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Important Membership News!!

Thank you to those members who have paid their dues for the 2003 calendar year. Many of you sent in dues with your conference registration and that is a big help. If you have not paid your dues for the year, please do so as soon as possible. I am currently going through the memberships for our web site and also for our new membership directory, both of which will be available in the very near future.

If you are unsure about the status of your membership dues, check the mailing label of this newsletter. The year listed is when your dues were/are paid through. If it indicates a year less than 2003, your dues are not up to date. If you think there is an error or you are unsure about your status, please contact Karen at the office and she'll check into it right away.

Inside this issue of the newsletter, you will find a couple of new things. One of those will be minutes from the April 5, 2003 board of director's meeting. Please take the time to read through those minutes, as there is a lot of valuable information that you won't find elsewhere in this newsletter. There is a lot of information this time and to save space you will need to refer to the minutes for a detailed review of the activities of the DTBA.

We are gearing up for a busy summer, so make plans now to join in on the activities. As volunteers, you are invaluable to the association and we need your assistance to keep moving forward. If you have any suggestions for possible DTBA promotional activities, please let us know.

Submissions and information for the DTBA newsletters are always welcome and encouraged. The next issue will print and mail by June 1, 2003. Submissions for that issue are due by May 20, 2003.

Summer Board Meeting Scheduled

The DTBA will be conducting an open board meeting in July. The tentative location will be Chamberlain, SD and the tentative date will be July 26. In addition to regular business, the board is asking for member input on our Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale. Specifically, the board would like to know how members feel about the current health regulations for animals entered into the show and also their comments on the classes available and how the show operates. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, please contact one of the board members to give them your information or you may submit written comments to the association via letter or e-mail. Please refer to the contact information on the front page of this newsletter.

The board would also welcome your input and comments on anything to do with the association. Input is sought on products the association should offer for sale; advertising in the newsletter; advertising on the web page; promotional activities, fundraising ideas and anything else you would like to comment on.

As we move forward, the DTBA board realizes that there may be a need for some changes or updates to the current situation. Your input is the only way the board can make informed decisions on your behalf.

Thanks in advance for your assistance on this matter. Please check the June newsletter, the website and your e-mail for updates on the meeting location and time.

Portable Chute System Sold

The Berlinic portable chute system owned by the DTBA was recently sold and will no longer be available for rent through the association. Thanks to all the members who utilized this service and expressed an interest in the purchase of the system.





Remarks From The President: Scott Peterson



As spring approaches, it's time for those little cinnamon calves to dot the pastures. Although the winter has been mild, spring has brought much needed rain to many areas. I hope you were on the receiving end of some of that moisture.

Our annual Winter Conference was once again successful. We had about 170 people attending the conference this year, with 200 in attendance at our banquet. We received a lot of good feedback and I appreciate people taking

the time to express their thoughts.

I'd like to thank Conference Chair, Jacki Limpert, for the wonderful job she did in lining up the conference, speakers and all the numerous details that go along with it. Helping her was Karen Conley, who lined up much of the materials you received in your conference packets. We had a wonderful slate of speakers who deserve our thanks, including: Dr. Sam Holland, Steve Noyes, Merle Maass, Gail Griffin, Dave Carter, Jim Ferguson and Larry Erber. Thanks to all of these people for giving their time and information for our membership.

Our Reality Based Carcass Class was another positive note for the association. This year, for the first time, we did a number of additional information gathering tests on the carcasses. I would like to thank Bruce Anderson, Al Holzer and the entire crew at Western Buffalo Company for allowing us to bring animals in and basically shut their plant down for four days to conduct this class. We could not put on a carcass class of this caliber and this in depth without the assistance of all these people. Plans are already underway for next year's class, so keep up your records and plan to enter next fall.

Buffalo Leather Chair Raffle



The buffalo leather chair raffle was a huge success! In mid-March, we drew for a winner and Elton Bierman of Rapid City was the big winner. Elton met us at Dakota Bison Furniture where he selected a buffalo leather recliner as his winning prize.

This project would not have been a success without the help of many DTBA volunteers. Our thanks to everyone who purchased or sold tickets. You made this raffle a success and garnered a lot of attention for our association and also helped raise aware-

ness that buffalo are not just for meat purposes, but they are valuable as by products, too.

In just three months time, 560 tickets were sold at \$5 each for a total of \$2,800. After paying for the chair, which Greg Stone graciously discounted for us, the association realized a profit of approximately \$1,600. Not too bad for a project that was thrown together off the cuff and only done for less than three months. Thanks to everyone who helped with the chair raffle and a big Thank You to the Stones for their assistance on this.

Be watching for more raffles and maybe more buffalo furniture raffles in the near future!



Greg Stone congratulates Elton Bierman, winner of the buffalo leather chair raffle.

Another pair of under-recognized people who are instrumental in our show and sale are Steve and Kim Sutton. They work closely with the DTBA board to ensure that we have use of the facility for our animals and they also does much of the promotion for this event. Without the cooperation and assistance of the Sutton family, we would be hard pressed to find a facility that could host our event, much less one of the caliber that we have.

