



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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December 9, 2016

Today is the Last Day to Save on GTSS Consignments

Today is the last day to consign animals to the 2017 Gold Trophy Show and Sale (GTSS) and save 10% on consignment fees! Consign by today, online or postmarked envelope, and receive 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! Auction prices this buffalo season continue to prove very strong. See the latest 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 jim@bisoncentral.com, or call 303-292-2833, to inquire.

Matheson Heads to Mexico City to Support Reintroduction Efforts

NBA Assistant Director Jim Matheson will head to Mexico City next week along with Keith Aune from the Wildlife Conservation Society, to present to Mexican officials regarding the reintroduction of bison to their native landscape.

The trip, funded by the Nature Conservancy, will focus on meeting with CONANP (Mexico's National Protected Areas Commission), to better educate them about bison management and the economic potential of bison restoration and production. The group is working to re-establish bison to its native habitat in Northern Mexico, where the Nature Conservancy has a herd.

Said Matheson of the trip, "This is not only a great opportunity to educate these decision makers about the commercial aspect of bison restoration, but also to educate herd managers about proper management. It's amazing how many stakeholders are actively trying to get involved in bison restoration since the passing of the National Bison Legacy Act."

Yellowstone Plans To Thin Bison Herd By 900 Animals

(From AOLNews.com)

Yellowstone National Park plans to reduce its famed bison herd by at least 900 ahead of this winter, culling stray animals outside the park in Montana by hunting and a program to round up and deliver wayward stock to Native American tribes for slaughter.

The annual culling, if it goes as planned, would mark one of the largest thinnings of the Yellowstone herd during the past decade.

The park's bison numbers have swelled to some 5,500 animals, well above the target population of roughly 3,000.

Animals that roam out of the park into adjacent state lands in Montana will be subject to harvest by licensed sportsmen and Native American tribes exercising historic hunting rights. But the majority will be captured live, then turned over to tribes to be slaughtered for meat. Montana's chief veterinarian, Dr. Marty Zaluski, said park officials agreed on the goal of at least 900 at a meeting on Thursday.

<http://www.aol.com/article/news/2016/12/05/yellowstone-plans-to-thin-bison-herd-by-900-animals/21621065/>

Patagonia wants to save the world through beer and buffalo jerky

(From the LA Times)

Beer and buffalo jerky may not be the first tools that come to mind for confronting the environmental crisis. But when you consider that agriculture — from the way we manage soil to the cultivation of livestock — is a major source of carbon emissions and a leading cause of biodiversity degradation, it makes sense that one California company is working to overhaul the food system from the ground up. Beer, buffalo jerky and hot breakfast cereals are just some of the fruits of those labors.

“At the hands of a few mega-corporations with all the power, our global agriculture system is destroying the Earth,” says Yvon Chouinard, the founder and owner of the Ventura-based outdoor apparel company Patagonia, which has long been known for its corporate activism. The company’s growing Patagonia Provisions division, headquartered in Sausalito, is using an expanding selection of organic food items, sourced through regenerative farming and other sustainable practices, to rebuild top soil, repair the food supply chain and safeguard food security.

Its recently released Long Root Ale, made in partnership with Oregon’s certified organic Hopworks Urban Brewery, seeks to get to the literal root of the problem. The beer is made with an innovative perennial grain from the Land Institute in Salina, Kan., a development which is 13 years in the making and just beginning to be used in commercial foods and beverages. The grain, called Kernza, originates from a perennial wheatgrass whose long and dense root systems unfurl like subterranean ZZ Top beards, up to 10 feet beneath the Earth’s surface — hence the name of the beer. Unlike annual wheat crops, Kernza doesn’t need to be tilled and replanted every year, traditional farming practices that over time have resulted in soil erosion and degradation, and loss of carbon to the atmosphere.

Other offerings in the Provisions lineup include a tangy grass-fed buffalo jerky that’s been sourced from Midwest ranchers who are reintroducing bison to the prairie in an effort to restore the biodiversity of native grasslands. There is also a selection of smoked wild pink salmon fillets, sourced from a Washington fishery that uses a variation of the ancient reef netting method to catch only selective fish, releasing all others unharmed

Read more. <http://www.latimes.com/food/dailydish/la-fo-patagonia-food-20161117-story.html>

With A Single Arrow, West Yellowstone Teenage Hunter Bags Bull Bison

(From The Bozeman Daily Chronicle)

Paul Borash, 16, and his father Craig had been planning their hunt for months.

