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Check us out on Facebook! DTBA Office Contact

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Executive Directors:

Patrick Toomey, Tammi Cooley

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What a summer it has been. We have had a lot of moisture in the Dakotas but not enough to call ourselves Dakota Water Buffalo Association. All laughs aside there are some serious conversations happening around Bison/Buffalo. The problem with popularity and higher prices is people who want to take advantage of our industry's hard work and reputation. Everyone should get involved in this labeling issue.

The DTBA Board has been busy with many projects. Just last

week I picked up a gorgeous 22-250 Browning from A&A Engraving for the Scholarship Committee, get your raffle tickets early. The Conference Committee has been working on adjusting the typical schedule to make room for the, new this year, video auction for the Girlz and Gunz. Speaking of the Girlz & Gunz the performance classes are shaping up nicely, check out the updates here and on our DTBA Facebook page. Kevin Lear is doing a great job up in North Dakota, so pay attention if you're looking for a set of fancy replacement heifers, or some new bull power. The new website is coming together. The committee is working on content and other details but I expect to be able to register for winter conference online. For those of you like me who aren't too tech savvy don't worry. The committee is trying to make it user friendly and convenient.

Thanks, and enjoy the rest of your summer!

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MORITZ ESPY & COLTON JONES

The Conference Committee is planning some changes to the schedule of events at this year's conference. As always, we will kick off the conference Thursday night at Prairie Edge. Then we will begin Friday afternoon with the Consignor and business meetings, followed by the Awards Banquet & Fun Auction Friday night with entertainment after. We will start Saturday Morning with education, followed by the Girls & Guns video auction. I know this will disappoint some but I will have a video feed outside in the parking lot for those who want the frozen bleacher experience. These changes will allow more time on Sunday for those who have to travel.

For more information about the scholarship or to get tickets for the raffle, please contact the committee directors or DTBA directly at info@dakotabuffalo.com



SHOW & SALE COMMITTEE

MORITZ ESPY & BOYD MEYER UPDATE BY KEVIN LEIER

The 2018-2019 Young Gunz and Girlz Going Wild Performance Classes have been off and running for the summer months here at Heartland Bison Ranch. With over 50 bulls and 24 heifers partaking in the competition, the quality of animals in this year's classes are top notch. We have been blessed with timely rains and abundant grass this grazing season and the animals have clearly benefited with their time out on the range. The bulls were on grass for 100 days due to deteriorating range conditions. It is always interesting to watch the numbers and see how the bulls fared while on their all grass test portion of the competition*. For the first time, we have 2 ranches from Canada participating in the Young Gunz, which has only added to the overall quality and diversity of genetics performing in the class. The heifers will continue on the range until the first week of November, at which time they will come in for the weigh in and then move to a smaller pasture to bale graze and "Fluff Up" for the sale. Overall, things have been progressing nicely with hosting both classes and we look forward to bringing these exceptional animals through the duration of the competition and to the auction sale. ~ Kevin and Lee Leier

*Weights from the move are located at the end of this newsletter



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE LIZ SCHROTH & COLTON JONES

We are excited to announce that the DTBA is now offering a scholarship. We feel the future lies in our youth, and we'd like to help with continuing education.

The scholarship will be open for applications Feb. 1-Apr.15. The application can be found on our website. We are not limiting applicants to any specific field, all majors welcome. We are,however, requiring that the applicant be affiliated with DTBA as either a member or having a member as their sponsor.

We are having a raffle to help support this year and future years scholarship fund. The top prize is a Browning Lever Action 22-250 gun with DTBA Scholarship Edition engraved on the stock, second and third prizes are cash in the amount of \$100 and \$50. Winners will be drawn for at our winter conference. We are capping the amount sold at 300 tickets so get yours soon.

WEBSITE UPDATE

In May, the DTBA contracted with DigiSage, Inc to help upgrade our website. Throughout the summer, we have finalized the design portion of the site and are currently in the building stage. For the most part this will be a face-lift to the design and a boost to the functionality of our site, including an online membership and event registration. We also decided to make our site totally open, meaning there will be no login required to access our information. We are a producers organization, and easy access to information is vital to all producers, not just our own. The website should be functional by mid-October, just intime for Winter Conference registration.

