



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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November 11, 2016

Thank you , Veterans

The NBA wishes to recognize all of our Veteran-members on this Veteran's Day, and we thank you for your service and sacrifice. Fittingly, the bison was named our first-ever national mammal of the United States this year.

U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) meeting

(From, Dave Hunter, DVM, NBA Representative at USAHA)

The 2016 meeting of the USAHA meeting was held in Greensboro, N.C. The importance of the meeting is to have federal, state and private veterinarians along with stakeholders make recommendations to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on guidelines and rules for livestock, exotic species and captive wildlife. There are multiple committees that address issues over various disease and health issues concerning various species. The USAHA makes recommendations to the USDA on changes to the Code of Federal Regulations. Many things have changed for the better concerning bison producers.

Thirty years ago this meetings' participants considered bison a "captive wildlife" species. After that they were reclassified as an exotic (imagine that in North America) species by USAHA. Many remember the time when TB testing, was required for bison moving intra- and interstate along with other wildlife criteria.

The good news is that we are considered as a viable industry and we have a "seat at the Big Kids table" (Dave Carter's words) when discussing issues in the various committees. The committees where the NBA is represented include; Committee on Infectious Diseases of cattle, bison and camelids, Committee on Wildlife Diseases, Subcommittee on Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area, Committee on Brucellosis (for obvious reasons), Committee on Captive Wildlife and Alternative Livestock and we have a seat on the Board of Directors for the USAHA. It is important to be involved in wildlife issues and many of the diseases that could impact bison herds may potentially come from these wild species.

The NBA has come a long way proving our creditability as a viable industry. Producers should be thankful that the NBA has been involved in this process.

NBA Recipe and Photo Contests Returns to Winter Conference

The NBA is pleased to announce the return of the recipe and photo contest that used to be regular features of our Winter Conference. The association used to hold these contests annually at the NBA get together in January, and the winter conference planning committee has decided to bring them back. Please see details below and direct questions to jim@bisoncentral.com.

Photo Contest:

Please help us celebrate the animal we love by sharing your best bison photos by Jan. 2, 2017. Professional photojournalists will judge the contest, and a people's choice winner will be chosen by National Bison Association members attending the 2017 NBA Winter Conference in Denver. In addition to bragging rights and possible publication in Bison World, there will be plaques and cash prizes for the top three places and the people's choice winner. Other rules of the contest are:

- Submission deadline – January 2, 2017.
- All photo contest submissions become the property of the National Bison Association and may be used for promotional purposes.
- No more than 2 entries per individual.
- Submit entries (digital only) to jmatheson@bisoncentral.com by 11:59 p.m. Jan. 2, 2017.
- Format: digital only, highest resolution possible. If you are unable to email your submission, contact Jim Matheson at jmatheson@bisoncentral.com for a Dropbox upload option.
- Entries must be accompanied by a [photo release form](#), Word version available [here](#).

Prizes:

1ST – Plaque & \$150

2ND – Plaque & \$100

3RD - Plaque & \$75

PEOPLE'S CHOICE - Plaque & \$50

Recipe Contest:

The NBA is also pleased to bring back our Winter Conference recipe contest this year! We'll be having a Bison Slider recipe contest with the top two recipes to be served at the Thursday luncheon for attendees to crown the best bison slider of 2016!

The top two winners will receive a commemorative plaque and the first place winner will receive a special prize in addition to having their slider recipe featured in Bison World magazine, as well as on the NBA website and shared on NBA social media. Please see [here](#) for all the contest rules and please submit your best recipe!

Consign Early and Save on GTSS

There is less than one month to take advantage of your early-bird discount by consigning animals to the 2017 Gold Trophy Show and Sale (GTSS)! Consign by December 9th and receiving a 10% discount on your consignment fees. Consign 7 or more animals, both live and market classes apply, and get one free Winter Conference registration - a \$175 value!

Please consider bringing animals to the NBA's Gold Trophy Show and Sale this January 17 - 21! The first major bison auction results of the season are just in from Antelope Island State Park in Utah, and indicate a very strong year for selling live animals. See the results [here](#).

To consign quickly and securely online, please click [here](#). Please also see the revised 2017 [rules and regulations](#) as a couple of the testing dates have changed. For all other documents, please visit <http://bisoncentral.com/about-nba/gold-trophy>

We also have some very cost-effective GTSS catalog advertising opportunities available, but space is limited. Please see this year's ad rates and specs [here](#). The catalog will again be shared both in print and digital editions the week leading up to the sale, and distributed at the NBA Winter Conference, the Gold Trophy Show and Sale, and to those bidding and watching the sale online, thereby ensuring a wide audience.