The West Yellowstone residents, both avid bow hunters, began planning after Paul came out lucky in Montana Fish, Wildlife and Park’s annual drawing for bison tags, winning one of only a few dozen bison permits issued each year. About 10,000 hopeful hunters typically enter the drawing.

Son and father talked through possibility after possibility. It’d be better to target a younger, smaller bison, they’d decided, so they could avoid being overwhelmed with the task of field dressing and packing out 500 pounds of meat.

And, they figured, a lone bison would be easier to approach than one surrounded by herd members, simplifying the process of getting close enough to make a clean shot with an arrow.

Finally, the evening before bison season opened on Nov. 15, they headed out to scout, knowing bison tend to follow river bottoms when they wander out of Yellowstone National Park. Sure enough, they spotted a lone bison, across the Madison River from their truck.

“It was just a little brown speck in the willows,” Paul said.

They ducked across the river and parked to get a closer look. Approaching the animal on foot, they determined it was a youngish bull without company — in other words, exactly what they were hoping for.

Craig, a lifelong hunter himself, got Paul into the sport young. Now a high school junior, Paul has been tagging along on hunts since he was 6, shooting a bow since he was 8 and hunting in his own right since the age of 12.

Before stalking the bull bison, he'd shot 15 big game animals, he said, eight with a bow. He added matter-of-factly — and as a point of pride — that he's always been able to make clean, ethical shots.

Returning at dawn, with hunting season officially begun, the two of them found the bull close by, bedded down about 1,000 yards from the nearest road. They circled around behind him, hoping the animal would run toward their truck instead of away from it when Paul took his shot.

Read more. http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/outdoors/with-a-single-arrow-west-yellowstone-teenage-hunter-bags-bull/article_138c355a-95f0-5b4c-916b-5adeebd98c1d.html

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee to Meet

(From USDA)

The Office of Advocacy and Outreach (OAO) has announced that the Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Advisory Committee (BFRAC) will meet on Monday, December 19, to consider issues involving barriers for beginning farmers and ranchers.

Topics at the meeting will include lending and access to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs, resources, and land. The members will continue deliberations on recommendations to be prepared for USDA Secretarial consideration as discussed during the recent in-person meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio, September 29–30, 2016.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held by teleconference from 2:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. on December 19th. All persons wishing to make comments during this meeting will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. If the number of registrants requesting to speak is greater than what can be reasonably accommodated during the scheduled open public teleconference meeting timeframe, speakers will be scheduled on a first-come basis. Public written comments for the committee's consideration may be submitted by close of business on December 16, 2016, to Mrs. Kenya Nicholas, Designated Federal Official, USDA OAO, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 520–A, Washington, DC 20250–0170, Phone (202) 720–6350, Fax (202) 720–7704, Email: acbfr@osec.usda.gov.

Written submissions are encouraged to either be less than one page in length, or be accompanied by an executive summary and a summary of policy initiatives.

A listen-only line will be available during the entire meeting for all who wish to listen in on the meeting or make public comments through the following telephone number: 1 (888) 455–1685 and enter passcode 1047915#. Members of the public may also submit written comments for consideration to the committee via email at: acbfr@osec.usda.gov or fax to: (202) 720–7136.

Department of Livestock Keeps Watchful Eye on Canadian Tuberculosis Cases in Montana

(From KTVH.com)

(HELENA) The Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) is actively monitoring the bovine tuberculosis (TB) investigation in Canada. In late September, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) initiated an epidemiological investigation after bovine TB was detected in a Canadian cow at a United States (US) slaughter facility.

As of December 2, 2016, there are six confirmed cases of bovine TB in Canada, including the index animal detected at slaughter in the US. Of the roughly 40 premises currently under quarantine, most are located in Southeast Alberta with about five premises in Saskatchewan. DOL has long-standing requirements that cattle coming from Canada need to be tested for TB prior to import.

"Despite what feels like close proximity of this incident, Montana cattle producers remain safe," said Montana State Veterinarian, Marty Zaluski. "Canada's vigorous response, combined with our requirement that Canadian cattle be TB tested before entering Montana, keeps the risk low for ranchers in the state."

Zaluski is not planning to place additional requirements on Canadian cattle coming to Montana at this time.

"I am closely monitoring CFIA's efforts and am ready to act aggressively if needed," said Zaluski.