That being said, we do need some help. If there are any specific online (or otherwise) resources or information that you believe would help our industry and would like to be added to our Bison Resource page, please let us know. This is your website. We want to ensure that it meets your, the producers', needs.

Please send suggestions for resources to info@dakotabuffalo.com.

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We want to hear from you!

If you want to increase your participation in the DTBA or have any suggestions to increase the value you receive from membership please contact us at info@dakotabuffalo.com.



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GIRLZ AND GUNZ: HOME IN THE HEARTLAND

Heartland Bison Ranch started in 1996 when Lee and Rebecca Leier, along with their 8 children, moved back home to North Dakota after living and working in the construction industry in Las Vegas, NV for almost 20 years. At that time, the bison industry was looking strong and the opportunity presented itself to start the ranch. 10 cows and a bull started the initial herd and the first calves hit the ground in 1997. Fast forward to today and Lee and Rebecca, along with their son Kevin and his wife Anne, continue to work the ranch and grow the herd when opportunities present themselves. Over the last 10 years, Kevin has taken the lead on working to increase the production side of the ranch through adding better genetics and instituting a strong culling process. He will be the first to admit that the herds at Heartland Bison still have work to do but the trend in the recorded data continues to show that these decisions are paying off. That philosophy of genetic improvement is what hooked Kevin into the DTBA performance classes in the first place. The first DTBA performance sale Kevin and Lee attended resulted in the guys bringing home the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place heifers from the very first Girlz Gone Wild Class. Those animals made an immediate impact in the herd and from there the ranch has been all in of the classes the DTBA has put forward every year.

This summer marks the 4th year in a row that Heartland Bison has hosted a performance class for the DTBA. After three years of hosting the heifers, Kevin and Lee took on the challenge to have both classes hosted at the ranch. Kevin believes that the biggest thing that has allowed DTBA participation is the continual ranch growth. Both Kevin and Lee agree that the responsibility of hosting these animals is nothing to take lightly. Everyone at Heartland Bison believes that these classes have the ability to alter the direction of any ranch looking to improve their herds, and that is a driving factor in continuing to support the DTBA efforts. The Leier family would like to sincerely thank the ranches and the DTBA board for their trust and support in caring for these animals and hope readers will look forward to having a chance to buy some exceptional animals in February.



AAFCO APPOINTS WORKING GROUP ON BUFFALO/ BISON INGREDIENT DEFINITION

(PROVIDED BY THE AUGUST 3, 2018 NBA WEEKLY UPDATE, WITH PREMISSION BY THE NBA)

The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) this week appointed a working group to consider developing new language to clarify the definitions of bison and buffalo when used as ingredients in pet products. The move to appoint a working group came during the Ingredients Definitions Committee meeting held during the AAFCO annual meeting in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

NBA Executive Director Dave Carter was invited to participate in the working group, which will be comprised primarily of state feed regulators and a representative of the FDA. The water buffalo industry will also be invited to have a representative on the working group.

The action came after the NBA Board of Directors earlier this year unanimously adopted a resolution asking that the pet feed regulations be amended to require water buffalo ingredients to be fully identified as "water buffalo," rather than just as "buffalo." The use of the term buffalo in pet food often misleads consumers into thinking that those ingredients are derived from bison.

Carter addressed the AAFCO meeting in Florida and stressed that the clarification would provide customers with better transparency regarding the ingredients in their pet products.

"There is also an issue of food safety," Carter said. "If there was a recall, or if some pets died because of contamination in the water buffalo ingredients, all the public would hear is that there was a problem with the buffalo. That could be devastating to our produces."

The working group will meet over the next several months and is tasked with developing a formal recommendation for the AAFCO Mid-Year meeting, scheduled in January.



WANT TO ADVERTISE?

Contact Patrick Toomey or Tammi Cooley at: info@dakotabuffalocom





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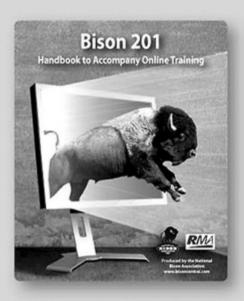
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BISON VS BUFFALO: MEAT INDUSTRY IMPLICATIONS

In recent years, marketers and producers have been working hard to improve the industry through building a consumer base that cares about a healthy meat alternative to beef. Part of this building process is carcass utilization. If more of the animal can be used (hides, skulls, the drop) then more money can be made for all. Recently the National Bison Association has been spearheading something that has infringed upon this concept: the mislabeling of water buffalo as bison.

