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## Girlz, Girlz, Girlz...Gone Wild!



Did someone say Girlz Gone Wild?? WHERE??? I can't see them...where are they? Hey GIRLZZ! YOOHOO

Girlz, Girlz, Girlz...Gone Wild!

So what do you think about that? Will that catch people's attention? We're hoping so!

Thanks to the diligent efforts of the revived show and sale committee and a board of directors that have been meeting all summer long, DTBA has more new and exciting things to share and a whole slew of changes and additions to our upcoming show and sale in February.

The most exciting news is the creation of a challenge class for the Girlz! Yes, we finally did it. With much discussion and plenty of laughs, we have created the Girlz Gone Wild Heifer Challenge. It will be structured similar to the Young Guns Yearling Bull Challenge, but of course, we had to do something different with the heifers, well, you know why.

So, here's the scoop on the Girlz. Starting this year, consignors will bring in yearling heifers to the Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale. Those yearling heifers will be judged at the show, but no prizes will be awarded. They will just be placed in the class from top to bottom. Then, they will be taken to the host ranch where they will be weighed and then when they are ready, turned out to grass. Somewhere out in the pasture, we're guessing they are going to meet up with some bulls and over the course of the summer, they will be bred. They will come back in before the next show and sale and will be weighed to calculate their grass gains, they will be ultrasounded for a ribeye score, pregnancy checked and have a pelvic measurement taken. Then, they will return to Rapid City for the 2013 Black Hills Buffalo Classic where they will be judged as bred two year old heifers. The scores will be tabulated and we will find out who the winners are going to be in the first Girlz Gone Wild Heifer Challenge!

Our host ranch for this first year will be Cammack Buffalo Ranch. John and Melanie are very excited to be the hosting the heifers and they are going to make sure the best bulls are out with these girlz. What a match up this is going to be. You cannot believe the thought and ideas that have gone into making this class a reality. But once the idea got thrown out, well, it was only a matter of time before the wheels were turning. Giving credit where credit is due, you all can thank Sandy Limpert for the "unique" name of the class. So, looks like we'll have Young Guns and Girlz Gone Wild! WOOHOO!

So, that's the start of our changes. The show and sale committee put in a lot of time talking to consignors, kicking around ideas and doing their best to create a user friendly format and to work with both our consignors and buyers to give each group input on things that will encourage consignors to keep coming back, attract new consignors and give our buyers the best possible animals to choose from on auction day.

*Continued on page 6*





## Notes From The President - John Cammack

Well, fall has arrived and it's my favorite time of the year, as it brings cooler days and hunting season. This year, during archery antelope season, Sean Graese, his sister Marielle and friend, John Ecklor, came from Northstar Bison in Rice Lake, Wisconsin to chase around the ever-so-frustrating-speed goats. Sean was so excited when he shot his first antelope at 35 yards. He dropped a 13 inch antelope with ivory tips, right in his tracks. Marielle and John, better luck next time! We had an outstanding good time and made some great stories together.

Fall also brings harvest, one of the busiest times of year. This year was great for moisture here and the crops did well. Now, if we could somehow have a great year like this, without the grasshoppers. I don't think you could have found a blade of grass without one chewing on it.

It's always exciting for the fall buffalo work to start, to see how the calves weigh up and to get out to some of the great buffalo sales and events and to visit with the always fun buffalo people. There is no greater group of people to be around and to share life stories with.

Speaking of events it is time to get geared up for the Bison Advantage Workshops and The Black Hills Buffalo Classic show and sale. I would like to encourage you to be looking through your herds and picking out those super good buffalo to bring this year. There is a new class we are going to start this year and I am really excited about it. It's called "Buffalo Girlz Gone Wild".



Kind of jumps out there and grabs your attention! Well, here is the scoop we want you to bring in your best wet t-shirt... no, no just kidding.

How about send your best yearling heifer to be judged, and then brought here to the Cammack Buffalo Ranch to be bred by some spectacular bulls. They will be ultra sounded for carcass traits, weighed, pelvic measured and returned the following year to be judged and sold at the sale. It's like the Young Gun bull class but with the females. It should be a great way to see how the female side of your herd stacks up with the rest.

So, I would encourage you to bring in a bull calf and a yearling heifer for the Young Guns and the Girlz Gone Wild classes, and if you can win them both in 2013 there will be some prize money to be had. I have been busy building new pastures for the girls, as well as my own expanding herd, so I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity. We are also trying to put together a web page for video and pictures of the two groups throughout the year. The Young Guns will be going to Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch this coming year and Sandy and Jacki Limpert are very excited to be hosting them.

Well, I hope this has enticed you a little bit; there will be more details to come. I hope to see you all at the buffalo events with big smiles on your faces', because there isn't a better life to be had than spending it where the buffalo roam.

## Calendar Of Buffalo Meetings, Workshops, Auctions and More!

**November 19:** Custer State Park Fall Classic Annual Live Public Auction. Call (605) 255-4515, or [www.custerstatepark.com](http://www.custerstatepark.com).

