



## **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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**October 14, 2016**

### **‘Like & Share’ is Outcome of S/R Leaders’ Meeting**

Representatives of seven state/regional bison associations caucused with the NBA President and staff in Kansas City last weekend, hammering out a plan to strengthen social media outreach, and to enhance collaboration among bison associations at all levels.

NBA Social Media consultant Carrie Kocik facilitated a Saturday Morning session regarding the effective use of social media, with a particular focus on Facebook and Instagram as cost effective tools to share news about the bison business. Kocik stressed that associations can help boost each other’s message by liking each other’s social media sites, and sharing their individual posts. This led to “Like & Share” emerging as a theme for the weekend.

The group adopted the following statement as the mission for the NBA and state/regional social media efforts: *Inform our members, and educate and promote all things bison for the general public through a consistent social media platform among NBA and S/R associations.*

Among the specific steps developed during the meetings were:

- Conduct a social media training session during the NBA winter conference;
- Coordinate a product giveaway program to encourage social media bloggers to highlight bison operations around the country;
- Developing effective infographics that can be posted on social media; and
- Develop a list of individuals who coordinate social media for state/regional associations.

Participants at the meeting also agreed to recommend that the NBA Membership Committee develop a proposal for a price discount that would provide a financial incentive for producers to join both the NBA and their respective state/regional association.

### **Do You Like Your Fellow NBA Members? (On Social Media, of Course)**

At the NBA-State/Regional Leadership Meeting, Social Media Specialist Carrie Kocik stressed that one of the best methods to expanding outreach is to build a network of producers actively utilizing social media. Accordingly, if you are on Facebook and/or Instagram please “like” the

similar site of the National Bison Association and your state/regional association. We'll do likewise.

No on either of these social media sites? We'll have special training for you at the 2017 Winter Conference in Denver.

## **NBA Heads to National FFA Convention**

The National Bison Association will once again promote the bison advantage to the next generation of agricultural leaders next week, as the association hosts a booth at the annual FFA convention in Indianapolis, IN.

NBA Executive Director Dave Carter, Assistant Director Jim Matheson, former President Peter Cook of Indiana, and Don Woerner, DMV, of Montana will be on hand to interact with the estimated 60,000 students, advisors and chaperones attending the FFA convention.

This year, Woerner will be bringing to the convention Ernie, a life size taxidermy bison that is cut away so that people can view the skeletal structure from one side, while seeing the hide-on version from the other side.

"FFA represents a valuable opportunity to get our message out to students who are starting to think about their career path, and to the advisors who are helping guide them," said Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association.

## **Wholesale Bison Prices Continue Upward**

As bison processors and marketers compete to secure the animals needed to fill market orders, wholesale prices for young bull carcasses notched yet another historic high in September, according to the latest monthly wholesale price report released by the USDA Livestock and Grain Market Reporting Service this week.

Young Bull Carcasses in Sept. brought an average of \$465.07/cwt., which was \$6.83 higher than the previous month, and \$39.94/cwt higher than the previous September. Similarly, young heifer carcasses averaged \$466.27/cwt., which was \$12.75 less than in August, but still \$55.48/cwt. higher than in September 2015. Older bulls and cows brought \$400.37/cwt and \$389.53/cwt. respectively, both of which were historic highs.

The year-to-date slaughter of 39,142 bison under federal inspection is two percent higher than the number of animals processed during the similar period in 2015. And, young bulls represented 54 percent of the younger animals processed year-to-date this year. That compares to an average of 58 percent over the previous six years.

The latest USDA Price report is available at: [http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw\\_ls526.txt](http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw_ls526.txt)  
The NBA's five-year tracking average report is available in the Members' Section at [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com).

## **What do "HHW" and "Cwt." Mean?**

By Roy Liedtke

President, National Bison Association

The USDA monthly price report for bison carcasses and cuts (See story above) often seems confusing to new producers and others unfamiliar with some of the terminology and methodology utilized in the meat trade.