Finally, to everyone who took the time to attend the conference and/or the sale, thank you. Your support of the DTBA and your interest in the buffalo industry are what keeps us going. I hope that everyone took away some new information, new ideas or new animals from this event. You are the reason we put on the conference and the show and sale and I thank you all for your participation.

Congratulations to our new board member Lorene Bender. Jacki Limpert was also elected to another term. I look forward to working with these capable folks, along with the remaining members of the board. Please note on the front cover of this newsletter, all the contact information for each board member. We have included e-mail addresses to help facilitate contact between the board and members of the association. The door is always open and we are here to work for you and we're ready to listen and take direction from your suggestions and ideas. This contact information is also included on our website, so don't hesitate to use it. One of our goals for the upcoming year is to improve communication within our organization and this is a good start.

We have made the decision not to host a formal summer conference this year. However, we will be conducting a summer board meeting toward the end of July, tentatively in the Chamberlain, SD area. As always, our board meetings are open to any members and we'll keep you informed about the specific time and location when those details are finalized.

A Late Thank You For Sponsors!

Due to a communication error, we neglected to recognize some sponsors at the Winter Conference. Once again, our prime rib banquet meal was donated by our carcass class entries. We apologize for not recognizing them at the banquet and would like to do so here. Our thanks to:

Lloyd and Clifford Rossow, Rossow Buffalo Ranch; Dr. Ken and Marlys Throlson, Rx Ken Mar Buffalo Ranch; Heath Peterson, Prairie Rose Buffalo Ranch; Sandy and Jacki Limpert, Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch; Brad and Connie Beavers, Beaver Creek Buffalo Ranch; Ed and Deanna Nolz, Nolz Poor Farm Bison; Perry and Susan Handyside, Expedition Buffalo Co.; Blue Valley Ranch, Galloway, Inc.; Rod Sather, Mosquito Park Enterprises and Casey Byrd, Buffalo Dance Bison.

Please take a moment and thank these generous sponsors if you happen to see them. We appreciate the continued support and generosity of our carcass class participants. Their donation is a very important part of our conference, as well as an opportunity for our members to sample their hard work!

Welcome New DTBA Members!

Jordan & Gail Dawn, Letcher, SD
Randall Fett, Buffalo Bills Bison Products, Glenville, MN
Don Geyer, Double Barrel Bison, Hosakis, MN
Lee & Mary Graese, Northstar Bison, Rice Lake, WI
Adolph & Laverne Hepper, Flying H Ranch, Mobridge, SD
Keith Olson, Shining Times Buffalo, Watertown, SD
Ryan Wall, Five Diamonds Bison, Wolf Point, MT



DTBA Hosts Successful Winter Conference This Past January

Nearly 200 buffalo producers and enthusiasts from around the region made their way to Rapid City, SD the last week in January to attend the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association's (DTBA) annual Winter Conference.

On Saturday, President Scott Peterson offered some opening remarks and addressed the crowd. Peterson led the audience through a brief overview of the association's activities the past year. Nominations for new directors were also taken.

South Dakota State Veterinarian, Dr. Sam Holland, gave a report and update on some of the diseases and issues facing the buffalo industry. One issue that is always on the top of the list in South Dakota is the position on field kill of buffalo. Holland noted that it is becoming more frequent in the state and without the benefit of enough staff to cover the inspection requirements, the state has allowed some veterinarians to become certified to carry out the necessary field kill inspections. In that same line of thought, Holland noted that producers should be aware of the criticism that is out there regarding buffalo hunts. He noted that some individuals and groups consider the hunts to be inhumane treatment and it will be a matter of when, not if, the matter will be brought to the public's attention. He cautioned producers to stay informed on these issues so they can be prepared to deal with them when the time comes.

Holland touched on the Country of Origin Labeling issue, again noting that it will be mandatory in just a couple of years. He also told the group that label claims are becoming a big issue and certification of those claims is something they need to be aware of. "Affidavits and recordkeeping are very important when it comes to the label claims," Holland told the group.

As far as diseases are concerned, one issue to be on top of is that of roping steers. They are a substantial carrier of tuberculosis and Holland warned the crowd that if they have contact with these animals it would be wise to keep them separate from buffalo and from cattle, due to the substantial risk of spreading TB between the animals. He also spoke about West Nile Virus and the importance of vaccinating horses for the disease. Anthrax was present in the state this year, thanks largely to the hot and humid weather the state experienced this past summer. It was present in the western half of the state for the first time in many years and Holland cautioned that producers should be aware of the threat, especially when going into a dry area. Chronic Wasting Disease is another hot topic in the disease arena, but Holland said the consensus is the disease is limited to cervids such as deer and elk and there does not, at this time, appear to be any threat to other species from this disease.