**November 20:** Fort Robinson State Park Bison and Longhorn Auction, Crawford Livestock Market, Crawford, NE. (308) 665-2900.

**November 20-22:** Canadian Bison Association Annual Convention and Show and Sale. Regina Inn, Regina, Saskatchewan. (306) 522-4766 or [www.canadianbison.ca](http://www.canadianbison.ca).

**November 25:** Minnesota Buffalo Assn. Bison 101 Class. Albany, MN. Visit [www.mnbison.org](http://www.mnbison.org) or (507) 454-2828.

**November 26:** Minnesota Buffalo Assn. 15th Annual Legends of the Fall Show and Sale, Albany, MN.. Visit [www.mnbison.org](http://www.mnbison.org) or (507) 454-2828.

**December 2-4:** Western Bison Association Wild West Buffalo Stampede Show and Sale and Annual Conference. Golden Spike Events Center, Ogden, UT. [www.westernbison.org](http://www.westernbison.org).

**December 3:** Kansas Buffalo Assn. 22nd Annual Fall Buffalo Auction, Farmers and Ranchers Livestock Commission Company, Salina, KS. (316) 721-0970 or [www.kansasbuffalo.org](http://www.kansasbuffalo.org).

**December 8:** Missouri Bison Assn. 15th Annual Bison Show and Auction, Lolli Brothers Livestock Market, Macon, MO. (816) 322-8174 or [www.mobisonassoc.org](http://www.mobisonassoc.org).

**December 9:** Bison Advantage Workshop, Seven Seas Hotel, Mandan, ND. (701) 252-1122 or [www.bisonadvantage.com](http://www.bisonadvantage.com).

**December 9 - 10:** North Dakota Buffalo Assn. Annual Meeting and Fall Consignment Sale. Seven Seas Hotel and KIST Livestock, Mandan, ND. (701) 252-1122.

**January 2-6, 2012:** Custer State Park Internet Auction. Call (605) 255-4515, or [www.custerstatepark.com](http://www.custerstatepark.com).

**January 19 - 21:** The National Bison Assn. Winter

Conference and Gold Trophy Show and Sale, Renaissance Hotel and NWSS Auction Arena, Denver, CO. For more information, (303) 292-2833 or [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com).

**February 3 - 4:** Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Winter Conference, Ramkota Hotel, Rapid City, SD. (605) 923-6383 or [www.dakotabuffalo.com](http://www.dakotabuffalo.com).

**February 5:** DTBA's Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale and Premium Calf and Yearling Sale. Jim Kjerstad Events Center, Rapid City, SD. (605) 923-6383 or [www.dakotabuffalo.com](http://www.dakotabuffalo.com).

**February 7 -10:** Durham Ranch "Discover the Keys to Successful Bison and Land Management" seminar. Durham Ranch, Gillette, WY. Contact Roland Kroos (406) 522-3862 or e-mail [kroosing@msn.com](mailto:kroosing@msn.com).

**February 18:** Power Genetics Bison Sale, National Western Auction Arena, Denver, CO. Boyd Meyer (970) 396-2249 or Scott Butcher (970) 435-5775.

**February 24-26:** Wisconsin Bison Producers Assn. Annual Meeting/Winter Conference, Bridgewood Resort Hotel and Conference Center, Neenah, WI. [www.wibison.com](http://www.wibison.com) or (920) 688-3488.

**March 10:** Eastern Bison Association Winter Conference and Show and Sale, Harrisburg, PA. [www.eabison.org](http://www.eabison.org).

**March 10:** Rocky Mountain Buffalo Assn. Peak to Peak Buffalo Show and Sale, National Western Auction Arena, Denver, CO. [www.buffaloranchers.com](http://www.buffaloranchers.com).

**April 20-22:** Minnesota Buffalo Assn. 19th Annual Educational Conference. Prairie Edge Casino Resort, Granite Falls, MN. Visit [www.mnbison.org](http://www.mnbison.org) or (507) 454-2828.

**July 24 -28:** International Bison Conference 2012. Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. [www.bison2012.com](http://www.bison2012.com).



# Mycoplasma Bovis Causing Issues For Producers and Animals Alike

## From The National Bison Association

Bison producers may not see any short-term silver bullets to halt the recent increase in outbreaks of Mycoplasma bovis in their herds, but a team of scientists from universities and government agencies in the United States and Canada this week began to develop a game plan for long-term answers to address the problem that is cropping up in herds on both sides of the border.

At a working meeting convened by the National Bison Association in Denver, a handful of producers affected by the recent spike in Mycoplasma bovis, shared information with a group of 10 scientists from several universities, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alberta Agriculture, and the Montana State Veterinary Diagnostic laboratory.