The average price last month for a prime slaughter weight bull is \$465.07/cwt HHW. Cwt., is terminology for "hundreds of pounds," and HHW, is an abbreviation for Hot Hanging Weight. The USDA reports this price as the price per hundred pounds (cwt.) of Hot Hanging Weight (HHW) for all animals processed in USDA inspected plants across the entire U.S.

To convert this to the price for a live animal, you need to make some assumptions. First, for ease of calculation, assume the live fat bison bull weighs 1,100 lbs. The Hot Hanging Weight (after slaughter, a full carcass hanging on the rail) is generally around 55% to 60% of the live weight. This will vary with type of animal (bull vs cow; old vs young), condition of animal; type of slaughter facility and much more. Again, for ease of calculation, assume 55% dressing percentage.

So the carcass weighs 605 lbs. in this example (1,100 lbs. live weight x 55% dressing percentage). Using the price of \$465.07/cwt HHW (or \$4.65/lb. HHW) makes this animal worth \$2,813 (605 lbs. x \$4.65/lb.). To equate this back to live weight value, divide the total value by the live weight (\$2,813 / 1,100 lbs.) and the live weight price should be \$2.56 per lb. live weight.

While it is important to understand the logic behind the calculation, a shortcut is to simply take the HHW price per pound (\$4.65) times the dressing percentage (55%); which gives you the live weight price (\$2.56). Again, there are many variables here; this is only an average with lots of assumptions. However, it is the best we have for tracking bison prices and can be a valuable tool when marketing your bison.

## **Cody headed to Capitol Hill for Bison Day Celebration November 16<sup>th</sup>**

Cody the Buffalo is scheduled to join U.S. Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) and other political dignitaries at a special Capitol Hill celebration in Washington, D.C. November 16<sup>th</sup>

The wildlife Conservation Society, along with the National Bison Association and the InterTribal Buffalo Council, are coordinating with Hoeven to host a Bison Day celebration from 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., November 16<sup>th</sup>, in Room 325 of the Russell Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C. The event is open to all bison supporters, and individuals can RSVP at <http://bisonday16.eventbrite.com>.

Although National Bison Day is scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup>, Hoeven has been coordinating the Capitol Hill Event for the 16<sup>th</sup> to occur when Congress will likely be in session following the election.

The evening event will feature bison themed food and drink to celebrate the adoption of the bison as the National Mammal of the United States. The North American Bison Co-op is providing the meat for the event.

And, Cody the Buffalo, will be in the “Senate Swamp, an area outside of the Russell Office Building that is frequently used for news conferences and other events.

***Editor's Note: The following news stories were distributed by organizations not affiliated with the National Bison Association. They may not reflect the opinions or the positions held by the NBA on matters such as [genetic integrity](#), [animal management](#), and other issues.***

## **Antelope Island Bison Roundup Set for Oct. 22**

*(From The Deseret News)*

ANTELOPE ISLAND STATE PARK — The public is invited to witness the 30th annual bison roundup beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22, from the east side road leading to Fielding Garr Ranch.

During the roundup, riders on horseback will move the bison from the southern tip of the island to the handling facilities located at the park’s north end.

Following the roundup, there will be music, education opportunities and more from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the White Rock Bay viewing area where bison will be herded into the corrals.

All backcountry trails on the island will be closed that day and potentially the next.

Antelope Island State Park is located approximately 41 miles north of Salt Lake City. Take Exit 332 off I-15, then drive west on Antelope Drive to the park entrance gate.

The entrance fee is \$10 per vehicle for up to eight people. The fee for senior citizens ages 62 and older is \$5 per vehicle for up to eight people.