Finally, we have some great trophy sponsorships available for those who want to support the Gold Trophy Show and Sale while promoting their business to the most targeted group of buffalo folks out there. Whole class (1st - 3rd plus honorable mention) sponsorships are available for \$500 with your business or ranch name engraved on the back of our popular belt buckle trophies that we'll be bringing back this year. You'll also enjoy more recognition with your logo on banners as well as in Bison World magazine and the Weekly Update. Please email Jim Matheson at jjim@bisoncentral.com, or call 303-292-2833, to inquire.

NBA at North American Farm Broadcasters

Here's an interesting exercise: Develop some quick talking points to explain the bison advantage to an audience of agricultural producers. Deliver those talking points to a farm broadcaster. Then, repeat about 30 times.

That's the exercise that NBA Executive Director Dave Carter and the association's Vice President, Dick Gehring of Kansas, undertook Thursday as they hosted a booth at the annual Trade Talk event at the National Association of Farm Broadcasting convention in Kansas City, MO.

Trade Talk is an annual event in which the broadcasters attending the NAFB convention circulate through a room conducting interviews with officials staffing booths hosted by agricultural companies and organizations. The NBA has participated in Trade Talk for the past five years.

"This is an ideal forum for us to get our message out about the opportunities available in bison production and marketing," Carter said after the event. "Several of the interviews that Dick and I

conducted today were with national and regional agricultural networks with several radio stations in their mix.”

Carter added, “We heard several comments from broadcasters today that it was refreshing to have the strong, positive message from the bison association in the midst of a lot of gloomy interviews from the mainstream commodity groups.

Commercial Marketers’ Urged to Complete Survey

Commercial bison marketers have until next Wednesday to complete their twice-yearly survey of market conditions. The NBA is conducts the on-line survey in May and November each year to assess market conditions and trends.

All members of the commercial marketers’ committee have been emailed a link to the only survey.

“This is a vital tool for the association, and for the overall bison business,” said NAB Executive Director Dave Carter “It’s very important to get participation from all of the marketers so that we can have accurate feedback on those conditions.”

Notice of Proposed Bylaws Amendments

The bylaws of the National Bison Association have not been amended since 2010. Last year, the National Bison Association Board of Directors initiated a process to review and update our organizational bylaws. The process has been extremely thorough, and resulted in some language intended to clarify the rules that govern our association.

We reviewed these proposed changes at the General Membership meeting at the 2016 winter conference in Denver. As directed by our bylaws, final adoption of these changes will require formal ratification by the members present at the 2017 annual meeting (see below).

ARTICLE XV AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed and new Bylaws may be adopted by the Board of Directors, provided written notice of the proposed amendment, alteration or new Bylaws shall have been given to members of the Board of Directors at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting. Such alteration, amendment, repeal or new Bylaws shall be subject to ratification by a majority of the members present at the next ensuing annual meeting of the members of the Corporation.

Use the links here to access the two copies of the proposed amended bylaws. One is a red-lined version, showing each of the changes. The other is a clean copy that will serve as the actual bylaws, if ratified by the members at the annual meeting at Winter Conference on January 20, 2017.

We are providing these proposed amended bylaws in advance of the annual meeting so that all

members can review them before taking final action.

Bison Scholarships Awarded to Nine University Students

Nine emerging livestock industry leaders received welcomed financial support this month as they were named recipients of the 2017 Throlson American Bison Foundation scholarship.

The Throlson Foundation scholarship review committee received such quality applications this year that the group decided to award each of the students. This year also saw the addition of the Rich Zahringer memorial scholarship fund, which supports those students with a focus on agricultural business and accounting in recognition of the fund's namesake, who was a longtime bison industry accountant who is among the pioneers of this business.

Those receiving the scholarship from the Zahringer fund include Taylor Ball from Fresno State University, Thor Burnside from Fort Hays State University and Nadine O'Riordan from Cal Poly. Students in receipt of the Throlson American Bison Foundation scholarship include McKenzie Beals from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Autumn Dunn from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Emma Haak from the University of Wisconsin – Platteville, Sarah Letsinger from Purdue University, Amy McBirney from the University of California – Davis, and Toni Rasmussen from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

The primary mission of the foundation is to annually award scholarships in bison related studies. Some previous winning students have pursued degrees in veterinary medicine (production or pathology research), nutrition (livestock or meat), animal science, and behavior science. One common theme they have all possessed is an interest in the advancement of the bison industry.