According to information in the Bison Producer's Handbook, "Mycoplasma bovis is a relatively common respiratory bacterium in bison, cattle, and particularly in dairy herds. Many herds have frequently found the organism in the nose and upper throat of bison of all ages and in the reproductive tracts of both females and bulls. Once the organism is allowed to inhabit the cells of the lower respiratory tract, the bison's immune system is compromised. Normal, healthy bison are able to fight off infection by most organisms invading lung tissue. But, if the opportunity arises during times of stress or concurrent illness Mycoplasma will move from the upper airways to the lungs and create pneumonia."

Drs. Mary Brown and Fiona Maunsell of the University of Florida are conducting extensive research in this disease in several animal

species. They discussed how they can incorporate research on bison into their ongoing research. In addition, representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Disease Center joined the meeting via video conference and reported that At least eight bison will be available for studies with bison isolates, and with in-vitro studies with cattle and bison cell cultures. The center also has the capability to conduct 12 genome comparisons.

In the short-term, however, producers were encouraged to manage against the disease by minimizing chronic stress on their herds. One producer at the meeting reported that he uses a killed vaccine against other respiratory diseases and believes it has helped protect against a repeat of Mycoplasma.

Scientists at the Denver meeting noted that outbreaks of Mycoplasma bovis seem to occur on a cyclical basis of about every seven years. Dr. Brown noted, "There are several different strains of Mycoplasma bovis, and this is a quick-change artist so it can modify fairly quickly."

Bison producers are encouraged to develop a comprehensive herd health plan for their operations. And, producers should contact their veterinarian with any concerns about abrupt changes in the health of their herds.

*Editor's Note: We will be taking a look at this topic during our upcoming Bison Advantage workshop. Following the workshop, we will be sharing with the membership what was learned and how to better understand and identify this disease.*

## Make Hotel Reservations NOW!

Our host hotel for our Winter Conference will be the Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City. Show animals can be brought in starting on Thursday, February 2 and on Friday afternoon, February 3, we will have a Bison Advantage presentation (tentative), consignor meeting and our welcoming reception at Prairie Edge. Saturday, February 4 is conference day and awards banquet that evening and our auctions will be held on Sunday, February 5. Please make your hotel reservations accordingly. **We have a room block set aside, just ask for the DTBA block when you make reservations. The hotel number is (605) 343-8550. The room block is good through January 2, 2012, so don't wait!** The hotel sells out this weekend every year. Call today!

## Welcome To Our New Members!

Gene & Cheryl Reaves, Brandon, SD

Karen Gleason, Colorado Springs, CO

Bob Dineen, Rocky Mountain Natural Meats, Henderson, CO

## Our Condolences...

Earlier this summer Lee Rude and Maynard Rude lost a dear member of their family when mother and wife, Alyce Rude, passed away. Our sympathies go out to the entire Rude family.

On August 12, Mimi Hillenbrand lost her aunt, Margaret "Mitzi" Lally, who was residing in Rapid City and on August 12, Rod Sather's mother, Helen Sather, passed away in Worthington, MN.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our friends who have experienced a loss in their lives. May they know that we are in their hearts through difficult times.

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## Sponsorships Needed For 2012

With our 2012 events in the not so distant future, we are still in need of sponsorships. There are trophy sponsorships available at this time. We are also looking for cash sponsors for our Winter Conference and Coffee Breaks. Anyone interested in sponsoring other specific items, such as conference folders, signage for our sponsors, etc. is more than welcome to do so. Thank you to those of you who have so graciously stepped forward to sponsor and/or donate up to this point. Your generosity is much appreciated!

For more information on sponsorships, contact Karen at (605) 923-6383 or email to: info@dakotabuffalo.com.

## Time To Pay 2012 Membership Dues

Check on the front mailing label of this newsletter. The year your dues have been paid through is highlighted on the mailing label. If it says "2011", you need to renew your dues at this time. If the date on your newsletter is 2010 or prior, your dues need to be paid now in order to continue receiving materials from the association or to show animals at the Black Hills Buffalo Classic.

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in your 2012 dues. It's very much appreciated!

## Board of Directors Needs Candidates

At our annual meeting coming up in February, we will have two positions open on the Board of Directors. If anyone is interested in serving on the board, please contact the office or any of the current board members and let us know you are interested.

It's not a glorious or glamorous job, but our board is crucial to the success of your association. If you want to learn more, just ask. Any of our board members are more than willing to share their experiences with any prospective candidates.

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## Tuberculosis Found in SD Cattle

PIERRE, SD. – Bovine tuberculosis has again been found in a South Dakota beef herd.

State animal health officials confirmed on November 9 that a Hutchinson County herd is affected. The herd is under quarantine, and an investigation is ongoing to determine if other herds are affected.

"We are working closely with the herd owner, veterinarians, and USDA officials," said

State Veterinarian Dr. Dustin Oedekoven. "Our immediate goal is to determine if additional herds are affected and to limit the economic impact of this disease on South Dakota's cattle industry."

Additional testing will be conducted in herds associated with the affected herd, he said.