For more information, call 801-725-9263 or visit [stateparks.utah.gov/parks/antelope-island](http://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/antelope-island)

Source. <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865664612/Antelope-Island-bison-roundup-set-for-Oct-22.html?pg=all>

## **100 Favorite Dishes: Bison Pastrami at to the Wind Bistro**

*(From Westword)*

Well-edited. That's how we'd describe to the Wind Bistro, the restaurant from husband-and-wife Royce Oliveira and Leanne Adamson. The space is snug but smartly appointed, the wine list short but well-curated, and the menu brief but long on winners — no easy feat, given that it changes seasonally.

We're firmly in fall now, and so current dishes are designed to steel you against cool nights. Take, for instance, the bison pastrami, described by an affable server as a deconstructed take on a reuben. "I make the pastrami according to Alton Brown's corned beef recipe," Oliveira

divulges. "Potassium nitrate keeps the color." He adds that he's using buffalo tongue, although you won't see that listed on the menu.

For the finished plate, the chef starts with a bed of sharp rye and caraway gnocchi; it supports a generous heap of thin slices of that pastrami, all red velvet-centered and imbued with pepper. Grafton cheddar adds a complementary earthiness, while tart sauerkraut lends a clean bite; taint prickly heat from the mustard in the creme fraiche completes the balancing act. Together, the ingredients invite nostalgia for your favorite deli counter, while standing firmly in the realm of food that you can pair to a sophisticated red wine.

And you should do that, actually. We recommend the Pinot Noir, which enhances the earth and acidity of this plate nicely.

Source. <http://www.westword.com/restaurants/100-favorite-dishes-bison-pastrami-at-to-the-wind-bistro-8398152>

## **Researchers Work to Spread Prized Genes of Yellowstone Bison**

*(From The Denver Post)*

MINNEAPOLIS — Researchers have transplanted embryos originating from the bison herd at Yellowstone National Park into female bison in Minnesota in hopes of increasing the genetic diversity of herds in the state and helping to restore America's official mammal to the landscape.

While Yellowstone bison are prized because they're free of domestic cattle genes, experts say using them in breeding programs is difficult because they carry a contagious disease called brucellosis, which causes spontaneous abortions in pregnant cattle. Other efforts at spreading the genes of Yellowstone bison have focused on using animals descended from the park's herd that have been certified as disease free. Transplanting embryos uses in-vitro fertilization to get around the problem.

Colorado State University animal reproduction professor Jennifer Barfield and other researchers last month implanted embryos in four female bison at the Minnesota Zoo. Veterinarians will conduct ultrasound tests in the coming months to see if the animals became pregnant. If all goes well, they'll give birth to baby bison in the spring.

The four females are part of a larger "conservation herd" managed by the zoo and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which also includes bison at Minneopa State Park and Blue Mounds State Park that are largely free of cattle genes. The herd would benefit greatly from Yellowstone genetics, officials said, but securing a sexually mature Yellowstone bull to breed conventionally has been impossible because they can't be moved out of the park.

Read more. <https://www.denverpost.com/2016/10/13/yellowstone-bison-genes-research/>

## **There's A Reason the Meat Industry Is Pushing for TPP**

*(From Meatingplace.com)*

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump don't agree on much; but one thing they do agree on could have negative consequences for the U.S. beef, pork and poultry industries. The meat industry

has been championing the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) since negotiations began eight years ago. With the U.S. presidential election right around the corner and both candidates bashing the pact, its prospects for final congressional passage have never been grimmer.

The timing is bad. With the U.S. population growing at less than 1 percent per year, animal protein industry growth depends largely on more meat and poultry boarding boats to foreign consumers in faster growing markets. In the first half of this year, the United States exported about 25 percent of the pork produced, over 16 percent of the chicken and about 13 percent of the beef, according to industry association calculations.

Without the trade barrier concessions built into the TPP, both beef and pork could lose out to competing exporters in key markets like Japan while poultry exporters were looking for Canadian concessions built into the pact to increase access to that market.