Upon completion of his presentation, Dr. Holland was asked to stay at the podium and Peterson then announced that the DTBA was awarding the Pioneer Award to Dr. Holland for his outstanding service to the buffalo industry and to buffalo producers, both in and out of South Dakota. Dr. Holland has been a watchdog for the industry and the DTBA and has worked diligently for many years to ensure the buffalo industry has a level playing field with other livestock entities.

Steve Noyes, Deputy State Statistician for South Dakota, made a presentation to the group about the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Noyes went through the process of filling out the census and then explained to the group what the information can and will be used for and the importance of participation. The 2002 census will be the first time that buffalo have been included, so the importance of getting accurate numbers is critical and the data could be crucial to our industry as it continues to grow

and receive more recognition in the marketplace. Census information can be used to garner funding money and also to increase the visibility and status of various groups.

Merle Maass, president of the National Bison Association (NBA) Board of Directors, addressed the DTBA group and touched on many of the benefits of joining the NBA and also briefly outlined the focus and plans for the NBA in the coming months. He noted that the focus of the NBA has shifted the past year and a half.

The final presentation of the morning was entertaining and active, to say the least. Gail Griffin, NBA state and regional liaison and also executive director for the Minnesota Buffalo Association, took the group through a presentation that not only stressed the importance of supporting both national and regional associations, but also about stepping up to the plate and helping those organizations achieve their goals. Griffin is widely recognized for her devotion to the buffalo industry and was recently named the NBA's Member of the Year. Her presentation brought out lots of laughter and gave those in the audience some food for thought. Participants in her presentation got a little taste of "thinking on your feet"!

Following the lunch break, NBA Executive Director, Dave Carter, addressed the group. Carter went through a timeline of the past year and a half, beginning with his coming on board as the executive director and where the NBA has gone from there. He reviewed the two marketing summits that have been held to date and then went through the various projects the NBA is working on, including meat inspection, Section 32, animal identification and a meat classification system. Carter also walked the audience through the NBA's new "Buffalo Stampede" campaign that will take place in Nashville, TN this spring. The NBA is working on a variety of projects, but as Carter noted, they all center on one theme...meat production. Carter also urged cooperation between the state and regionals and also asked for member support to help ensure the success all the NBA projects.

The highlight of the day's events was a carcass cut out demonstration presented by Jim Ferguson of the Saskatchewan Meat Processors and Larry Erber from the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology. These gentlemen first presented this demonstration in Regina, Saskatchewan this fall at the Canadian Bison Association meeting and agreed to attend the DTBA conference to do a similar presentation. DTBA organizers felt this tied in perfectly with the group's Reality Based Carcass Class and also carried forward the meat production theme that is running full steam in the business. Assisting in the demonstration were Bruce Anderson, owner of Western Buffalo Company in Rapid City and Al Holzer, the plant manager at Western Buffalo Company.

The election of the new DTBA officers then took place and the business meeting wrapped up. There were two positions open for election on the board. Jacki Limpert will continue in her role on the board and the new member will be Lorene Bender. Following a short board meeting, new officers for 2003 are: President, Scott Peterson, Belle Fourche, SD; Vice-President, Jud Seaman, Rapid City, SD; Secretary/Treasurer, Jacki Limpert, Buffalo, SD; and Directors, Steve Schmitz, Jefferson, SD; Rick Knobe, Sioux Falls, SD and Lorene Bender, Britton, SD.

During the evening festivities, the group played Bison Bingo. Shawna Stevens won the feeder donated by Doug Woodall, Hi-Hog Equipment and Rob Trynoski won the buffalo print donated by the DTBA.



Deb Strandberg, center, was the winner of the drawing for a custom made bison leather-trimmed coat donated by Larry and Linda Rolfstad, Rocking R Bison Leather.



Results From The 2003 Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale



Ronda and Rex Snyder



Sandy and Jacki Limpert



Dixie and Larry Byrd



Kathleen and Michael Gear



Lance Kuck



Dr. Ken and Marlys Throlson

The final weekend in January once again found many buffalo enthusiasts from around the country in Rapid City, SD to show and purchase these quality animals at the 2003 Black Hills Buffalo Classic (BHBC).

A favorite among producers, the BHBC offered a full slate of classes for animals, with 112 head going through the sale ring on auction day.

Beautiful weather greeted the judges for the show this year. Our thanks to Doug Griller and Tom LeFaive for putting their talents and eyes to use in judging our show animals.

We would also like to thank the many producers who made the effort to show animals at our event or just come up for the sale. A big thanks to our show chairman, Chad Kremer, for all his help this year. His wife, Suzi, was due to have a baby at any moment, so Chad had double stress to deal with. Suzi and the baby, Grace, cooperated and waited until the Tuesday following the show to have their big moment. Congratulations to all!

A big thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors and participants who continue to make the BHBC one of the top shows in the country. Without all of you, it would never happen. We had many new volunteers step forward to help with the show and sale and their help was most appreciated.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year as once again, the DTBA will be proud to host the BHBC in Rapid City, SD. Next year's event is tentatively set for Friday, January 30 through Sunday, February 1, 2004.