Dr. Oedekoven stated that there is no threat to food safety as a result of this finding.

South Dakota has been recognized as a TB-Accredited-Free state by USDA since 1982.

The State was allowed to keep that status despite finding two affected herds in January 2010. The herds identified in 2010 were depopulated, and an extensive investigation was completed.

## SD Bison Will Need TB Test To Enter Wisconsin

Cattle (and bison) from South Dakota will need to meet tuberculosis testing requirements before entering Wisconsin, following a new discovery of bovine TB there, Wisconsin State Veterinarian Dr. Robert Ehlenfeldt recently announced.

Although South Dakota's TB-free status has not been downgraded, Wisconsin will require testing for cattle from that state unless they are going to slaughter when they arrive, Ehlenfeldt said.

"South Dakota has fought this fight before and eradicated TB, but we can't take chances in Wisconsin. The dairy industry is too important to our economy to risk by letting our guard down," he said.

### The new requirements include:

- \* Negative individual tests within 60 days before import for dairy and beef cattle brought in for breeding or exhibition, or as feeder cattle.

- \* Negative individual tests for veal calves that are 30 days or older unless they're confined to one premises from arrival until they go to slaughter.

Animals will be exempt from testing requirements if they are from accredited TB-free herds, or go direct to slaughter or approved import feedlots.

For detailed information about Wisconsin import requirements, go to <http://datcp.wisconsin.gov>.



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## IBC 2012 Fundraising Raffle

The International Bison Conference (IBC) 2012 in Quebec City will be a World Class event celebrating the miraculous recovery of bison in North America over the past 100 years.

The theme of the convention is "Experience the Difference." Quebec City creates the opportunity for all convention attendees to do just that! The conference will involve three days of activity with morning sessions related to bison history, genetics, research, bison health, food safety, agri-tourism and bison handling. Afternoon activities allow conference attendees to experience historic Quebec City and area.

Such an event cannot be funded by registration fees alone. To provide convention attendees with an affordable experience, one of the fundraising activities is a raffle where only 2,000 tickets have been printed. Tickets are \$100/each. There will be 10 prizes valued at \$68,000. Support IBC 2012 and buy your ticket today by calling (306) 522-4766.

For more information on the IBC event, scheduled for July 24-28, go to [www.bison2012.com](http://www.bison2012.com)

## Bison Management Seminar Offered

On February 7 - 10, 2012 the Durham Ranch will be hosting a seminar titled Discover the Keys to Successful Bison and Land Management. At this seminar you will learn how to improve profitability, herd health, quality of life and create healthy landscapes. Being held at the Durham Ranch in Wright, Wyoming, you will see firsthand some of the changes they have experienced using this approach. This seminar will be limited to 15 participants. Register early! For more information or to register, contact Roland Kroos at (406) 522-3862 or e-mail [kroosing@msn.com](mailto:kroosing@msn.com).

The Durham Ranch has been practicing Holistic Management for almost 25 years. John Flocchini (ranch manager) and Pat Thomson (bison herd manager) will be available to answer questions and describe their experiences. Instructor Roland Kroos has been involved with holistic management for 25 years.

## Registration Open For 2012 NBA Conference

The 2012 NBA Winter Conference, January 18 - 21 in Denver, is promising to be a great event for the buffalo community. And now, you can register for the conference on our website, just follow this link: <https://www.bisoncentral.com/conference-registration>. The NBA Winter Conference planning committee is hard at work making the final adjustments to this year's agenda, which promises to be a fun-filled, motivating, educational experience for all attendees.

With a theme of "The Ride Continues", new events for this year include a "Welcome Reception" on Wednesday evening, sponsored by the National Buffalo Foundation and the Throlson American Bison Foundation. An expanded "Visit a Buffalo Mentor" on Thursday morning and the return of the Turn and Learn sessions, this year in separate rooms to resolve the noise issue we had last year.

Also returning to the Winter Conference this year is the Best Bison Chili competition as this year's recipe contest. No rules other than the obvious of using buffalo in your best chili recipe. Please send recipes to [Jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:Jim@bisoncentral.com) to be considered. All entries are judged by the host hotel chef and served at the kickoff luncheon on Thursday of the conference to attendees. The winner will receive an award, their winning recipe posted on our website and in Bison World magazine.

Please contact the Renaissance Hotel at (303) 800-1314 by January 4, 2012 to reserve your room at the conference rate of \$119 per night (Single/Double Occupancy). Be sure to mention the National Bison Association when making your reservation, or visit <http://denverrenaissance-px.rtrk.com> to reserve online.

## NBA Recruiting For 1,000 Members

The National Bison Association's 1,000 by 2012 campaign is heading into the home stretch, with existing members being offered a hefty reward for helping to bring new recruits into the organization. Hefty...as in a \$50 gift certificate for each new member recruited.

NBA President John Flocchini of Wyoming noted, "Our meetings with policymakers in Washington, D.C. this past September, demonstrated the value of having an association with a deep, broad membership base. The fact that we have bison producers across the country helps assure that we have a place at the table when decisions are made.

