brink of Extinction
- Of bison and cattle...coming through the bottleneck

**c/o National Bison Association**

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## **Bison Production and Animal Husbandry**

- Impacts of climate change on bison production
- Livestock conversion issues
- Prevention and treatment of diseases
- Feed
- Humane Animal Handling
- Grass-Finished Production
- Grain-Finished Production
- Maximizing production on small acreages
- Parasite control with minimal medicine inputs
- Animal stress minimization

## **Bison in the Marketplace**

- Bison in the era of Slow Food and Celebrity Chefs
- Marketing to the Millennials and Baby Boomers
- The growing role of bloggers and social media
- Grassroots marketing for small producers
- Understanding the Natural Food Consumer
- What's Legal – Behind marketing claims
- Rebirth of the native American diet
- Marketing the nutritional advantage
- More than Meat – Marketing bison byproducts
- Price comparisons
- Economic studies
- Establishing market niches

## **Conference Venue**

The educational sessions of the International Bison Conference will be held at the Big Sky Resort in Big Sky MT, about one-hour south of Bozeman, MT. Located nearby to Yellowstone National Park, and adjacent to the Greater Yellowstone Area, Big Sky is situated in the heart of American bison country. Recreational activities conducted in conjunction with the conference include fly fishing excursions, rafting and black powder shooting.

## **Conference Website**

The conference website is in the process of being established at [www.IBC2017.com](http://www.IBC2017.com). The conference website will provide the conference registration and all necessary features for the conference. Conference sponsors will also be highlighted with advertising space or logos. The conference website will be accessible through the home pages of the U.S. National Bison Association and the Canadian Bison Association.

## **Call for Papers**

Papers are invited on all conference topics. Case studies and practical experiences from the field are strongly encouraged. Organizers anticipate a variety of papers and presentations, ranging from those that are scientific and technical, to those that are practical and/or policy oriented. Single-spaced, one to two page abstracts and presentation proposals should be submitted by March 15, 2017, along with a very brief CV (maximum two pages).

Abstracts and CVs should be sent to [david@bisoncentral.com](mailto:david@bisoncentral.com) with the subject line "Abstract International Bison Conference." Abstracts will be reviewed by the Program Committee. Authors will be notified by April 30, 2017, if their abstract has been accepted, and successful applicants will be invited to provide an oral conference presentation.

## **Conference Proceedings**

The conference proceedings in the form of abstracts will be finalized in advance of the conference and distributed to conference participants in the conference materials package.

## **Sponsorship Program**

Companies, organizations and individuals are invited to participate as sponsors of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Bison Conference.

## **Sponsorship Levels**

Lewis & Clark Presenting Sponsor -- \$25,000 U.S.

Pablo Allard Sustaining Sponsor -- \$10,000 U.S.

Trailblazer Sponsor -- \$5,000 U.S.

Pioneer Sponsor -- \$2,500 U.S.

Friend of the IBC Sponsor -- \$1,000 U.S.

Exhibitor -- \$500 U.S.

## **Further Information**

For further information about the conference, including opportunities for sponsorship, contact Dave Carter at [david@bisoncentral.com](mailto:david@bisoncentral.com).