To get to the root of this issue, we have to understand where it came from. Bison are a distinct line of bovid that seperated from the line of true buffalo approximately 5 to 10 million years ago. The line that bison descend from are more similar to yaks and cattle than to African or Asian buffalo. During European colonization, French trappers referred to bison as "buffles", which in turn is a misnomer of the French word for beef: le boeuf (pronounced buff). Because of this long history of buffalo, many North Americans use the terms buffalo and bison interchangeably. At most of our producer conferences you can even hear presenters use the terms in the same sentence.

In North America, there is no distinction between buffalo and bison. Savvy marketers know this. Currently effort by the NBA have been focused on the pet food industry. Water buffalo is being marketed with picturesque scenes of bison on the plains, and being labeled simply as buffalo in the ingredients, with bison popping up a few ingredients later. Now this may be "just" dog food, however, these implications a farther reaching.

I had an opportunity to catch up with Bob Dineen, owner of Great Range Bison, one of the largest distributors of bison in the industry. According to him, foreign marketers understand the North American dichotomy of buffalo and bison. Though we cannot do anything about consumers choosing water buffalo over bison, when labeled appropriately as water/Asian buffalo. Once mislabeled as simply buffalo, it can have a major impact on the industry.

"This is a cheap, and very available protein," Dineen says. With over 130 million domestic water buffalo, tapping into a prime market that has a constant shortage of supply, simply by using the term "buffalo" is a marketing strategy of smoke and mirrors to consumers. This type of marketing has already caused Dineens customers to gravitate towards the cheaper product.

"At a time where the bison industry is looking to expand, this is the last thing we need," he says.

Want to do something about this issue? Contact your local Congressman and explain the need for proper food labeling. for information on how please contact the DTBA at info@dakotabuffalo.com.



Top Ten Scores Off of Grass

Ranch Name	Tag #	Out to Grass Weight 5/17/2018`	Score #1	ADG on Grass	Score #2	Total Score	Live Weight 8/25/2018
Bison Spirit Ranch	918	878	50	1.77	55	105	1055
Strategy Bison	930	916	55	1.14	42	97	1030
Silver Creek Bison	934	820	41	1.48	53	94	968
Cold Creek Buffalo Co	937	846	46	1.2	47	93	966
Silver Creek Bison	920	826	42	1.26	49	91	952
Cold Creek Buffalo Co	955	858	48	1.1	41	89	968
Bison Spirit Ranch	926	914	54	1.01	33	87	1015
Silver Creek Bison	917	852	47	1.08	39	86	960
Rafter K/Horse Creek	925	808	38	1.18	46	84	926
Cammack Buffalo Ranch	953	888	51	0.94	28	79	982



Want More Information on the Young Gunz?

Contact the DTBA at infor@dakotabuffalo.com or Kevin Leier at hlbnorthgate@gmail.com





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Bison Body Size and Climate Change: Body Size is not as Static as You Might Think

By Jeff M. Martin

In this summary, I focus on my recently published peer-reviewed article entitled, "Bison body size and climate change" published in Ecology and Evolution this last April (Martin et al., 2018). This paper is a product of a side project that I began during my Masters studies at East Tennessee State University and picked it up again for the basis of my PhD studies at Texas A&M University. My curiosities about body size change began with visits to museums across various states and their Ice Age dioramas. "Why are the Ice Age Bison so much larger than today's?" I would ask myself and those around me. No one had a good answer and I still don't have a perfect answer. But, I feel I am getting closer. What I can tell you is the rate of change, which was previously undocumented.