SHOW RESULTS

Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn.
February 2, 2003 • Rapid City, SD

Producer of the Year: Rex and Ronda Snyder, Snyder Land & Development, Lyman, WY.

Rookie of the Year: Rex and Ronda Snyder, Snyder Land & Development, Lyman, WY.

Grand Champion Bull: Yearling bull consigned by Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, Sandy & Jacki Limpert, Buffalo,

SD. Purchased by Snyder Land & Development for \$3,750.

Reserve Champion Bull: Two year old bull consigned by Trails End River Bison, Larry & Dixie Byrd, Presho, SD. Purchased by Kim Sealine, Spirited Winds Tatonka Ranch, Caputa, SD, for \$1,800.

Grand Champion Female: Yearling heifer consigned by Snyder Land & Development. Purchased by Arizona Buffalo Co., Bryan & Mary Adams, Buckeye, AZ for \$3,200.

Reserve Champion Female: A two year old bred heifer consigned by Snyder Land & Development. Purchased by Arizona Buffalo Co. for \$1,700.

Heifer Calves: 1. Red Canyon Ranch; 2. Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, Brodie Limpert, Buffalo, SD; 3. Laughing Water Ranch, LLC, Lance & Tahma Kuck, Bassett, NE. Honorable Mention: Circle B Bison Ranch, Robert & Colleen Burrows, Newton, WI; Sheyenne River Bison; Rx Ken Mar Buffalo Ranch.

Pen of 3 Heifer Calves: 1. Rx Ken Mar Buffalo Ranch, Dr. Ken & Marlys Throlson, New Rockford, ND; 2. Nolz Poor Farm Bison, Ed & Deanna Nolz, Sioux Falls, SD; 3. Flying H Ranch, Adolph Hepper, Mobridge, SD. Honorable Mention: Antelope Creek Bison Ranch, Doug & Keith Candee, Dickinson, ND; Sheyenne River Bison, David & Diana Lauth, Harvey, ND.

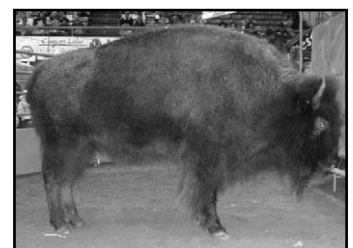
Pen of 2 Yearling Heifers: 1. Snyder Land & Development; 2. Buffalo Dance Bison, Casey Byrd, Presho, SD; 3. Flying H Ranch. Honorable Mention: Antelope Creek Bison Ranch; High



Ed and Deanna Nolz



Adolph, Nancy and Tom Hepper



Grand Champion Female



Results From The 2003 Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale

Point Bison, Glen & Jill Klawonn, Pine Bluffs, WY; Wolftrack Buffalo Ranch, Shane & Shannon Croft, Deadwood, SD; Croft's Tepee Creek Buffalo Ranch, Jerry & Duffy Croft, Deadwood, SD.

Yearling Heifers: 1. Snyder Land & Development; 2. Buffalo Dance Bison; 3. Red Canyon Ranch, Michael & Kathleen Gear, Thermopolis, WY. Honorable Mention: Horse Creek Bison Company, Steve & Roxann McFarland, Hettinger, ND; B Half Moon Bison, Randy & Michelle Bacon, Aberdeen, SD; Beaver Creek Buffalo Company, Brad & Connie Beavers, Jefferson, SD; Trails End River Bison; Red Canyon Ranch.

Yearling Bulls: 1. Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch; 2. Rx Ken Mar Buffalo Ranch; 3. Red Canyon Ranch. Honorable Mention: Snyder Land & Development; Buffalo Dance Bison; Trails End River Bison; Flying H Ranch.

Bull Calves: 1. Nolz Poor Farm Bison; 2. Rx Ken Mar Buffalo Ranch; 3. Circle B Bison Ranch. Honorable Mention: Bearbrooke Bison Ranch, Peter Smars, Oronoco, MN; Flying H Ranch.

Two Year Old Bred Heifer: 1. Snyder Land & Development; 2. Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch; 3. High Point Bison. Honorable Mention: Sheyenne River Bison; Laughing Water Ranch, LLC.

Two Year Old Bulls: 1. Trails End River Bison; 2. Buffalo Dance Bison; 3. Red Canyon Ranch. Honorable Mention: Rx Ken Mar Buffalo Ranch.

SALE RESULTS

112 head sold

Pen of Three Heifer Calves: 11 lots sold. Prices ranged from \$175 to \$850 per head with an average of \$373 per head.

Pen of Two Yearling Heifers: 9 lots sold. Prices ranged from \$450 to \$1,200 per head with an average of \$650 per head.

Heifer Calves: 11 head sold. Prices ranged from \$200 to \$1,500 per head with an average of \$518 per head.

Bull Calves: 11 head sold. Prices ranged from \$300 to \$1,000 with an average of \$500 per head.

Yearling Heifers: 12 head sold. Prices ranged from \$450 to \$3,200 per head with an average of \$988 per head.

Yearling Bulls: 16 head sold. Prices ranged from \$650 to \$3,750 per head with an average of \$1,359 per head.

