



DAKOTA
TERRITORY
BUFFALO ASSOCIATION

TERRITORY BUFFALO NEWS



Photo: J Kossler

Contact the DTBA Office

P.O. Box 1315

Rapid City, SD 57709-1315

info@dakotabuffalo.com

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Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Newsletter

August, 2021



Notes From the President - Liz Schroth, Ellsworth, NE



Hello fellow bison producers. I hope this finds you all in good standing, although I'm afraid it's possible you're struggling much like the rest of us. We thought 2020 was hard and 2021 came in and said "hold my beer!" I thought by now we'd be on the back side of covid, yet I find that it's still the reason given for lack of inventory, lack of staff, and lack of product availability. On top of these struggles it's DRY! The drought spreads through the entirety of our membership area. Also, there is difficulty getting slaughter dates and we are seeing softening prices and increasing overhead prices. I don't have any words to make it go away, but take comfort in knowing you are not alone! Chances are your neighbor is feeling the same pressures. We, as bison producers, are strong and resilient. I truly believe that. We shall put our head down, push forward, cling to our faith, and remain optimistic! Lastly I pray you all receive some much needed moisture. As always if you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to contact me, any other board member, or our Executive Director, Tammi Cooley.



The vision of the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association is to perpetuate buffalo as the great North American native animal

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LIZ SCHROTH

PRESIDENT - (Exp 2023, 2nd term)

Strategy Bison • Ellsworth, NE 69340

(605) 949-1146 • liz_johnson01@hotmail.com

KRIS BROWN

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Grand View Bison Ranch • Cadott, WI 54727

(715) 563-1519 • grandviewbisonranch@gmail.com

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Turner Ranches • Standing Butte Ranch, SD

(605) 222-7632 • bob.wesley@retranches.com

ALEX HEIM

VICE PRESIDENT - (Exp 2022, 1st term)

Heim Ranch • Wood, SD 57585

(605) 770-6190 • alexdheim@gmail.com

GREG NOTT

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Big Heart Bison • Carr, CO 80612

(720) 891-5810 • greg@bigheartbison.com

CHRISTOPHER SEIVERT

DIRECTOR - (Exp 2024, 1st term)

Mosquito Park Enterprises • Vivian, SD

(605) 545-2132 • christopher.seivert@gwtc.net

TAMMI COOLEY - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rapid City, SD 57701 • (605) 430-0532 • info@dakotabuffalo.com



South Dakota State University's Center of Excellence for Bison Studies Announces New Research Projects Starting this Summer

By Kristi Cammack, Director, Center of Excellence for Bison Studies, South Dakota State University

A new era in bison research formally began this summer as the recently established Center of Excellence for Bison Studies announced the funding of eight projects to study topics ranging from ecosystem impact to meat quality. The Center of Excellence was formally established in the fall of 2020 through a cooperative effort among South Dakota State University, the National Bison Association, and the National Buffalo Foundation. The Center of Excellence awarded more than \$300,000 in funding to support the first year of the projects, some of which extend for up to three years. Collectively, these studies will contribute to advancing knowledge about bison and providing new resources for bison producers and managers, as well as consumers and bison enthusiasts.

The Center of Excellence along with the National Bison Association's Research & Science Committee completed a rigorous review of proposals submitted by researchers and educators from across the U.S. and Canada. The review process culminated in the selection of eight proposals for funding, which is generously provided by the National Buffalo Foundation. Selected projects and respective organizations include:

- A baseline inventory assessment of biological and cultural impacts of buffalo restoration in Indian country (InterTribal Buffalo Council)
- An integrated approach to assess parasite burden and anthelmintic treatment success in North American bison (Kansas State University)

- Benchmarking live animal and carcass quality outcomes at slaughter to identify factors impacting bison carcass value (Colorado State University)
- Bison on the move: How translocations affect bison production and disease prevalence across space, time, and organization (South Dakota State University)
- Characterization of bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVDV) in bison (South Dakota State University)
- Comparison of ground nesting bee (Apoidea) abundance and diversity between bison wallows and adjacent prairie (USDA – Agricultural Research Service)
- Habitat use and avoidance in a large, patchy landscape by American plains bison: Implications for management and conservation of the species (University of Nebraska – Kearney)
- Investigating the ruminal metagenome of grass fed bison to uncover metabolic activities that impact the efficiency of forage utilization (South Dakota State University)

Project investigators will regularly submit project updates and results, which will be shared through a variety of channels including outreach and scientific publications, at annual meetings of the National Bison Association, and through the Center of Excellence's website (www.sdstate.edu/bisonCOE) and social media (Facebook: SDState – Center of Excellence for Bison Studies; Twitter: @BisonCOE). For more information, contact the Center of Excellence by phone (605-394-2236) or email (bisoncoe@sdstate.edu).