Background

Before we get into that subject, there are some relevant contingencies that you, as the reader, should be aware of. First, this is the best available measure of rate of change for body size declines in large mammals over geologic time scales available to science. Second, this study takes a macroecology perspective, that is, this study takes the average of many populations over continental scales. Essentially, the rate reported should be taken as the average change over all populations and that what you may observe will likely be more or less of the reported rate, but will likely fall within the estimated error. This will be especially true for those living in the extreme northern or southern extents, beyond that of natural historic or pre-historic Bison distributions. Third, this study is part of a much larger research project and program that will address the underlying mechanisms controlling body size in Bison and other large mammals. This study is the justification for why we need to focus research efforts and resources into understanding the mechanisms controlling body size, and from there, try to accurately quantify the extent and consequences of these changes. Fourth, the geologic ages for each of the 60 fossil localities are derived from radiocarbon dating and have been subsequently calibrated to represent calendar years before the present (i.e. how many years prior to 1950). One thing that we know for certain from this study, North American Bison today are the smallest that they have been in the entire evolutionary history (more than 160,000 years). However, it was not a simple one-way ride, it has been a dynamic response to large-scale global environmental fluctuations over the last 40,000 years.

Setting the Scene

Our perspective is that *Bison* are part of a dynamic natural system where global temperatures have risen and declined (Figure 1). *Bison*, through natural responses, have acclimated to those changing environmental conditions by becoming smaller or larger, respectively. We are primarily talking about average mature body size. The change of body size likely takes a few generations.

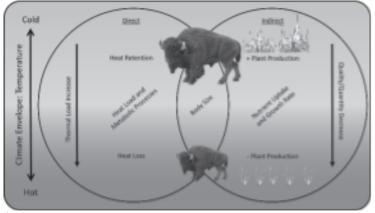


Figure 1. Conceptual model of the direct and indirect effects of elevated ambient temperature on body size of Bison.

We have identified that the heel bone represents a great method for determining approximate body mass of many terrestrial animals. The way we measure the body mass of fossil Bison, is measuring the lengths of the heel bone (Figure 2), specifically the tuber length of the calcaneum and applying an equation to estimate the living mass. This method is previously reported in Christiansen (2002).

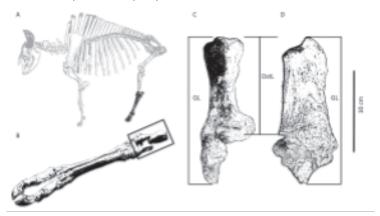


Figure 2. Standard measures of the calcaneum from a Bison (A) hock (B) shown in dorsal view (C) and medial view (D). The Greatest Length (GL) and Distal Tuber Length (DstL) are the primary measures of concern in this study.

Continued on Page 11

Continued from Page 10

Diving into the Details

We measured more than 800 heelbones from 60 fossil sites found throughout the Great Plains, and Intermountain West of the U.S. and southern Canada (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Map of 60 localities used for analysis of fossil Bison body size change.

The distribution of the measurements over time, indicate a rise and fall of body mass from 40,000 years ago to today (Figure 4). Allegedly, the species change throughout this distribution of time, however, the species identification is heavily dependent upon horn core traits. Horn cores characteristics and size are to be highly variable with sexual selection, therefore, are unreliable features for identifying species differences. Furthermore, these various traditional species are likely the same species adapting to environmental changes through time.

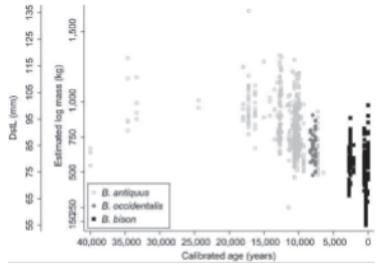


Figure 4. Average body size of fossil *Bison* measured as calcaneal lengths (DstL) and body mass at 60 localities in North America from 40,000 years ago (left) to today (right).

We related the calibrated radiocarbon age of each locality to the Greenland Ice Sheet Project 2 (GISP2) paleotemperature data (Figure 5). The GISP2 temperature data represents a high-resolution, northern hemisphere, temperature profile over the last 110,000 years. We assume that this data is accurate to illustrate the trend of temperature change in North America over the past 40,000 years. We noticed that body size downgrading coincides with a dramatic warming in the last 11,000 years, at the termination of

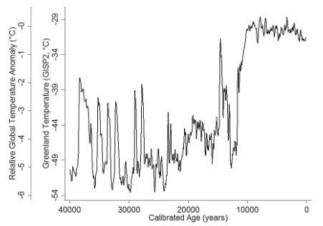


Figure 5. Sequence of Greenland mean annual temperature (°C derived from GISP2 δ 18O values (Alley, 2000) and relative global temperature anomaly derived from 20th Century Greenland temperatures (~29.9°C mean annual temperature) over the last 40,000 years ago (left) to today (right).