Two Year Old Bred Heifers: 7 head sold. Prices ranged from \$350 to \$1,700 per head with an average of \$693 per head.

Two Year Old Bulls: 4 head sold. Prices ranged from \$1,500 to \$1,800 per head with an average of \$1,600 per head.

Reality Based Carcass Class:

Heifers: 1. Rx Ken Mar Buffalo Ranch; 2. Rossow Buffalo Ranch, Lloyd & Clifford Rossow, Flasher, ND; 3. Prairie Rose Buffalo Ranch, Heath Peterson, Revillo, SD.

Bulls: 1. Rossow Buffalo Ranch; 2. Nolz Poor Farm Bison; 3. North Prairie Bison Ranch, Dennis & Sue Sexhus, Keith Kakela.



Dr. Sam Holland - Pioneer Award



Heath Peterson



Lloyd and Carol Rossow



Glen and Jill Klawonn



Grand Champion Bull



Casey Byrd



Brodie Limpert



Robert and Colleen Burrows



Thanks To The Sponsors For The 2003 BHBC And Conference

We would like to once again take a little space and thank our sponsors for the 2003 DTBA Winter Conference and Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale. Our events would not be possible without the generosity of these businesses and individuals.

Sheyenne River Bison and Latt's Feed & Supply, David and Diana Latt; Rivard's Quality Seeds, Ken Schuster; Beaver Creek Buffalo Company, Brad & Connie Beavers; Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, Sandy & Jacki Limpert; Red Canyon Ranch, Michael & Kathleen Gear; Galloway, Inc., Blue Valley Ranch; Heim Buffalo Ranch, Evie, Chad & Amy Heim; Cannonball Ranch, Monte & Nancy Allen; Antelope Creek Bison Ranch, Doug & Keith Candee; Longreach Buffalo Co., LLC, Roy Liedtke, Wendy Hutchinson & Kelly Hardy; Snyder Land & Development, Rex & Ronda Snyder; Nebraska Buffalo Company, Gale Stevens; North Dakota Buffalo Association; Jumpoff Buffalo Ranch, Scott & Susan Peterson; Nolz Poor Farm Bison, Ed & Deanna Nolz; Mosquito Park Enterprises, Rod & Emily Sather; Dakota Bison Meats, Brad & Connie Beavers, Steve & Jane Allard, Mike Allard, David & Jeanne Staum, Steve & Gail Schmitz; Mahoney Buffalo Ranch, Ralph & Mary Mahoney; Doug & Sandy Stukel; Montoso Bison Company,

Alfred Keller & John Painter; Tedd & Carmen Thompson; Scranton Equity Feeds; Expedition Buffalo Co., Perry & Susan Handyside; Vigortone Ag Products, Area Sales Mgr. Robert Comp; Buffalo Dance Bison, Casey Byrd; Shady Creek Bison, Randy & Milissa Linz; Circle B Bison Ranch, Robert and Colleen Burrows; Lowden Heller; Rockie Hill Bison, David and Gail Griffin; Gehl's Buffalo Hill Ranch, Mark & Kathy Gehl; The Buffalo Heard, Karen Conley & Todd Goetz; Jerry & Judy Johnson; Bradeen Auctions, Ron Bradeen & Jud Seaman; Berlinic Mfg., Zane Berlinic; Painter Ranch, Joe & Cindy Painter; Wigness Bison, Kurt Wigness; Prairie Edge Trading Co. & Galleries; 777 Ranch; Dakota Mill & Grain; Catron Land Co., Mike Thiel; Farm Credit Services of America and The Little Print Shop. We also owe a big thank you to Bruce Anderson, Al Holzer and the entire staff at Western Buffalo Company for their assistance in producing the Reality Based Carcass Class and for their assistance with the carcass cutting demonstration. Doug Woodall, Big Sky Buffalo and Hi-Hog Equipment also donated a feeder for our Bison Bingo event.

Thanks to everyone who donated or purchased Fun Auction items. You are what makes the DTBA a success!

Volunteers Needed For DakotaFest: Informational Meeting In May

Dakota Fest...An opportunity to toot our horn and feed people tasty, tender, and healthy buffalo.

Many of you have asked how to help our association besides writing checks and participating in meetings.

The DTBA has made a commitment to serve buffalo at the Dakotafest in Mitchell this year. Dakotafest brings together farm and ranch families and vendors who sell products to them. The dates are August 19, 20 and 21. About 35,000 visitors attend each year.

The pork and beef people serve product at separate booths. Last year, board member Steve Schmitz volunteered to run our first food-serving event. It worked. Both the beef and pork producers made comments about their volume being down because of our presence. Our goal is not to make those hard working folks angry. Our goal is to give people a chance to eat tasty, tender, and nutritious buffalo.

In order to be successful in accomplishing our goal, we need

you to help us. If you live within 75 miles of Mitchell, we would like you to volunteer a few hours of your time. You do not need to be there each day.