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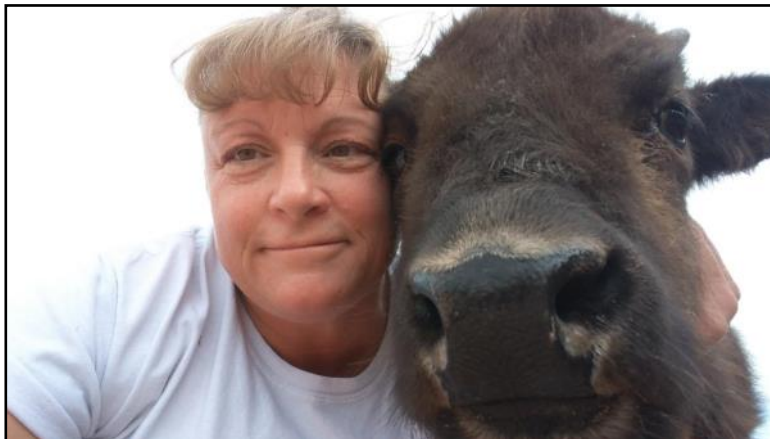
A Special Thanks to Jud Seaman & Quality Auction Services!



DTBA Summer Updates - Tammi Cooley, Executive Director

Change. Sometimes change is a good thing. It gets us out of the ruts we seem to be traveling in. This past year at the 2021 Winter Conference we decided to move the Conference to President's Day weekend, Feb 18th-19th, for 2022. As luck would have it, the Ramkota has another event that weekend and cannot accommodate us. I looked around for an alternative and you might be surprised that, of all the new hotels they are building here in Rapid City, none have a meeting space. After I toured several hotels looking for a suitable space, the Board of Directors voted to have the conference at the Courtyard by Marriott (see photos below). When I visited the Courtyard, it smelled brand new as it was built last summer and not too many people have stayed there yet due to the pandemic. The Courtyard is right next to the WaTiki Water Park Resort, and they promised to give us a good deal on some wristbands for conference attendees who may want to enjoy that amenity. The Hotel is also right off the Interstate at Exit 61, so there will be easy access to get to the Fairgrounds, Downtown Rapid City, and wherever else you would like to go. So, stay tuned for more updates on the 2022 Winter Conference.

In other news, Kevin says the Young Guns competition is going well but up in his part of the country it is HOT and



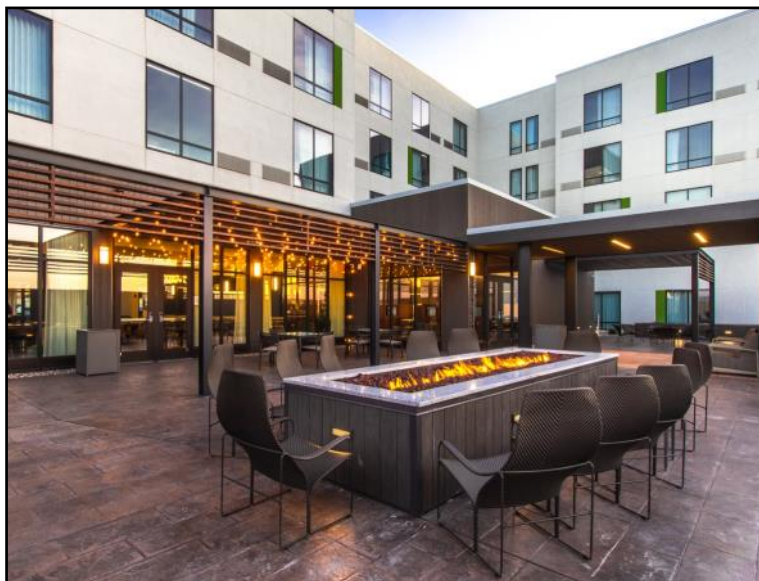
DRY, just like it is for most of us. Even though Liz is praying for rain, I haven't seen any yet.

I didn't make it to the NBA Summer Conference but Greg Nott and Boyd Meyer both provided ranch tours and Greg will tell you more about that in his article on Page 6 of the newsletter.