"It looks somewhat doubtful Congress will take up the implementing legislation for TPP this session," USA Poultry and Egg Export Council (USAPEEC) President Jim Sumner told **Meatingplace**. "If congressional leadership does not bring TPP up for a vote this year, with a new administration coming in, it looks like it won't happen for a long, long time."

## **USDA Announces McLarty Capital Partners Rural Investment Fund**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) this week announced the launch of a new private investment fund with the potential to inject \$100 million into growth-oriented, small businesses across rural America. The McLarty Capital Partners (MCP) Rural Business Investment Company (RBIC) will be the fifth RBIC that USDA has helped to initiate since 2014.

The initiative is part of USDA's ongoing efforts to attract private sector capital to investment opportunities in rural America to help drive more economic growth in rural communities. "Innovative small businesses throughout rural America need the same access to capital as their urban business counterparts," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "McLarty Capital Partners is an important ally in USDA's efforts to reenergize the rural economy, help small businesses grow and strengthen local communities."

"We are pleased to partner with USDA in this innovative public-private partnership to propel and sustain small business growth in rural America," said McLarty Capital Partners co-founder, Franklin McLarty. "With roots in America's heartland, McLarty Capital Partners is committed to ensuring that small and medium sized enterprises have the means necessary to achieve their business goals, and this endeavor only furthers that mission."

McLarty Capital Partners, founded in 2012 by co-presidents Franklin McLarty and Christopher Smith, provides flexible financing solutions to small and medium sized enterprises in the United States. McLarty Capital Partners is uniquely positioned to support the long-term business objectives of rural American partners across the country. MCP Rural Investment Fund will invest in this vital sector of the U.S. economy with the goal of ensuring that businesses located in smaller communities throughout the nation have access to the capital needed to realize their goals.

The new fund announced today was formed under the USDA's Rural Business Investment Program (RBIP). USDA is utilizing RBIP to license funds that invest in enterprises creating

growth and job opportunities in rural areas, with an emphasis on smaller enterprises. In 2014, Advantage Capital was granted a license for their \$154 million Advantage Capital AgriBusiness Partners fund. The fund is making private equity investments in innovative agriculture-related businesses that support USDA's strategy for economic growth, including bio-manufacturing, local and regional food systems, advanced farming technologies and other cutting-edge fields. Since its inception in 2014, the fund has made a total of 11 investments, totaling \$39 million. Secretary Vilsack has also announced the conditional approval of other RBICs: Innova Ag Innovation and Meritus Kirchner Ventures in April 2015; and in April 2016, the Open Prairie Rural Opportunities Fund. Additional funds are currently under review.

These efforts are part of the Made in Rural America initiative, which was created by President Obama to help rural businesses and leaders take advantage of new investment opportunities and access new markets abroad.

USDA works to strengthen and support American agriculture, an industry that supports one in 11 American jobs, provides American consumers with more than 80 percent of the food we consume, ensures that Americans spend less of their paychecks at the grocery store than most people in other countries, and supports markets for homegrown renewable energy and materials. Since 2009, USDA has provided \$5.6 billion in disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; expanded risk management tools with products like Whole Farm Revenue Protection; and helped farm businesses grow with \$36 billion in farm credit. The Department has engaged its resources to support a strong next generation of farmers and ranchers by improving access to land and capital; building new markets and market opportunities; and extending new conservation opportunities. USDA has developed new markets for rural-made products, including more than 2,700 biobased products through USDA's BioPreferred program; and invested \$64 billion in infrastructure and community facilities to help improve the quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit [www.usda.gov/results](http://www.usda.gov/results).

## **Blackfeet Proclamation Calls for Returning Bison to Badger-Two Medicine**

*(From the Great Falls Tribune)*

The Blackfeet Tribe has passed a proclamation to reintroduce bison in the Badger-Two Medicine area of Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, an area it considers sacred but incomplete without the animal it says stands at the center of Blackfeet culture.