A minimum of a four hour commitment would be appreciated. We need people to cook, serve, take money, clean up, set up, take down, and smooze. Heavy emphasis on the smoozing part. Talking about our product and industry helps all of us.

The exact chores and time frames have not yet been set. However, people who volunteer early will obviously have first choice of chores and time frames.

VOLUNTEER BY CONTACTING RICK KNOBE OF THE LAZY RRSE BUFFALO RANCH. CALL 605-728-1472, OR EMAIL RICK@LAZYRRSE.COM

We will have an organizational meeting in May, on a Saturday, hopefully in Mitchell. We will post the meeting time and location on the web site and also send out an e-mail notice to the membership. - Rick Knobe

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the DTBA, we would like to thank member Fred McFarland for his unique and generous fun auction donation. Fred brought a framed print of the first Custer State Park buffalo auction flyer, signed by himself as one of the auctioneers for the sale. The piece was gorgeous and elicited some fierce bidding. Thanks to Fred's generosity, the print garnered \$1,200 for the DTBA. Bruce Anderson of Western Buffalo Company was the lucky bidder. THANK YOU!

If you would like to have the DTBA newsletters e-mailed to you in pdf (Adobe Acrobat) format, please contact Karen at the DTBA office, (605) 923-8393 or send her an e-mail at: info@dakotabuffalo.com. Please include your e-mail address. She can send you the newsletters electronically if you prefer that format over having them mailed to you.



SD ANIMAL INDUSTRY BOARD

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February 10, 2003

Dakota Territory Buffalo Association
Karen Conley, Executive Secretary
P O Box 4104
Rapid City, SD 57709

Dear DTBA Members;

Thank you for the presentation to me of the "Pioneer Award for 2003". It was a total surprise and I am humbled, grateful, and proud to receive this award. Regulatory programs often lead to contentious and difficult decisions, but it is truly a pleasure to work with your fine industry and the responsible and professional people who are DTBA members and leaders. I truly enjoy working with the magnificent buffalo and all you folks involved. With our continued sharing of information and dialogue, we together can continue to advance the buffalo industry and our culture.

Thank You Sincerely,

Sam D. Holland, DVM
State Veterinarian
SD Animal Industry Board



Feed Assistance Available

DENVER: The head of the National Bison Association recently hailed the U.S. Department of Agriculture Feed Assistance program as "much needed help for ranchers attempting to survive the impact of the ongoing drought."

On Tuesday, April 8, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that it was releasing stocks of government-held non-fat dry milk to be used for blending in feed that could be purchased by producers of several species of livestock, including buffalo. The mixing in of the non-fat dry milk no longer fit for human consumption can help lower the cost of the feed purchased by livestock producers.

Dave Carter, executive director of the Denver-based National Bison Association, noted that the new program will help producers who have been forced to bear the cost of purchasing feed because of drought-stunted pastures.

"Buffalo producers rely heavily upon natural grazing land to provide the nutrients needed for their animals. Because of the drought, many of those ranchers have been required to purchase feed to sustain their herds. The expense of the feed costs is driving many ranchers out of business, and is threatening the stability of the overall buffalo business.

"We are pleased that the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes the difficulties faced by our producers, and is taking steps to help alleviate the problem."

Last fall, the National Bison Association had criticized the USDA for announcing a similar program, but limiting participation only to cattle producers. This week's announcement included producers of cattle, buffalo, sheep and goats.

The new program is targeted specifically for producers in designated drought-stricken areas. The non-fat dry milk is mixed with feed and supplements for the livestock.

Producers wanting more information regarding eligibility for the program can contact their local USDA Service Center office.

New Web Site Is Nearly Complete

Our new website should be done and available for viewing in the next couple of weeks. The past five weeks have been spent working with our site designer, Bob Lindner, to get the site done and ready to go. The site has been completely redone, but will still have the same address: www.dakotabuffalo.com. We will now be able to update information from the office, making it much easier to manage our site and keep it current. Thanks to Bob for his patience and guidance on this project. We will send out an e-mail to the membership when the site is ready for viewing on the web.

NBA Scholarships Available

The National Bison Association (NBA) recently sent out information regarding the Throlson American Bison Foundation Scholarship. The foundation will be awarding two scholarships, one for \$1,000 and one for \$2,000. Applicants must be an undergraduate with junior or senior standing or a graduate student in a recognized livestock, animal science, veterinary or agriculture program in the United States or Canada; have at least one semester or two quarters remaining in their degree program; and be scheduled to be enrolled as a full time student for the following fall semester/quarter. Previous Throlson scholarship recipients are ineligible.

Applications are due by July 1, 2003. If you or someone you know is interested in an application and the criteria, please contact the NBA office at (303) 292-2833 or e-mail: tonia@bison-central.com. The DTBA office also has the forms and will send them to anyone interested. Contact Karen at (605) 923-6383 or e-mail to: info@dakotabuffalo.com.

Update On Lewis & Clark Festival

This story first appeared in the Yankton Press and Dakotan. It was then picked up by AP newswire and has run nationwide. It was also found on the internet. Just goes to show what this Lewis and Clark thing is going to do!! Following are excerpts of the original story.