You can support the Throlson American Bison Scholarship by making a tax-deductible to the Throlson American Bison Foundation by contacting the NBA at (303)292-2833, or by emailing info@bisoncentral.com, or by visiting <http://bisoncentral.com/about-nba/throlson-american-bison-foundation>.

Bison Have Been Bringing Americans Together For Centuries

(From the Huffington Post)

We are on the eve of an election, I can safely say, that is unlike any we have seen before. Regardless of which way it turns out, the country could use something to bring people together, something to rally around.

For this tall task, I humbly suggest the bison.

Today, November 5th, is National Bison Day - a day to celebrate everything wonderful about this magnificent animal that is uniquely American. The bison is the steward of our grasslands and the keystone upon which ecosystems depend. It is an economic driver, bringing tourism to wildlife reserves, national parks and zoos, as well as sustaining a multi-million dollar meat production industry. And it is a cultural touchstone, especially for the Native Americans who looks to the bison, or buffalo, as the centerpiece of their spiritual identity.

These are all great contributions to our society, one might think, but how does the shaggy behemoth have anything to do with the electoral politics that currently divide the country?

The answer is that the bison have already brought the two parties together this year. In April, thanks to bipartisan relationships, Senators and Representatives agreed to pass a bill that would adopt bison as the National Mammal of the United States. The leaders and supporters of that legislation, called the National Bison Legacy Act, came from all parts of the country and a wide range of political beliefs. But all had very good reasons for bison to be our National Mammal, whether as a tribute to Native American tribes, as a representation of western culture, as recognition of its conservation history, or simply because they are so uniquely American.

In the end, during a year in which Congress had difficulty finding common ground, the bill passed both houses of Congress by unanimous consent, and it was signed into law by President Obama on May 9th.

Read more. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/john-f-calvelli/bison-have-been-bringing_b_12813602.html

Wyoming state veterinarian, Dr. Jim Logan, consulted in tribe's acquirement of bison

(From the Tri-State Livestock News)

The Shoshone tribe, in cooperation with the US Fish & Wildlife Services (USFWS) and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), imported a small group of American bison to a privately (tribal) owned property near Morton and Pilot Butte reservoir on Nov. 3. Since June, these entities have involved the Wyoming state veterinarian in this process to assure that they were legally importing the animals according to Wyoming statute and the Wyoming Livestock Board's import regulations.

Recent articles in local publications may have given the perception that these bison were released to run in the wild on the Wind River Indian Reservation, and several people have expressed concern about safety and health risks from these animals. The fact is that the bison are contained in an approximately 300-acre pasture under good strong fence on private property.

According to state veterinarian, Dr. Jim Logan, the group actually went above and beyond state import requirements for domestic bison. All of the imported animals have tested negative for brucellosis and all are officially, individually identified as per USDA APHIS and state of Wyoming requirements. The female bison are brucellosis vaccinates. The origin of the animals is Iowa which is a brucellosis- and TB-free state.

"I have no concerns with the health status of these animals, and I do not believe that they pose any health risk to Wyoming livestock," Logan said. "During its planning for this translocation, the tribe, USFWS, and NWF requested my input on management and handling of the bison, and they accepted my recommendations. If the bison are well-managed and fed, there should be no problems associated with this effort."

He added that bison are regulated by both the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the Wyoming Livestock Board through joint Chapter 41 Rules entitled, Bison Designated as Wildlife.

This rule outlines protocols and responsibilities for bison running at large or privately-owned bison that breach containment, so there are rules in place to deal with escaped bison should that ever occur.

–Wyoming Livestock Board

Source. <http://www.tsln.com/news/wyoming-state-veterinarian-dr-jim-logan-consulted-in-tribes-acquirement-of-bison/>

Wood Bison Roam Once Again

(From the Mount Airy News)

Charlie Minton released a small herd of wood bison on his farm last week, returning to Surry County a keystone species native to the area and fulfilling his dream.

“You’re either born into farming or it seems like you work your entire life to get into it,” said Minton, who falls into the latter category.

Minton, a 43-year-old Mount Airy physician who grew up in Elkin, began what would become Beulah Bison Farm with a small land purchase in his early 20s.

The land was located out almost to Lowgap, near the Edward-Franklin House and Camp Raven Knob, where Minton had worked in the 1990s.

His parents had moved to Florida and Minton wasn’t interested in following.