The Scholarship Committee has again chosen 3 recipients for this year's winners and you can find their Biographies on Page 5.

Finally, the Winter Conference is working to find speakers for the conference next year. If you would like to be on this Committee, we are looking for a couple more people. It isn't too hard; you just have to put on your thinking cap and come up with some good ideas.

I think that is all the news I have for right now. If you have some ideas, comments, or concerns, please call me at 605-430-0532, or email me at info@dakotabuffalo.com. I would love to hear from you.





2021 Scholarship Award Winners!

Hi, my name is Jenna Buchholz, daughter of Wayne and LeAnn Buchholz and sister to Conner Buchholz. I live on a ranch in Rhame, North Dakota that my Great Grandpa started in 1939. My dad and Grandpa started with buffalo in 1996. I feel very fortunate to have grown up working and living on a buffalo ranch.

I am a graduate from Bowman North Dakota and will be attending the University of Mary in Bismarck to attain degrees in accounting and financial services and banking. During high school I was involved in basketball, volleyball, track, SPC, national honor society, pep club, and working part time at our local bank. In my time off I love to help on the ranch, whether it be feeding a bum buffalo, caking the buffalo herd, or keeping track of numbers for the ranch.

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship I have been awarded. I will use it to continue my education!



Jenna Buchholz



Bailey Heim

My name is Bailey Heim, and I am the oldest daughter of Chad and Amy Heim, owners of Heim Buffalo Ranch in Athol, SD. I recently graduated from Northwestern High School, and I will be attending South Dakota State University this fall. I plan to major in Communication Studies and minor in either Public Relations or Advertising. I love to be as involved as possible, in and out of school. In high school, I was involved in Volleyball, FFA, FBLA, FCA, 4H, Drama Club, Robotics, Band, Chorus, Student Council, Snow Queen, and Youth Group, and I taught religious education and coached volleyball in my spare time. I feel that ranching, the buffalo industry, and agriculture have taught me the importance of the following:

work ethic, responsibility, communication, positivity, confidence, faith, and family values. I am very grateful for the skills I have received from the buffalo industry and my family's ranch, and I am thankful for the opportunities this scholarship will give me.



Grace Kremer

I am Grace Kremer, daughter of the famous Chad Kremer. My siblings and I own our own small herd of bison and have been members of the DTBA and NBA for a few years now. I plan to go to SDSU in the fall to pursue a degree in hospitality management, with this I hope to get a job planning events for charities, nonprofits or other concert type activities. I am very grateful for the scholarship awarded to me by the DTBA and that they are just as hopeful for my future as I am!





Guess who's coming for Breakfast!

By Greg Nott, DTBA Board of Directors

"Sure! We would be glad to host a ranch tour. And serve breakfast? Ok, how many? 200?!!!" How does one even make that much coffee?!

The logistics of what we had agreed to were now starting to become real. But my wife, Tami, immediately had a solution.

We have a small operation. There is not much to see other than some tall fence, a small herd of buffalo, and a coral that is a work in progress. Yet, most visitors are enamored to be close to these majestic creatures. And they do carry a presence that is like no other creature. But a ranch tour for the National Bison Association assumes there is more to see than our animals.

We had improved on the 48" cattle fence that was here when we purchased our property six years ago. But explaining that would be five minutes or less. The coral has also had improvements, but it needs many more. We have purchased a truckload of free-standing panels and have make-shift sorting pens. But there is nothing unique about this setup, and it also needs to be reworked. These factors eliminated anything about facilities that we would want to showcase.

We started our herd with a pen of five yearling heifers from the 2016 GTSS and then lost one in April. Unfortunately, a detailed necropsy was inconclusive. The herd is growing, but there are bigger and better herds that can be seen. And, ours decided to deliver calves very late this year.

What would make us worthy of a visit?

Tami had the solution to both the how and the why with a single answer. A mini Farmer's Market.

We have a thriving retail bison meat business based on farmers' markets. Setting up a small market with some other vendors solved the issue of serving breakfast to 200 people. We engaged four local vendors that could serve their specialties at scale: breakfast burritos and tamales, pastries, milk, and coffee.

We also set up our tent and trailer showcasing how the two of us will sell at 96+ markets this season. A dedicated trailer with power hookups and a generator reduces the amount of work in setups. Wheels have become our friend. The trailer is always packed and ready to roll. The freezers and carts are also on wheels allowing us to set up and tear down in less than thirty minutes.