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/gmm4hly>

USDA Proposes Revisions to Nutritional Fact Panel for Meat and Poultry Products

(From USDA FSIS)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) this week proposed a critical step in ensuring that consumers have updated nutritional information for meat and poultry products, helping Americans make better informed decisions when purchasing meat and poultry products.

FSIS is proposing to amend the nutrition labeling regulations for meat and poultry products to parallel the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) final nutrition regulations, which were published on May 27, 2016. The proposed rule will improve the presentation of nutrition information to assist consumers in maintaining healthy dietary practices.

"This new rule will provide more transparency on nutrition labels so that American consumers can make informed decisions about the foods they eat and feed their families," said Alfred Almanza, Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety at USDA. "The new nutrition facts panel will complement the many other proactive, prevention-based food policies that we've put in place in recent years."

Specifically, FSIS is proposing to:

- Update the list of nutrients that are required or permitted to be declared;
- Provide updated Daily Reference Values (DRVs) and Reference Daily Intake (RDI) values that are based on current dietary recommendations from consensus reports;
- Amend the labeling requirements for foods represented or purported to be specifically for children under the age of 4 years and pregnant women and lactating women and establish nutrient reference values specifically for these population subgroups;
- Revise the format and appearance of the Nutrition Facts label;
- Amend the definition of a single-serving container;
- Require dual-column labeling for certain containers;
- Update and modify several reference amounts customarily consumed (RACCs or reference amounts); and
- Consolidate the nutrition labeling regulations for meat and poultry products into a new Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part.

The proposal may be viewed on the FSIS website at

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/a8674ea1-0c26-4bf3-8413-43b6551c0680/2014-0024.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>.

FSIS is seeking public comment for 60 days from the publication date. Comments may be submitted: online through the Federal eRulemaking Portal; by mail to the Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Patriots Plaza 3, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Mailstop 3782, Room 8-163B, Washington, DC 20250-3700; or by hand at Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E Street SW., Room 8-163B, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

USDA Announces Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) Changes

(From Quality Assurance Magazine)

USDA has begun reorganizing COOL guidance information available on its website where it can be easily accessed by everyone.

The Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) Division of USDA is striving to make 2017 a more information-driven year for our industry stakeholders. The division has already begun by reorganizing COOL guidance information available on its website where it can be easily accessed by everyone. Recent additions include Consumer, Retailer, and Supplier fact sheets in 6 translations, updated our FAQs & updated contact information.

In a press release, USDA wrote, "We will continue to make positive changes to our website in 2017 which will enhance the digital and personal experience for our stakeholders. There will be more tools in the upcoming year to better communicate COOL information and provide the services you, the stakeholder, need to successfully comply with COOL requirements." Visit www.ams.usda.gov/cool and explore these changes.

Source: <http://www.qualityassurancemag.com/article/usda-cool-website-changes/>

Locate A Veterinarian With A New Find-A-Vet Tool

(From The National Hog Farmer)

Find-A-Vet is a timely tool created by GlobalVetLINK that assists U.S. pig farmers who are searching for a veterinarian for their animals. The Pork Checkoff, collaborating with the Ames, Iowa-based company, is making this online tool more accessible to all producers by linking it directly to the Pork Checkoff's homepage at pork.org.

The online tool allows animal owners to quickly find a veterinarian in their area who offers services, such as the establishment of a veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR) and/or a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). Both a VCPR and a VFD will be necessary to use many in-feed antibiotics starting on Jan. 1, 2017. To use Find-A-Vet, producers will need to enter their ZIP code to search for the veterinarians closest to their location.

Full text:

<http://nationalhogfarmer.com/animal-health/locate-veterinarian-new-find-vet-tool>

FDA Revises CPG on Extralabel Use of Medicated Feeds for Minor Species

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) this week released a revised Compliance Policy Guide (CPG) about the extralabel use of new animal drugs approved for use in or on animal feed (medicated feeds) for these animals. The FDA originally published CPG 615.115 in 2001 to provide guidance to FDA field staff concerning the agency's use of enforcement discretion for the extralabel use of medicated feeds in minor species. Minor species are defined as animals other than cattle, horses, swine, chickens, turkeys, dogs, and cats.

Extralabel use means actual use or intended use of a drug in an animal in a manner that is not in accordance with the approved labeling. This includes, but is not limited to, use in species not listed in the labeling, use for indications (disease or other conditions) not listed in the labeling, use at frequencies or routes of administration other than those stated in the labeling, and deviation from the labeled withdrawal time based on these different uses.