We then directly compared the relationship of relative global temperature to the body mass of *Bison*, free of temporal constraints of the geologic time scale (Figure 6). This relationship is important for understanding the direction and magnitude (rate) of body size response to global temperature change. In a linear regression analysis, we found that *Bison bison*, *B. antiquus*, and *B. occidentalis* decrease in body mass by 40.9 kg (90 lbs.) for every degree centigrade (~1.6°F) increase, globally. But, when all three species are combined, which is the more likely scenario for their evolution, the analysis reveals that body mass declines by 63 kg (139 lbs.) for every degree centigrade, globally.

Conclusions

The IPCC Working Group 1 (2014) predicts 4°C rise in global temperatures by year 2100. While the absolute increase in 4°C is not unprecedented in the evolutionary history of *Bison*, the rate of temperature change is 30 times faster than the transition from the last Ice Age to Holocene climate conditions. The Last Glacial Maximum corresponds with a global temperature 6°C cooler than the 20th century, when *Bison* mass was 910 kg. If global temperature warms to +4°C as predicted for the 21st century, *Bison* body mass will likely decline from 665 kg to 357 kg (Figure 6), if body size declines at the long-term average.

Continued on Page 12

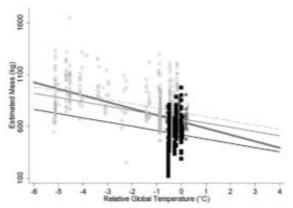


Figure 6. Relationship between estimated body mass (kg; \pm SE) and the linear effect of relative global temperature (°C derived from GISP2 δ^{18} O values) from the mixed model regression with fixed effects of temperature and the random effect of site. Regression line ($y = -40.9 \text{ kg/°C} \pm 10$) with lines for specific regressions (intercepts for *B. bison* (black): 520.9 \pm 36.1; *B. occidentalis* (dark gray): 675.6 \pm 36.2; *B. antiquus* (light gray): 737.3 \pm 44.7; p < .001, n = 849, N = 53). Regression line for the small-sized *Bison* clade (i.e., all 3 species; red line) is -63 kg/°C (\pm 10; z = -6.11 p < .001) with an intercept at 648 \pm 26 kg.

The greatest decline in body size of *Bison* apparently occurred between 12,500 and 9,250 years ago, when mass declined by 26% (906 kg to 670 kg) in approximately 3,000 years. If generation time of *Bison* is 3–10 years the change in body size occurred in 325–1,080 generations producing an average rate of change of 0.2–0.7 kg per generation. It is unclear whether *Bison* can adapt body size to a 4°C warming within 10 generations by year 2100.

Bison today express a 30% body mass gradient from north to south, that is, Bison in Saskatchewan (52°N) are at least 30% larger than those in Texas (30°N). This body size gradient is likely associated with latitudinal variation in timing of re- production and parturition as well as windows for growth. Quantifying and comparing physiological thresholds and mechanisms driving body size change are imperative for managing Bison and other large herbivores (Figure 1). Conservation goals among latitudinally disparate Bison herds in North America should consider that resident Bison will likely grow smaller and more slowly in the south than in the north, which will impact management strategies at both regional and continental scales.

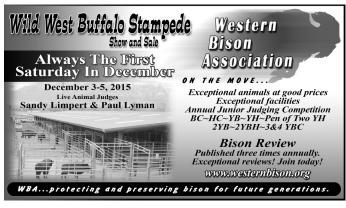
The strong correspondence between body size of *Bison* and air temperature is more likely the result of persistent effects on the ability to grow and the consequences of sustaining a large body mass in a warming environment. Continuing rises in global temperature will likely depress body sizes of *Bison*, and perhaps other large grazers, without human intervention.

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Martin, J. M., J. I. Mead, and P. S. Barboza. 2018. Bison body size and climate change. Ecology and Evolution. Wiley-Blackwell. Available online at 10.1002/ece3.4019.









