



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 25, 2016

Vote for the 2016 NBA Member of the Year

Less than two weeks remain before the December 1st deadline to nominate the 2016 National Bison Association Member of the Year!

The National Bison Association's Past President's Council will announce the 2016 NBA Member of the Year at the Winter Conference on Friday, January 20th at the annual Gold Trophy Banquet Dinner. The member of the year award recognizes one NBA member each year who has gone above and beyond to promote our collective business and the American bison.

- The nominee should be a rancher, farmer, or citizen whose efforts enhance the bison industry for all.
- The nominee should support and promote the NBA and state and regional organizations.
- The nominee should be a role model to persons in the bison industry. Role model status will be weighed heavily in the decision process.
- State and regional involvement is encouraged

The Council is now accepting nominations from the NBA membership through December 1st. To nominate an outstanding NBA member who has gone above and beyond to promote bison and move our industry forward, please take a moment to download a nomination form here, <http://www.bisoncentral.com/sites/default/files/memberofyearnom.pdf> and email to Past President's Council chair, Gail Griffin at buffalo@hbc.com, or fax the nomination to (303) 845-9081 by December 1.

33rd Annual Canadian Convention Draws More than 250

The mood at the Canadian Bison Association annual convention was upbeat this week, as more than 250 members and guests gathered for the association's 33rd annual conference in Regina.

Building the Industry – Growing the Herd, was the theme for the conference as the attendees assessed emerging issues, ranging from trade to pasture management.

“The markets continue to signal to the industry that there is a strong demand for Canadian Bison,” said Sharif Fahmy, president of the CBA. “Bison prices in August 2016 were about 16 percent higher than a year ago and 37 percent higher than two years ago.

With strong returns, there are expectations of growth in the industry to serve present and developing markets,” he said in his report to the convention.

Chris Dekker, president of the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, reported that Canadian officials are keeping a sharp eye on changes in the North America Free Trade Agreement, the Trans Pacific Partnership and other current and proposed trade agreements with the incoming Trump administration. The Canadian European Trade Agreement, expected to be implemented in the next eight months, will eliminate the 20 percent tariff on Canadian bison meat imported into the European Union.

During the conference, representatives of the National Farm Animal Care council unveiled the proposed updates in the country’s Code for Care and Handling of Bison. Those proposed updates are open for public comment for the next 60 days.

Dave Carter, national Bison Association executive director, provided a presentation to the conference banquet on the upcoming International Bison Conference, scheduled in Big Sky, MT July 4th – 8th, 2017.

Demand Continues to Outstrip Supply in Latest Marketers’ Survey

Tight supplies continue to drive the bison marketplace in the retail and foodservice arenas, according to the November National Bison Association Commercial Marketers’ survey results compiled this week.

The NBA has been surveying the major commercial marketers since May 2012 on issues relating to supply and demand. For the past three years, surveys have been conducted in May and November each year.

Per the November survey conducted earlier this month, 85 percent of marketers are unable all of their customers’ orders, with 31 percent of the marketers shorting customers more than 20 percent of their orders.

More than four-fifths of the marketers’ report that customer demand is continuing to increase, with 62 percent saying that demand is at least 10 percent higher than last year.

No marketers have enough trim to supply customers’ needs, and 69 percent are reporting that demand for pet food ingredients exceed their supply.

And, more than two thirds of the marketers responding to the survey feel that prices above \$4.50/lb. on young bull carcasses are sustainable over the near future.

The year-over-year summary of the marketers’ survey is available in the members’ only portion of the NBA website at www.bisoncentral.com.

The FDA Releases New Information on Veterinary Feed Directive

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) this week released a new rule to ensure that medically important antibiotics are eliminated for production purposes (i.e., growth promotion and feed efficiency) and bring their remaining therapeutic uses in feed and water under the supervision of licensed veterinarians.

“The Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) final rule is an important part of the agency’s overall strategy to ensure the judicious use of medically important antimicrobials in food-producing animals,” according to the agency’s website.

The VFD final rule outlines the process for authorizing use of VFD drugs (animal drugs intended for use in or on animal feed that require the supervision of a licensed veterinarian) and provides veterinarians in all states with a framework for authorizing the use of medically important antimicrobials in feed when needed for specific animal health purposes.

The Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) final rule continues to require veterinarians to issue all VFDs within the context of a veterinarian-client-patient-relationship (VCPR), and specifies the key elements that define a VCPR. These key elements include that the veterinarian engage with the client (i.e., the animal producer) to assume responsibility for making clinical judgments about patient (i.e., animal) health, have sufficient knowledge of the patient by patient examination and/or visits to the facility where the patient is managed, and provide for any necessary follow-up evaluation or care. The final rule will require veterinarians to follow state-defined VCPR requirements; in states where the FDA determines that no applicable or appropriate state VCPR requirements exist, veterinarians will need to issue VFDs in compliance with federally defined VCPR requirements. All veterinarians will need to adhere to a VCPR that includes the key elements in the final rule.