"We're going to work with the Forest Service on this," Harry Barnes, chairman of the Blackfeet Tribe, said Friday. "We're not just going to blindly show up with a truckload of buffalo and turn them loose."

On Thursday, the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council adopted a proclamation announcing the tribe's intention to reintroduce bison into the Badger-Two Medicine, which was once part of the Blackfeet Tribe's reservation.

It is located southwest of East Glacier and sandwiched between Glacier National Park, the Blackfeet Reservation and the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

The area was ceded to the U.S. government along with other land in 1896.

Today, it falls within the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest, and it's designated a Traditional Cultural District under the National Historic Preservation Act.

To the Blackfeet, the region is "Backbone of the World" where they were created, and associated with culturally important spirits, heroes and historic figures central to Blackfeet religion and traditional practices.

The proclamation says the tribe plans to place 89 genetically pure, disease-free bison into the area to graze as free-roaming wildlife, thereby making the cultural district more fully culturally restored and ecologically balanced. Bison, it notes, are at the center of the Blackfeet universe.

The bison that the tribe wants to see grazing in Badger-Two Medicine were shipped to the reservation earlier this year from Canada as part of an effort by the tribe to restore buffalo.

They are descendants of bison captured on the Blackfeet Reservation and moved to the Salish-Kootenai Reservation in the 1870s, when almost all bison were decimated from the West to free up grasslands for cattle ranching, according to the Blackfeet Tribe.

"It's a big full circle," Barnes said.

Read more. <http://www.greatfalltribune.com/story/news/local/2016/10/07/blackfeet-want-return-bison-badger-two-medicine/91735648/>

## **IRS Grants Tax Relief Extension to Drought-Stricken Farmers, Ranchers; 37 States and Puerto Rico Affected**

RS Special Edition Tax Tip 2016-15, October 11, 2016

If you are a farmer or rancher forced to sell your livestock because of the drought that affects much of the nation, special IRS tax relief may help you. The IRS has extended the time to replace livestock that their owners were forced to sell due to drought. If you're eligible, this may help you defer tax on any gains you got from the forced sales. The relief applies to all or part of 37 states and Puerto Rico affected by the drought.

Here are several points you should know about this relief:

- **Defer Tax on Drought Sales.** If the drought caused you to sell more livestock than usual, you may be able to defer tax on the extra gains from those sales.
- **Replacement Period.** You generally must replace the livestock within a four-year period to postpone the tax. The IRS can extend that period if the drought continues.
- **IRS Grants More Time.** The IRS has added one more year to the replacement period for eligible farmers and ranchers. The one-year extension of time generally applies to certain sales due to drought.
- **Livestock Sales that Apply.** If you are eligible, your gains on sales of livestock that you held for draft, dairy or breeding purposes apply.

- **Livestock Sales that Do Not Apply.** Sales of other livestock, such as those you raised for slaughter or held for sporting purposes and poultry, are not eligible.
- **Areas Eligible for Relief.** The IRS relief applies to any farm in areas suffering exceptional, extreme or severe drought conditions during any weekly period between Sept. 1, 2015, and Aug. 31, 2016. The National Drought Mitigation Center has listed all or parts of 37 states and Puerto Rico that qualify for relief. Any county that borders a county on the NDMC's list also qualifies.
- **2012 Drought Sales.** This extension immediately impacts drought sales that occurred during 2012.
- **Prior Drought Sales.** However, the IRS has granted previous extensions that affect some of these localities. This means that some drought sales before 2012 are also affected. The IRS will grant additional extensions if severe drought conditions persist.

Get more on this relief in Notice 2016-60 on IRS.gov. This includes a list of states and counties where the IRS relief applies. For more on these tax rules see Publication 225, Farmer's Tax Guide on IRS.gov.

Keep a copy of your tax return. If you filed an extension and face the Oct. 17, 2016, filing deadline, you may need your Adjusted Gross Income amount from your 2014 tax return to file. Get a transcript of your prior year's return at [www.irs.gov/transcript](http://www.irs.gov/transcript).