By Christie Swanson, Yankton Press & Dakotan News Editor

The air at Riverside Park will be filled with smells from the past this summer.

A Dutch Oven Cook-off will be held Saturday, Aug. 23, in conjunction with the Yankton Lewis and Clark Festival. This is the first year for this event, and Yankton Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, Inc., member Diane Norton has high hopes for its success.

After last year's festival, Norton said she went on the Internet looking for a new addition. She chose this event because the Yankton area is where Lewis and Clark talk about the immense herds of buffalo.

In her research, Norton came in contact with the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association in Rapid City who loved the idea of the cook-off. They are providing the grand prize of a buffalo robe and an honorable mention award of a buffalo skull. Other awards include an honorable mention gift of Lewis and Clark commemorative Dutch oven cooking utensils. The People's Choice winner will receive Lewis and Clark Bicentennial apparel.

Norton also came across the International Dutch Oven Society (IDOS). Through her communication with this group Norton was able to make Yankton's cook-off a sanctioned event.

The fact the event is sanctioned is helping it gain nationwide attention. The winner of the Yankton cook-off will be eligible to participate in the International Championship Dutch Oven Cook-off in Utah.

"Being it's a internationally sanctioned event, it will draw participants from outside our region. Not only will this help boost attendance at the festival, it will also help tourism in general in the area," said Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Inc. president Heidi Henson. "It may also keep people here longer than just that weekend."

Norton said she is already receiving numerous calls about the cook-off from across the country.

"We've had a lot of inquiries so far and they are coming in from Tennessee, Utah, Kansas and a group out of Montana," she said.

One condition of being a sanctioned event is that the contest **must be a three-pot cook-off. These three pots must include a main dish with bison meat, a dessert and a sourdough raised bread.**

Thank Our Billboard Sponsors!

Thanks to the generosity of the following members, our new billboards have a monthly sponsor for the next 12 months: Mark & Sharon Stime, Harmony Hills Bison; Monte & Nancy Allen, Cannonball Ranch; Jerry & Bev Austin, Two Heart Buffalo Ranch; Roy Liedtke, Wendy Hutchinson & Kelly Hardy, Longreach Buffalo Co.; Ralph & Mary Mahoney, Mahoney Buffalo Ranch; Bruce Anderson, Western Buffalo Company; Steve & Gail Schmitz, Brad & Connie Beavers, David & Jeanne Stum, Mike Allard & Steve Allard, Dakota Bison Meats; Ron Bradeen & Jud Seaman, Bradeen Auctions; Sandy & Jacki Limpert, Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch; Rick & Brian Knobe, Lazy RRse Buffalo Ranch; North Dakota Buffalo Assn. and Kim Sealine, Tom & Jenny Trole, Spirited Winds Tatonka Ranch. Thank these members and consider doing your own sponsorship.

If you would like to order a copy of the buffalo carcass cut up demonstration that was held during our winter conference in January, copies are available.
The cost for a VHS tape, with the hour long demonstration and talk, will be \$20 per tape. This price will include tax, where applicable, and shipping. Orders must be pre-paid.
To order a copy, please call, write or e-mail the DTBA office.
See the front page for contact information.

Dakota Territory Buffalo Association
P.O. Box 4104
Rapid City, SD 57709



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE SEND IN ONLY IF YOU ARE A NEW MEMBER OR HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2003 DUES!

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Rapid City, SD 57709

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Minutes of the April 5, 2003 Board Meeting - Video Conference

Members present at the Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls were Rick Knobe, Steve Schmitz and Lorene Bender. Members present at the Belle Fourche Middle School in Belle Fourche were Scott Peterson, Jacki Limpert and Karen Conley. President Scott Peterson called the meeting to order.

Minutes from the January 31, 2003 board meeting and the February 1, 2003 general membership meeting were presented by Secretary, Jacki Limpert. Steve Schmitz moved to approve the minutes and Rick Knobe seconded the motion. Motion carried. Limpert discussed the treasurer's report. Board members decided to have quarterly reports available. Knobe moved to approve the motion and Bender seconded. Motion carried.

The Membership Directory was discussed and Conley gave an update on the project. Bender had previously suggested adding restaurants listings to the directory, but it was decided it would take too long and might not have the results we were looking for at this time. Discussion of the restaurant listings and Buffalo Chips idea will be discussed at a later meeting. Conley will have our two year membership directory printed and distributed in May 2003.

Julie Brewer and Amy Rank, our winter conference contacts at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn, presented the board with a contract for our 2004 winter conference. Discussion took place and Limpert will sign the contract as soon as the revisions are made, as directed by the board.

Discussion was held on how the Black Hills Buffalo Classic went, problems that were encountered and how to address them. Speakers for the 2004 winter conference were discussed and a theme for the event was brought up. A decision was made that during our summer board meeting, we would open the floor and spend some time discussing the show and sale. Member input will be encouraged on this issue.