Flocchini continued, "Now, our members have an opportunity to receive a direct incentive for helping us to build a stronger, more effective organization. The \$50 certificate can be used to offset the price of a producers membership renewal, or it can be used for any of the items in our on-line store."

"Our best spokespeople are our members who have been active in the association, and who recognize the benefits of being a part of a strong, growing national association," said Jim Matheson, NBA assistant director. "Our membership committee, and the board of directors, launched our Recruiter Reward program as an incentive for our members to tell that story to their friends and neighbors in the buffalo business."

Membership blanks are readily available on the National Bison Association Website, [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com). Anyone recruiting a new member can simply include their name in the "Recruiter" field on the application to earn the \$50 gift certificate incentive. The link to join the NBA is <http://www.bisoncentral.com/about-nba/join-nba>.

**\$50**

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**For every new member you recruit, earn a \$50 gift certificate which can be applied toward your NBA membership renewal, or used for any item in our store. Recruit four new members and you have paid for your one-year membership! (\$50x4)**

**Call or log on for more details**  
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## Girlz, Girlz, Girlz, Gone Wild!

*Continued from page 1*

On the Young Guns class, our scoring criteria will be changing slightly this year, as we will be ultrasounding the bulls when they are worked for the show. So the new scoring criteria for that class will include five areas: grass gain, grain gain, ribeye score, scrotal measurement and the live judging at the show. We are very excited to add the ultrasound to this class and it should just enhance what is already being done.

Additionally, realizing that bringing calves to the show and sale is not always feasible for everyone, we will be offering three opportunities for consignors to get the Young Guns calves delivered to the host ranch. The first delivery date will coincide with our carcass class, which we are looking at moving closer to our show and sale date. In doing so, we hope to create a window for any of the Young Guns bulls that might not necessarily measure up as breeding bulls. By moving the date later in January, we can work those Young Guns yearlings a bit earlier for the show and if they don't measure up, the consignors would then have the option to enter that bull in the carcass class. Additionally, for consignors bringing animals to the carcass class, if they want to deliver their Young Guns calf at that time, we will have a trailer available at the plant that will take them to the host ranch.

The second delivery date for those Young Guns calves would be just like it is now, with them being delivered to Rapid City to the show grounds during our show and sale. A third delivery date will be set up with a specific day and meeting location for consignors to meet a trailer going to the host ranch. All calves will be delivered to the host ranch no later than March 1. We would like to keep them in these three groups, as it will make it easier for the host ranch to work the calves as a group with each delivery rather than single calves here and there. Sandy and Jacki Limpert, Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, will be our host ranch for the 2013 Young Guns class, so calves delivered this year will be going to their ranch.

And finally, one more thing to help reward and entice our consignors. In the Young Guns, Girlz Gone Wild and Reality Based Carcass Classes, we will be awarding cash prizes in addition to the trophies. First place will receive \$300, second place will get \$200 and third place will take home \$100. While it's not a lot of money, the committee felt it might help entice more consignors to enter and in the case of the carcass class, which creates an additional trip for most everyone, it might help offset some of the additional costs our consignors incur.

So, that's a look at what your show and sale committee and the board of directors have been working on all summer. They have put in a lot of time and energy to create the new class and rework the others and we're hoping you will take advantage of them and get those animals entered!

Our Winter Conference is also taking shape and speakers are being secured. We do have confirmation that Dr. Gerald Parsons from Oklahoma will be at our conference and he will be doing a presentation on ultrasounding buffalo. Not only is Gerald a veterinarian, he's also a buffalo producer, so he has an excellent background in this area and we're looking forward to having him here to help educate us about the process.

If you have any questions about the new classes or want more information, feel free to contact the office or one of the board members and we'll do our best to get you up to speed on all of this. It's very exciting to see your association moving forward and once again, being the first in the industry to do this heifer challenge class. We hope our consignors and buyers will be as excited about these changes as we are.

Show and Sale entry information will be mailing in mid-December, along with conference information and registration. An email will be sent out when it's posted to the website and it will be available there as well. Get out there and look your animals over and bring us your best! We will continue to offer the usual show classes and will once again have the Premium Auction in conjunction with the show and sale. All show classes, including the carcass and challenge classes, do count toward Producer of the Year.

The stage is set...let's get on with the show!



Those Girlz are out there somewhere...I can smell 'em. YOOHOO, Girlzzzz! I'm right here you Wild Things! I can't wait to meet those Wild Girlz!

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# Bison Ranchers Bring Business Concerns To Capitol Hill

## From the National Bison Association

Washington, D.C. – Continued growth in the bison business will be impacted by short-term drought-relief measures, and by long-term federal policies governing farm credit, beginning farmer assistance, meat inspections, endangered species, and other issues.

That’s the message that was brought to the nation’s capital this past September by a delegation of 18 National Bison Association members, who met Wednesday and Thursday with officials at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and with key congressional offices.