The rule facilitates veterinary oversight in a way that allows for the flexibility needed to accommodate the diversity of circumstances that veterinarians encounter, while at the same time ensuring that veterinarians in all states are conducting such oversight in accordance with nationally consistent principles. FDA will defer to individual states for the specific criteria for acceptable veterinary professional conduct when those standards require a VCPR for the issuance of a VFD and include the key elements of the federal VCPR standard. The FDA will require adherence to the federally-defined VCPR for those states with VCPR requirements that do not include the key elements of the federally-defined VCPR, or that do not require a VCPR for issuing a VFD. The agency will work with each state to review their VCPR requirements and determine if they are consistent with the federal standards.

Old issues presented to new administration, including COOL

(From Meatingplace.com)

As the Trump team begins the task of assembling its administration, interest groups are equally busy assembling their wish lists, including a group of cattle ranchers asking for mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) to be reinstated.

Bitterly opposed by the meat processing industry and ultimately dismantled by a series of World Trade Organization decisions, COOL is not likely to come back anytime soon. Still, with optimism around change in the air since the election, ranchers who pushed for and supported COOL met last week and put together their list of priorities they are hoping the new administration will consider.

The rancher group R-CALF USA gained support for a plan it wants President-elect Donald Trump to implement during his first 100 days in office at a meeting of about 1,200 ranchers that R-CALF organized along with the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association and the Independent Beef Association of North Dakota.

R-CALF articulated its priorities as such:

- Reinstate mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) for beef so U.S. ranchers can compete against the growing tide of undifferentiated foreign beef imported into their domestic market.
- Empower producers to monitor and enforce the rules of competition by finalizing the 2010 GIPSA rules that will finally implement the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921.
- Enforce antitrust laws to stop packers from using their tremendous market power to exploit cattle producers on one end of the supply chain and consumers on the other.
- Protect the cattle industry's price discovery market, what R-Calf CEO Bill Bullard called its holy grail, by banning packer ownership of livestock and cattle contracts that do not contain a negotiated price.
- Pass smart trade policy that will reverse the industry's trade deficit and require that only beef from cattle born, raised and processed in the U.S. can bear a USA label when exported.

Healthy Fats Coalition Formed

(From Sustainable Foods News)

A group of like-minded organizations and companies formed the Healthy Fats Coalition, an educational initiative and awareness campaign with a mission "to affirm that animal fats deserve a central place in the American diet and in the popular imagination."

Coast Packing Company, a supplier of animal fat shortenings, took the lead in forming HFC, but the members include other retailers and manufacturers such as Fatworks, a Boulder, Colo.-based online retailer of premium traditional fats, including beef tallow, lard and duck fat, and Tendergrass Farms, a Virginia-based supplier of certified organic processed meat and poultry products. Bottego Americano, an Italian restaurant in San Diego, and Elizabeth Swenson, author of "The Artisan Lard Cookbook," are also founding members, along with the Weston A. Price Foundation, a non-profit nutrition education initiative, and Texas-based HeartBrand Beef/Akaushi Cattle.

HFC hopes to influence the ongoing conversation about animal fats in diets through news and editorial commentary, social media, opinion surveys and more. It will also ask members to put the HFC badge on their websites and social media channels.

For Local Man, Arrival of Bison in Mankato Has Deeper Meaning

(From MEYC TV)

They were already here when the first humans arrived in the Americas... almost as if they were waiting for us.

And while they went through some changes, the bison remained long after other large animals went extinct.

The Dakota were one of many peoples who adapted to the presence of these giants of the prairie.

Glenn Wasicunna teaches the Dakota language at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

He was among those who greeted the 11 bison that arrived in Minneopa State Park last September.

He says that for the Dakota, a bison hunt was more than just a hunt; it was a spiritual encounter... for both sides...

“Whenever it was time to go hunting, the bison knew, and they decided who was going to be sacrificed that day. So that relationship ran pretty deep.”

He says everything was considered sacred because it was a gift from the creator.

“And nothing was to be misused or not used at all, so that's part of everything, and buffalo are just one of them... the bison are just one part.”

And thanks, in part to their size, the bison would be a *major part of many tribes' lives... “Somebody called the bison a walking supermarket. They provided everything: clothing, food, shelter, ornaments..., anything you can think of.”

But the loss of that balance would nearly spell the end of the bison.

Over several decades in the 1800's, a wave of American hunters joined the natives in hunting the bison... but they only wanted one thing: the hide.

More often than not...the rest of the animal was left where they died...

The practice, encouraged by the U.S. government, continued until less than 1,000 bison remained in the entire United States.

The DNR says the last wild bison spotted in Minnesota was in Norman County in 1880.

“And we can still feel the effects of something that important taken away from us; we can still feel that today, and having these bison here today... and having them here, it's a really healing part of what we're trying to do as Dakota people.”

Full Story: <http://www.keyc.com/story/33777164/for-local-man-arrival-of-bison-in-mankato-has-deeper-meaning>

Custer, Antelope Island Sales Reflect Strong Market

Prices bid at the Custer State Park auction on Saturday, along with the results from the Antelope Island Auction on November 5th, reflect the strong demand for bison meat in the commercial marketplace.

Bred heifers at the Custer sale on Saturday averaged \$3,740, which is \$1,290 than the average price last year. Heavy cut heifer calves sold for an average of \$2,225 and heavy cut bull calves averaged \$2,350.

See the current sale results here: <http://bisoncentral.com/sites/default/files/Sales11.22.16.pdf>