“I’d been living out of my backpack and wanted a piece of land to call home,” he said. “I’ve been here ever since.”

The doctor said he’s been working “almost constantly” to improve the land, which he expanded over the years to its current 200 acres.

“I hacked my house out of the wilderness,” working in his spare time from work responsibilities. “It’s almost in a sense a homestead.”

He now resides with his wife, Catherine Perkins-Minton, and their three young children.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Minton turned the focus of his farm to the wood bison more than a decade ago.

“They’re amazing animals,” said Minton, referring to his choice of livestock. “They’re not pets,” he added. “You don’t walk up to them and try to take a selfie... You don’t really hear about people from Surry County doing that,” he said, expressing confidence local residents wouldn’t try that.

Minton’s fascination with the animals runs deep. He rattled off a list of reasons of why he was drawn to bison as opposed to something more conventional, such as cattle.

Read more. <http://mtairynews.com/news/45641/wood-bison-roam-once-again>

Anchor Helps Restore Bison to Newton County

(From the Chicago Tribune)

For the past nine years, Ted Anchor has worked at The Nature Conservancy's 8,300-acre Kankakee Sands project located between Lake Village and Morocco. Our interview took place at Kankakee Sands headquarters. A buffalo chip's toss from headquarters along U.S. 41 is a billboard that reads: "This was once the bed of Beaver Lake."

Anchor, 44, lives in Kankakee, Ill. It's about a half-hour commute to work.

"I grew up in Elk Grove Village, Ill," Anchor began. I went to the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where I did my grad work in land management and restoration.

"My family had cash rent vegetable farms. All that land was gone by the '60s. I grew up in the first subdivision to be built in one of the farm fields. I watched it change. Places where I played as a kid went from agriculture and fence rows to subdivisions and strip malls. I hated it. I couldn't wait to get out."

It's refreshing to interview someone who really enjoys what they do for a living.

"When I came on board here, Chip O'Leary gave me three things to pick from. He gave me bison, Franklin's ground squirrels or American burying beetles. It was a no-brainer. It's something I always wanted to do. When I met my wife in '96, I told her I wanted to manage a big site with bison on it. This is the height of my career."

What day did the bison arrive?

"October 15. There are 23 of them, seven bulls and 16 cows. They should all be bred. Gestation is nine months."

Do bulls get along with bulls?

"There will be some sparring out here. That's part of herd dynamic. We're using the bison as part of the ecosystem."

Read more. <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/lifestyles/ct-ptb-manes-anchor-st-1109-20161109-story.html>

USDA to Tighten Food Safety Inspections in 5-Year Plan

(From Bloomberg BNA)

The Agriculture Department office tasked with inspecting meat, poultry and eggs for foodborne pathogens is set to expand its testing as part of its five-year strategic plan.

In its report, the Food Safety and Inspection Service laid out a broad agenda that would increase inspections, toughen food safety standards and expand processes for evaluating imported food products covered by the agency.

"FSIS is expanding the breadth, depth, and frequency of its sampling to better address gaps in testing for pathogens and chemical residues in FSIS-regulated products," the agency said in the Nov. 4 report.

The agency plans to toughen pathogen reduction standards, increase the percentage of establishments at which FSIS collects samples and streamline its testing process to reduce duplication, the report said.

The agency said it will put a priority on large-scale facilities like retail and warehouse locations.

Full text: <http://www.bna.com/usda-tighten-food-n57982082453/>

How We Discovered The 'Higgs Bison', Hiding in Plain Sight in Ancient Cave Art

(From ScienceAlert.com)

More than 30,000 years ago, early cave artists in what is now southwestern France ventured deep underground into limestone caves, where they painted elaborate and detailed frescoes of the huge animals that dominated their lives.

The accuracy of the depictions was remarkable – far better than most of us could manage crouched under a sloping damp wall under the flickering light cast by flaming bundles of vegetation and fat.

The paintings record a world of cave lions, mammoth, bison, and horses, which we are only just beginning to unravel using the combined technologies of ancient DNA and radiocarbon dating. The results show that despite studying cave art for hundreds of years, we have been blind to some of the important stories the artists were telling.

Our [research, published today](#), is a case in point. We have used ancient DNA from fossil bones to deduce the existence of a newly discovered bison species – only to discover that it was already recorded on the walls of caves across Europe, such as in Niaux Cave in southwestern France 17,000 years ago.

In 1999, we began studying DNA from ancient bison bones found across the northern hemisphere, where Steppe bison had ranged from modern-day Britain to Mexico during the late Ice Age.