The ranchers told federal policymakers that growing consumer demand for bison meat is outstripping current supplies. They offered a series of recommendations on how current USDA resources could be better utilized to encourage new producers to enter the business.

In a meeting with Deputy Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan, the bison delegation offered input regarding the implementation of several programs covered under the Department’s Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food initiative. Merrigan launched that initiative immediately after assuming office in early 2009. Topics during that meeting covered beginning farmer assistance, research, outreach, rural development, and farm-to-school lunch programs.

Dave Carter, NBA executive director, stressed that bison producers often face special challenges in accessing financing through USDA. “Bison are an unknown quantity for many loan officers, so they don’t know how to value herds, or how to assess start-up costs,” Carter said.

Merrigan and Farm Service Administrator Bruce Nelson said the agency would welcome informational resources from the National Bison Association to help provide local FSA offices with better tools for evaluating bison loan applications.

In meetings throughout the week, the grassroots bison lobbyists stressed that the ongoing drought threatens the ability of the buffalo business to expand production. Bison industry representatives from Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico told federal officials that bison producers will be forced to liquidate herds unless they can access hay and other feedstocks at a reasonable price.

The ranchers urged members of Congress to continue funding for three U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs offering assistance for drought-stricken producers. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, programs for livestock indemnification, forage assistance, and livestock emergency assistance will expire at the end of September unless Congress authorizes continued funding.

The bison delegation also asked officials on Capitol Hill and at USDA to explore alternatives to help reduce the cost of transporting hay to the drought-impacted regions.

"Not only are we having to pay more than \$200 per ton for hay, we are also having to pay about \$4.00 per loaded mile to get that hay to our ranch," said New Mexico rancher John Painter.

While in Washington, D.C., the buffalo producers also met with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials to review the latest development following the agency’s February decision to deny a petition request to declare wild plains bison as an endangered species. Two environmental groups have filed notice of intent to sue the agency over the ruling, but no formal litigation has yet been filed.

John Flocchini, president of the National Bison Association, noted at the end of the two-day blitz that the bison ranchers had received positive responses throughout the week. "Without exception, the officials we met were extremely receptive, and willing to work with us to build bison production throughout the United States," he said.

# NBA Promotes at FFA Convention

## From the National Bison Association

Indianapolis, IN- Emerging opportunities in buffalo ranching and marketing attracted significant interest from many of the 55,000 students, advisors and adults attending the National FFA convention this past October.

The National Bison Association hosted a booth, and conducted a Bison Advantage teacher’s workshop at the three day convention this week as the association continues to reach out to new producers encouraging them to enter the growing bison business. Volunteers from Idaho, Indiana and Wisconsin joined National Bison Association Executive Director Dave Carter at the FFA Career Expo to visit with students and adults interested in bison ranching and marketing.

“The interest in being a part of the bison business is extremely high, and reflects the fact that bison production and marketing is emerging as a stable, sustainable and profitable enterprise,” Carter said. “Several people at the convention actively sought out the National Bison Association’s booth to gather information they can use in making a decision about transitioning into bison production,” Carter said.

For the second consecutive year, the National Bison Association conducted a workshop for agricultural advisors and teachers. In the workshop, Carter and young bison producer Marielle Graese of Rice Lake, WI reviewed the issues surrounding bison production and marketing as a career choice. They also reviewed the educational resources available through the National Bison Association.

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## North Dakota Buffalo Assn. To Host Bison Advantage Workshop

With interest in all things buffalo continuing to climb and requests for information becoming more and more frequent, the North Dakota Buffalo Association is answering the call by offering a Bison Advantage Workshop this fall. The workshop will be held on Friday, December 9 in Mandan, ND at the Best Western Seven Seas Hotel and Waterpark. This workshop will be held in conjunction with the NDBA's Annual Meeting and Fall Consignment auction.

The workshop will begin on Friday morning with a series of speakers covering subjects pertinent to the buffalo industry. A health update will be presented by North Dakota State Veterinarian, Dr. Susan Keller. National Bison Association Executive Director, Dave Carter, will present an NBA update and Risk Management information, and Dr. Vern Anderson from North Dakota State University addressing feedlot management and nutrition. Steve Metzger, also from NDSU, will present information on Producer Financing and Evie Woodall and Kevin Leier will look at the industry from the perspective of young producers. Phil Baird, United Tribes Technical College and Mike Faith, Standing Rock Buffalo Ranch, will present Native American Uses and Traditions of Bison.

Following a complimentary noon lunch, the group will head to Kist Livestock Auction to view the auction facilities and watch a brief handling demonstration. The group will then return to the hotel and the NDBA will have their Annual Meeting banquet and Fun Auction that evening. On Saturday morning, there will be a

short business meeting and election of officers for the association, followed by the Fall Consignment Auction at Kist Livestock.