The board talked about offering booth space to vendors during our winter conference. Schmitz made the motion that the DTBA would allow six booth spaces to be rented under the following conditions: The renter must be a DTBA member or non-profit in our industry; booth space would include a six foot table in an approximately six by eight space. The vendor will be required to purchase one full conference registration and pay a \$50 booth fee. Applications will be sent to the DTBA office prior to the winter conference and vendors who qualify will be allotted space on a first come, first serve basis. Knobe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

It was decided that there will be no Summer Conference this year due to lack of response. The next meeting will be a Board of Directors meeting, open to all DTBA members, on Saturday, July 26. The meeting location is tentatively scheduled for Chamberlain, SD.

The board decided to operate the DTBA trade show booth at the 2004 Black Hills Stock Show.

The association web page was discussed. Knobe and Conley have looked at several options and have decided to go with Bob Linder from DigiSage. He does the Minnesota and Iowa web pages. There is a \$50 per month server fee and it will take four to six weeks to get the site built and on the web. There was a discussion about financing the site and how much to spend to get it up and running. Knobe made the motion to spend up to \$3,000 to build the web site. Bender seconded. Motion carried. The site will be a top priority to get done and Bender suggested when it is that we should link into www.sdtravel.com. Conley will make payment arrangements with the company.

At our winter conference this year, the membership elected to do another series of billboards for our association. Schmitz talked with Avery Brothers and we will have two billboards, a 10 x 32 at milemarker 14 on I-29 in the northbound lane. There will be a 10 x 40 sign on I-90 at the Alexandria exit. The contract is for 18 months and the billboard should be up in April or May. There will be an art charge of approximately \$1,200, as the design has been changed somewhat. The monthly fee will be \$450 for both sites. At our winter meeting, twelve members agreed to sponsor the sign for one month each and Conley will go ahead and send out invoices to those members. We will continue to try and solicit funding for the remaining contract months.

Knobe has agreed to be the chairperson for the DakotaFest event that will be held in August in Mitchell, SD on August 19 - 21. We will again be doing a food vendor booth. Knobe would like to have a meeting in May with anyone interested in helping with this event. The Lewis and Clark Festival will be held in Yankton, SD on Saturday, August 23. We will have a booth at the event and we are sponsoring the grand prize and a runner up prize for the Great Plains Bison-Centennial Dutch Oven Cook Off. In return for our sponsorship, we are listed as a major sponsor and their web site is linked to ours and there will be no charge for our booth space. Conley will be present at both DakotaFest and the Lewis and Clark event.

A discussion was held on fundraising activities. The buffalo leather chair raffle was a hit, with the association making just over \$1,500 in under three months. The idea to hold another raffle was discussed. The association has a Sharps rifle available, #20 in a limited edition series that was commissioned a number of years ago. The association has the artist's proof in its possession and it will be kept in Peterson's locked gun cabinet until we decide what to do with it. Conley and Seaman will check into getting the #20 gun manufactured and we would like to raffle it off, starting as soon as possible. Knobe motioned to sell tickets for the #20 gun, one for \$5 or 5 for \$20. Bender seconded the motion. Motion carried. Peterson will get the artist proof gun appraised and get insurance on it. We will add this asset to our balance sheet.

There was also discussion on other items to raffle or offer for sale at our trade show booths. Conley indicated that she has lots of interest in hair on hides. The board will do some research on this subject and discuss at the next board meeting.

Conley asked the board for input and deadlines on the newsletter. It has always been done on an as needed basis. The membership indicated that communication needs to be better, so it was decided that newsletters will go out quarterly with other issues as needed (conference, etc.). Newsletters will be printed and mailed by March 1, June 1, Sept. 1 and Dec. 1. We will also look at offering advertising in the newsletter. Conley will work on pricing information and bring suggestions to the next board meeting. Knobe made the motion, Peterson seconded. Motion carried. Conley will get a newsletter put together and mailed as soon as possible for the March issue and then we will follow the schedule as set by the board.

The board decided to discuss the Executive Director position at the summer meeting.

Bender discussed her idea for a "Buffalo Chips" promotion, similar to the "Beef Bucks" promotion done by the Cattleman's Association. There was also discussion about offering educational materials to restaurants with the association doing this two or three times per year. Look into grants or sponsorships to cover the costs. Bender and Conley will work on getting pricing information on various materials and present information at the summer meeting.

The board decided to publish minutes of their meetings in the newsletters in an effort to keep the members better informed. Peterson explained that the video conference would cost \$30 per hour on each end (Belle Fourche and Sioux Falls). Our meeting lasted three hours for a cost of \$180. Peterson asked who should pay for the cost, the DTBA or the members. The board members elected to split the cost among themselves so there will be no cost to the association.

The final topic was the North Dakota Buffalo Association. Peterson asked if anyone else had heard or talked to any NDBA board members about possibly working together on projects for the benefits of both memberships. No one had heard anything. Peterson will draft a letter to the NDBA offering to explore the possibilities.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bender and seconded by Knobe. Meeting adjourned.