Our aim was to study the impacts of climate change on animal populations, and sure enough we quickly found that in North America, populations of bison collapsed dramatically around the Last Glacial Maximum (between about 18,000 and 21,000 years ago).

This was well before humans arrived in North America, and it was the first clear demonstration of the key role played by climate change in the extinctions of bison, along with a range of other large species collectively known as megafauna

Full story at: <http://www.sciencealert.com/how-we-discovered-the-higgs-bison-hiding-in-plain-sight-in-ancient-cave-art>

Alberta bovine tuberculosis case investigation now includes Saskatchewan

(From the Calgary Herald)

The food safety investigation into a case of bovine tuberculosis that was found in an Alberta cow now extends into Saskatchewan.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency says two farms in Saskatchewan - but just one infected herd - are under quarantine along with 30 farms in southeastern Alberta.

Chad MacPherson, spokesman for the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, says it's not a new instance of the contagious bacterial disease.

He says a ranch in Saskatchewan's southwest was placed under quarantine based on a trace-out from the farm in Alberta where the infected cow was from.

Last week, the CFIA warned that more ranches could be placed under quarantine and suggested the process of testing cattle and tracing where the animals have lived is expected to take months.

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/osdsrx3>

USDA Begins National Agricultural Conservation Survey

(From USDA Press Release)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is surveying 16,000 farmers and ranchers across the country through February 2017 about their conservation and production practices on cultivated and non-cultivated farmland. The results of the 2016 National Resources Inventory-Conservation Effects Assessment Project (NRI-CEAP) survey will further document on-farm conservation accomplishments and develop science-based solutions that help farmers and ranchers improve the environment.

The survey will measure the environmental benefits associated with installing and using conservation practices on agricultural land," said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "Responses to the survey can directly benefit producers themselves by helping leaders focus on what producers need to install conservation practices that are best for their operations environmentally and financially."

Over the past several months, NASS contacted 25,000 farmers and ranchers to determine if their land meets the criteria to be included in the survey. Now, NASS representatives are contacting those with eligible agricultural land to schedule in-person interviews.

The survey asks for information on conservation practices installed, nutrients and pesticides applied, cropping history, irrigation, and grazing for the 2014-2016 production years. Those responding should expect that the survey will take about an hour to complete, depending upon

the size and scope of the operation and conservation practices. Having records on hand will help shorten the time needed to complete the questionnaire.

Read more. https://www.nass.usda.gov/Newsroom/2016/11_10_2016.php

USDA Seeks Applications for \$25 Million in Conservation Innovation Grants

(From USDA Press Release)

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA is seeking new proposals for cutting-edge projects that will provide new conservation opportunities through its competitive Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program. Through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the department will invest up to \$25 million for projects that spark the development and adoption of innovative conservation technologies and approaches in areas like conservation finance, data analytics, and precision conservation to benefit producers on private agricultural and forest lands.

"Conservation Innovation Grants have played a critical role in developing and implementing creative new methods to conserve the nation's private agricultural lands and strengthening rural communities," said Vilsack. "Today's announcement builds on our support of technologies and approaches that help producers increase resiliency to extreme weather such as drought and floods."

CIG is authorized and funded under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and fosters innovative conservation projects that accelerate the transfer and adoption of promising technologies that benefit natural resources, agricultural production and forest management. The 2017 focus areas for project proposals include the following:

- Innovative approaches that benefit historically underserved and veteran farmers and ranchers, beginning farmers and ranchers and those with limited resources;
- Natural resources data analytics tools—such as software and mobile apps—that increase producer knowledge of conservation benefits and alternatives;
- Precision conservation tools that uncover opportunities for better input management (for example, nutrient management addressing source, timing, rate and placement), or address in-field vulnerabilities;
- Conservation finance approaches that demonstrate the potential for new investment strategies to accelerate and expand private lands conservation;
- Demonstration, evaluation and quantification of the effects of water management and soil health practices to minimize off-site impacts of natural resource challenges, such as excess sediment and nutrient runoff;
- Pay-for-success models that stimulate conservation adoption and achievement of measurable outcomes.

Potential applicants should review the announcement [offsite link image](#) for program funding that is available on www.grants.gov [offsite link image](#). Proposals are due by Jan. 9, 2017, and final CIG funding is subject to fiscal year 2017 funding actions. American Indian tribes, state and

local units of government, non-governmental organizations and individuals are eligible to submit proposals.

Read more.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/releases/?cid=NRCSEPRD1299301>