The Friday workshop is free of charge to attendees, with coffee and rolls available in the morning and a Buffalo Lunch Buffet being provided. We ask that you pre-register for both the workshop and the NDBA Annual Meeting Dinner so that meals and workshop materials will be available to attendees.


Registrations must be postmarked by December 3, 2011 or faxed by December 6, 2011 (pay on arrival) to guarantee meals/workshop materials. The only cost to attendees is for the NDBA Annual Meeting Dinner on Friday night. Cost for NDBA members is \$10 and non-members is \$25.

The Best Western Seven Seas Hotel and Waterpark will be the host hotel. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-597-SEAS and reference the North Dakota Buffalo Association.

More information and registration for the workshop will be available on the Bison Advantage website at [www.bisonadvantage.com](http://www.bisonadvantage.com) and informational packets and registrations will be mailed shortly. You may also contact the North Dakota Buffalo Association at (701) 252-1122 or [director@buffalomuseum.com](mailto:director@buffalomuseum.com).




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# Minutes From The Board Meetings of the DTBA - April 14, 2011

President John Cammack called the meeting to order. Board members in attendance were Wendy Hutchinson, Marielle Graese and Bruce Anderson. Executive Director Karen Conley was also present for the meeting.

President Cammack asked if the board had reviewed the minutes from January 24 and February 5. President Cammack asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Bruce Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Wendy Hutchinson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was presented. A profit/loss comparison sheet was put together by Conley, brief discussion followed. President Cammack asked for a motion to have the Treasurer's report approved. Bruce Anderson made a motion to approve the report, Marielle Graese seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Cammack called forth the first topic of discussion, the current banking situation for the association. Conley shared insight at this point of what her frustrations have been while banking with Wells Fargo. Some of those being overwhelming use of fees for routine banking procedures, hassle to update information, and approving signers. Hutchinson recommended Conley to explore other banks that she feels fits our associations needs and correspond with the board via email. Conley will explore banks such as Pioneer Bank and First Interstate. The three officers approved for signing on the account would like to be changed. The board agreed to table this issue till banks were changed and the new accounts were being structured. There has been requests from DTBA members to be able to pay membership or conference fees via credit card, this will be considered when looking for a new bank. Hutchinson approved, President Cammack seconded the motion. Motion carried. Hutchinson made a motion to appoint Bruce Anderson as the temporary agent for the purpose of signing checks on behalf of the association. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mimi Hillenbrand at 777 Ranch will be hosting a stockmanship seminar on June 3rd and 4th. Hillenbrand put in a request for the DTBA to sponsor the snacks and beverages for participants. The board agreed upon a \$300 stipend for the seminar. Conley is going to contact Hillenbrand to see if DTBA can have a display table on-site during the event in return for the sponsorship. Hutchinson made a motion to approve the stipend. Anderson approved the motion. President Cammack seconded. Motion carried.

Conley brought forth requests from people regarding hosting another Bison Advantage in conjunction with Custer State Park Auction in November. The board agreed that hosting another event would be beneficial as a follow up but doing a scaled down version. Possibly try to work with the park to do a cheaper meal, ect. Would be necessary to find new speakers with a concentration in in-depth banking, cost of production break downs, possibly a rep from a corral/handling system company, ect. Hutchinson proposed doing a ranch tour that would have another corral design and business plan. Conley and Hutchinson will be doing some informal polling of last year's attendees to see what they would like and share their consensus at the next meeting.

Next, Conley has done several trade shows/booths this past year and wanted to reevaluate which ones were worth returning to. The board agreed that Key City Pen of Three Ag Days in Sturgis would not be worth returning to. Ag Day Celebration in Sioux Falls was not able to be attended this year but would be next year. SD State FFA Convention would only do again if it was restructured. Look at possibly sponsoring Specialty Animal Production Proficiency awards in the future. Scotty Philip Days 100th Anniv. in Philip, SD in July is asking for someone to talk about the history of the bison in Scotty Philip's era. Conley will send out an email to membership to get leads on someone who might be able speak on this. McIntosh High School ProStart Culinary Program has asked for sponsorship of meat for their students. The board agreed to move forward with this program as a whole but not to support just a specific high school. The DTBA is going to promote amongst their members the attendance of the NBA Summer Conference in Big Sky, MT. Conley said a motorcycle ride is in the planning stages at this time, while the bus trip is still an option for others.

President Cammack moved onto the next topic on the agenda, Winter Conference 2012. Chairman of the committee Wendy Hutchinson will be meeting with Conley in the future to sketch out the agenda along with collaborating to recruit volunteers.

President Cammack brought forth a recap of the Show and Sale committee meeting from April 12. The committee will be surveying consignors and buyers and regrouping May 10 to compile the survey.