Extralabel use of medicated feed is not legally permitted and can result in FDA taking enforcement action against the parties involved. However, there are some minor species that cannot practically be medicated in any way other than by using medicated feed. Because of the need to have therapeutic options available for treatment of minor species, and to help ensure animal safety and human food safety, FDA issued the CPG to provide guidance to FDA staff about factors to consider when determining whether to take enforcement action against a veterinarian, animal producer, feed manufacturer, and/or feed distributor for the extralabel use of medicated feeds in minor species. Under the CPG, when there are no approved treatment options available, the health of animals is threatened, and failure to treat affected animals would result in suffering or death, the extralabel use of medicated feeds may be considered for treatment of minor species as long as the conditions and procedures described in the CPG are followed.

The FDA revised this CPG to provide additional guidance to FDA field personnel on how to address the extralabel use of both OTC and VFD drugs in medicated feed for minor species and to avoid potential confusion and harm to minor species requiring treatment with certain antimicrobial new animal drug products converting from over-the-counter (OTC) to Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) marketing status as a result of recommendations included in FDA's guidance for industry #213 (GFI #213) to promote judicious use of antimicrobials.

The FDA is implementing this revised CPG immediately to ensure that FDA field staff and other parties affected by the CPG will be made aware of the agency's enforcement policy regarding the extralabel use of VFD feeds in minor species before January 1, 2017, which is the target date for the changes recommended in GFI #213 to be fully implemented. The agency will still solicit public comment on the CPG, but immediate implementation provides stakeholders with the opportunity to operate under the provisions of the revised CPG before they submit comments.

Anthrax Found At Indiana Livestock Farm

(From RTV 6 – ABC)

Anthrax was recently found on a southern Indiana beef cattle farm, according to the Indiana Board of Animal Health.

A veterinarian collected tissue samples after a mixed-breed bull died unexpectedly, which were confirmed to be anthrax.

According to the Indiana Board of Animal Health, there is no public health threat. Humans can contact anthrax from animals, but the risk is low. Anthrax is not transmitted from person to person.

The people who had contact with the bull have been notified, and are following up with health officials.

Officials say anthrax is not uncommon in livestock in western states, but it's unusual for Indiana. Records do not indicate when the last time anthrax was found in the state.

Anthrax can occur naturally in the soil in some areas. Grazing animals have the highest risk of contact.

The affected animal was incinerated on-site, and the farm, which has not been identified, has been placed under a 30-day quarantine and observation.

Read more. <http://www.theindychannel.com/lifestyle/health/anthrax-found-at-indiana-livestock-farm>

Kentucky State University Small Scale Farm Grant

This grant program is for certified organic farmers, value-added producers, and aquatic farmers. Kentucky farmers that sell at least \$1,000 of agriculture produce to the public, but don't sell more than \$250,000, are eligible to apply, as are corporations and cooperatives that serve Kentucky farms. Funding limits are \$5,000 per farmer and \$15,000 for organizations.

The next application deadline is February 1, 2017.

Read more. http://growkentuckyag.com/wordpress1/?page_id=491

Conservation Reserve Program Offers New Opportunities to Improve Water Quality and Restore Wildlife Habitat

(USDA Press Release)

USDA has announced new CRP practices to protect water quality and the addition of 1.1 million acres targeted to benefit wildlife, pollinators, and wetlands. A new conservation initiative known as Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers (CLEAR) will assist landowners with the cost of building bioreactors and saturated buffers that filter nitrates and other nutrients from tile-drained cropland. CLEAR may cover up to 90% of the cost to install these new practices through incentives and cost-share.

USDA will also add an additional 1.1 million acres to a number of key CRP practices that are critically important to wildlife and conservation. These include 700,000 acres for State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) efforts, 300,000 acres for target wetlands restoration, and 100,000 acres for pollinator habitat. There are additional changes to the program, as well. Signing incentives are being reduced by \$25 per acre on certain practices for fiscal year 2018 enrollments, and a cap on the maximum soil-rental rate is being instituted for Continuous CRP at \$300 per acre.

Read more. <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2016/12/0257.xml>

Notice of Request for Reinstatement of an Information Collection; Standards for Privately Owned Quarantine Facilities for Ruminants

(From The Federal Register Volume 81, Number 234)

Notice of Request for Reinstatement of an Information Collection; Standards for Privately Owned Quarantine Facilities for Ruminants

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Reinstatement of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request a reinstatement of an information collection associated with regulations for privately owned quarantine facilities for ruminants.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before February 6, 2017.

Full text:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-06/html/2016-29168.htm>