Source. <https://www.irs.gov/uac/newsroom/irs-grants-tax-relief-extension-to-drought-stricken-farmers-ranchers-37-states-and-puerto-rico-affected>

## **USDA Offers Hurricane Impacted Florida Farmers and Livestock Producers Immediate Disaster Assistance**

*(From USDA's Farm Service Agency in Florida)*

Gainesville, FL -- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Florida Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, Rick Dantzler, reminds farmers and livestock producers of federal farm program benefits that may be available to help eligible producers recover from recent heavy rains, flooding and other qualifying natural disaster events related to Hurricane Mathew.

"This significant weather event in Florida has left extensive damage in its wake," said Dantzler. "As such, many farmers and livestock producers are experiencing crop loss and forage loss, displaced and deceased livestock and property damage."

FSA offers disaster assistance and low-interest loan programs to assist agricultural producers in their recovery efforts following qualifying natural disasters.

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/qvze6y5>

## **Wyoming Agricultural Producers Share Soil Practices in New Videos**

Farmers and ranchers in five Wyoming counties in a series of videos describe innovative soil practices they say are cost-effective and help maintain profitability.

Producers in Big Horn, Fremont, Goshen, Hot Springs and Washakie counties are featured in the eight videos, "Soil Management on Wyoming Farms and Ranches," available at [bit.ly/wyomingsoils](http://bit.ly/wyomingsoils).

University of Wyoming Extension educator Caitlin Youngquist developed the videos of farmers and ranchers showing practices specific to Wyoming.

They offer a convenient reference for local practices that truly function in Wyoming, said Youngquist, who is based in Washakie County and serves northern Wyoming.

"It is a mini-field day idea," she said. "You get to learn the kinds of things you would by sitting down with these producers and having coffee while asking questions or walking around the farm with them and hearing their stories of what they have tried."

She said the idea was to answer the questions of what is possible in Wyoming – what people are doing in terms of innovative or interesting soil practices, soil fertility, tillage, cover crops and what people are experimenting with.

"Ag professionals can expand their knowledge because these videos explain current conditions and ways to improve production. Viewers can then spread these new strategies to other growers," said Youngquist.

According to Youngquist, the UW Extension YouTube channel was created as an in-office field day for extension educators but is now growing into a platform available to all ag professionals, such as farmers and ranchers, agronomists, conservation district members, extension educators and other industry folks.

Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education provided funding for the videos.

For more information, contact Youngquist at 307 347-3431 or [cyoungqu@uwyo.edu](mailto:cyoungqu@uwyo.edu).

Source: <http://www.wyomingextension.org/news/2016/09/29/wyoming-agricultural-producers-share-soil-practices-in-new-videos/>

## **Livestock Diseases Are 'Untold Story' Of Food Waste**

*(From Feedstuffs)*

An estimated one-fifth of livestock around the world are lost to disease. Dr. Margaret Zeigler, executive director of the Global Harvest Initiative, said that is perhaps the "greatest untold story of food waste today."

Zeigler, who authored the latest "Global Agricultural Productivity" (GAP) report issued Wednesday, highlighted in the report the need to find new ways to improve the health of animals that also coincides with the health benefits needed for people.

One in four dairy cattle in the U.S. contract mastitis, which is the leading cause of the need for therapeutic antibiotic treatments in U.S. dairy animals. It requires the dairy industry's greatest use of shared-class antibiotics (those used in human and animal medicine). Health regulations also prohibit the sale of milk with antibiotic residue, so 1.2 billion servings of milk are lost each year from the dairy value chain. "Their investment is poured down the drain," Zeigler said of the milk that has to be thrown out when the cows are being administered antibiotics.

Full text:

<http://feedstuffs.com/story-livestock-diseases-untoldfood-waste-45-147883>