President Cammack asked if there was any new business at this time. Marielle Graese asked if and what interaction the association has had in the past with their state FFA program. Conley shared that there was a FFA curriculum formulated back in the late 90's that resembled a short, concise version of the breeders handbook. Graese presented to the board two requests from the NBA Youth and Education Committee. First to look at sponsoring a youth director to represent the bison industry in their region. Second to help provide qualified contacts from their assn./region to be added to a mentor list geared towards young and beginning bison ranchers. Graese requested the board not make any further decisions on this till the next meeting. Conley stated that she will be sending out an email to the membership about a wildlife conservancy seminar.

There being no further business, President Cammack asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Anderson made the motion to adjourn. Hutchinson seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.



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# Minutes From The Board Meetings of the DTBA

## January 24, 2011 • Telephone Conference

President Bruce Anderson called the meeting to order. Present were board members John Cammack, Larry Carr, Chad Kremer, Wendy Hutchinson, Mimi Hillenbrand and Show Chairman, Zane Holcomb and Executive Director, Karen Conley.

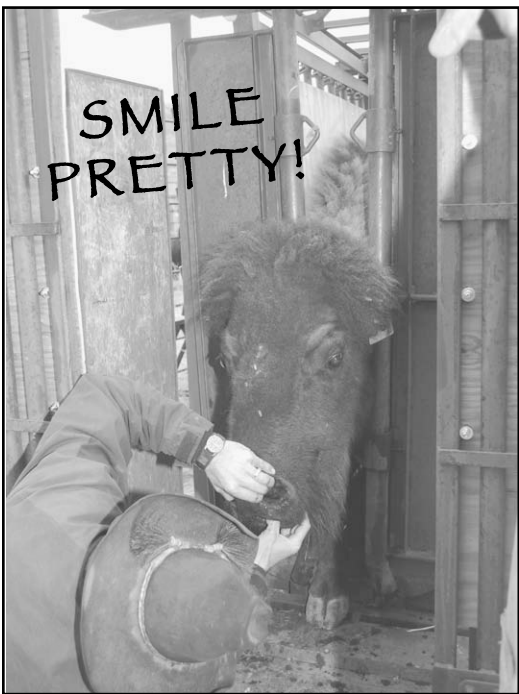
The minutes of the December 13, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Kremer made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Hillenbrand seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The financial report was presented and discussed. There was discussion about the format of year to year comparisons and how best to present the information. Conley will do up several samples and send to the board via email and the board will vote on them via email. Via email, Carr made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as shown. Kremer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The group discussed the upcoming Winter Conference presentation. Hutchinson is working on the sale price report graphing and requested more information from Kremer for the park portion. Kremer will get her the additional information. Hutchinson will take the lead on the presentation with Kremer and Anderson stepping in as needed.

Two board positions will be open this year. John Cammack's first term is up and he will run for re-election. Chad Kremer's position will be open and he is term-limited and cannot run again. Cammack spoke with Travis Mickelson and he will run for the board. Conley spoke with Marielle Graese and she will run for the board. Conley has requested profiles from all the candidates and those will be included in the conference packet for attendees.

The upcoming show and sale was discussed. Conley and Holcomb have been making phone calls to try and get more consignors for the show portion. Many producers are holding on to animals they do have, especially females. Conley noted that it has been difficult this year to get commitments for people to bring animals. The group discussed doing a survey of the consignors to get feedback on our show/sale program and see if changes are needed and/or wanted. Holcomb suggested giving all consignors a questionnaire when they bring in their animals. The pros and cons of this method was discussed. The board opted to go ahead with that if something could be developed in time. Otherwise we will have to look at another method.



The Bison Advantage workshop on Friday, February 4 was discussed. Since there is no registration required, we will keep it very informal and see how many show up and perhaps use the time for one-on-one discussion or a question/answer format. Hutchinson, Cammack and Anderson have all volunteered to be at the workshop and make presentations, answer questions or visit with attendees as needed.

The board then discussed various ideas for the association. We would like to get more involved with the FFA organizations. Conley has made contact with the state FFA organization and they are now included on our mailing list and we are receiving information about their activities as well. One suggestion was to possibly offer a youth judging event in conjunction with our show and sale. Conley also noted that she attends the Ag Day celebration in Sioux Falls, SD every March and the response to the DTBA presence has been very good. The event is geared toward elementary age students, but many parents/caregivers are there as well and it has been a good opportunity to promote buffalo products as well as educate the youth about buffalo.

Due to time constraints and keeping in mind several of the board members are in the yards working during our conference weekend, it was decided to not have a formal board meeting on Friday prior to the conference. The new board will meet on Saturday following the general membership meeting.

There being no further business, Kremer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cammack seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

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Richard McConnell  
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Photos by Wendy Hutchinson



Above, waiting for a demonstration. Below, Kelly Hardy and Bob Penn visit.

In early June, Mimi Hillenbrand, owner of the 777 Ranch, was gracious enough to host a free seminar on Stockmanship, conducted by Richard McConnell and Tina Williams. About two dozen people took advantage of the opportunity. Lots of good information was presented and there was a handling demo using buffalo.

Thanks, Mimi, for allowing our members to continue to learn and enrich their buffalo skills!