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Signature	Date			

Held in conjunction with the National Bison Association's (NBA) Gold Trophy Show and Sale during the National Western Stock Show (NWSS), Denver Colorado

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1st Place Individual National Buffalo Foundation

\$1200

2nd Place Individual Rocky Mountain

\$900

Sponsored by: Rocky Mountain Natural Meats

Contest Highlights • No entry fees

- Two Classes: Junior (13 years old and younger) and Senior (14 to 21 years old)
- Team and individual categories. Awards to the top three in each category. A \$1500, a \$1200 and a \$900 Scholarship will be awarded to the top three scoring individuals to the school of higher education of their choice. (Awards will be presented around 3:30p.m., January 23rd)
- Check in at 11a.m. at the NWSS stockyard pens beneath the National Bison Associaiton banner.
- Four to five classes will be judged by all. Classes to be judged will be determined by the Superintendent the day of the contest. The highest points awarded per class is 50. An additional maximum of 50 points will awarded to each participant's Oral Reasons presentation.
- Membership in the National Bison Association not required.

Registration is simple and free. Participants not accompanied by their parents will need to bring with them a letter from their parent, FFA Advisor or 4-H Leader stating that the contestant is academically eligible (passing all classes).

Participants are encouraged to review information on Livestock Evaluation/Judging and Oral Reasons to prepare for the contest. Significant resources are available via a web search as well as contacting your local FFA or 4-H chapter (membership to these organizations is not required). [http://animalscience.tamu.edu/images/pdf/beef/beef-presentation-oral-reasons.pdf offers significant information although it address' cattle information]

While not required for the contest, National Bison Association offers a Junior Membership to those 21 years old and younger. This membership enables individuals to consign bison to the NBA's Gold Trophy Show and Sale under their own name.



For more information or to register contact: Jim Matheson jim@bisoncentral.com or 303-292-2833

DAKOTA TERRITORY BUFFALO ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Dakota Territory Buffalo Association (DTBA) will award one (1) scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to a graduating senior planning to continue his/her education at any college/university, vocational or trade school. Although all graduating seniors are eligible for this award, an applicant must be affiliated with a <u>current DTBA</u> membership or be <u>sponsored</u> by a DTBA member in good standing. This award is specifically designed for those students in the most financial need.

The award will be based on <u>career goals</u>, <u>academic record</u>, <u>extracurricular activities</u>, <u>community involvement</u> and <u>financial need</u>. Funds for the scholarship will be made out to the institution of the recipient's choice upon proof of enrollment.

Completed applications should be sent to the DTBA Board of Directors and are due on or before April 15, 2019.

<u>Application Procedures:</u>

(Please type or print neatly in black ink)

Complete all parts of the application. An incomplete application may be eliminated from consideration.

Submit two (2) letters of recommendation (excluding family members). One letter should be from faculty or other school personnel and the second one from an employer, clergy or other adult familiar with your work habits and personal traits. (Sponsored applicants should include an additional letter from their DTBA Sponsor.)

Submit one copy of your official high school transcript.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Important Dates

Flying H Production Auction - Nov 9

Oklahoma Buffalo Association Fall Sale- Nov 10

Antelope Island State Park Annual Sale- Nov 10

Maxwell Wildlife Refuge (KS) Annual Bison Auction-Nov 14

Custer State Park Annual Production Sale- Nov 17

777 4th Annual Production & Breeding Bull AuctionNov 17

CBA Annual Conference- Nov 18

Brownotter-Jet Annual Ranch Online Auction-Nov 19

Coyote Trail Buffalo Ranch Production Auction-Nov 20

MnBA 22nd Annual Legends of the Fall Bison Auction and Bison Foundamentals- Nov 23

Rocking P Ranch 6th Annual Production AuctionNov 25

WBA 20th Wild West Stampede Show and Sale-Dec 1

NDBA Annual Conference and 2nd Annual Production Sale- Dec 8

Bar 33 Bison Sale- Dec 14

Montana Bison Association Winter Meeting- Jan 4

Turner Ranches Prairie Performance Auction- Jan 5

NBA Winter Conference and Goald Trophy Show & Sale- |an 23

DTBA Winter Conference & Black Hills Buffalo
Classic- Feb 2