Success has many factors, and for us, efficiency is essential. We are no longer spring chickens and have learned how to work smarter rather than harder. We have also learned that success in a market is not passive. When the market starts, a switch flips inside us, and it's 'game on.' As a result, we have become quite aggressive in selling our products. Offering samples has drastically improved our sales. Not only does it allow customers to taste what they have been missing out on, but it also makes for an easy way to engage with them. The majority of buyers at a market are there for fresh produce or entertainment. We have the finest products at the market; the passers-by don't know that. Yet.

So, What would make us worthy of a visit? It's not operational excellence. We still lack many things. But we do have a story. A story of a 50+-year-old survivor of many strokes, emergency open-heart surgery, and skin cancer pursuing a God-inspired dream. A story of an IT guy that knew nothing about agriculture, starting a ranch with buffalo of all things. A story that we share to inspire others.

The bottom line is about faith. Faith in a dream. Faith in our identity. And faith in our Creator.



Photo: Greg Nott



Turner Institute of Ecoagriculture, Inc. launched

By Carrie Stadheim, Re-printed with Author's Permission. Originally Published On-line by Tri-State Livestock News, July 1, 2021

Brookings, South Dakota - Turner Enterprises, Inc. and Turner Ranches announced today the launch of the Turner Institute of Ecoagriculture, Inc. ("Institute"). The Institute is a 501(c)(3) public charity and agricultural research organization formed by Ted Turner, whose history of sustainable ranching and animal production, natural resource conservation, and imperiled species restoration spans over three decades. Turner currently owns 14 ranches in the U.S. (and a herd of approximately 45,000 American plains bison) that practice ranching in an economically sustainable and ecologically sensitive manner while promoting the conservation of native species and habitats.

The Institute's mission is to research, develop, practice, and disseminate sustainable strategies and techniques for conserving ecosystems, agriculture, and rural communities.

"Our company's passion for the environment, conservation and sustainable practices continues to drive our mission of innovatively managing our lands to unite economic viability with ecological sustainability," said Ted Turner.

Five Turner ranches are in the Sandhills region of western Nebraska, encompassing approximately 445,000 acres of North American Great Plains mixed grass prairie. Turner is contributing the McGinley Ranch, located in the northern Sandhills region, and all its operations to the Institute. McGinley Ranch straddles the border between Nebraska and South Dakota and is comprised of 79,292 contiguous acres of native rangeland. It is contemplated that the remaining four ranches in the Sandhills area (collectively, the "Sandhills Ranches") may be transferred to the Institute in the future.

Although the Turner Institute of Ecoagriculture could potentially qualify for property tax exemption under the

current law in Nebraska and South Dakota, the Institute has no intention of applying for that exemption.

"I believe that local property taxes provide essential support for services on which our ranches and communities depend. The Institute will continue to pay its share of taxes to support the local communities," added Turner.

The Institute will conduct research in conjunction with land-grant colleges and universities, as well as non-land grant colleges of agriculture. The Institute is working with South Dakota State University (SDSU) and its Center of Excellence for Bison Studies to establish a formal research agreement which could include the fiscal and physical sharing of faculty, staff, office and laboratory space, graduate students, teaching and extension, publication, academic and research advisory roles, and field stations for undergraduate and graduate studies. Additionally, the Institute anticipates regular research collaborations with other land grant institutions.

"SDSU and the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies are very excited about partnering with the Turner Institute of Ecoagriculture. This partnership is an important catalyst to new research and educational opportunities focused on bison and rangelands," added Kristi Cammack, Professor of Animal Science at SDSU and the Director for the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies.

For more information, including Frequently Asked Questions, visit: <https://www.tsln.com/news/turner-institute-of-ecoagriculture-inc-launched/>



Carrie Stadheim



Photo: Strategy Bison



The mission of the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association is to promote buffalo and furnish a positive forum for creativity and camaraderie among a diverse membership.



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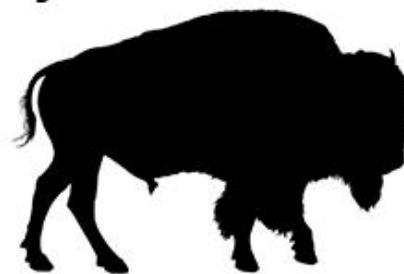
Dave & Liz Schroth

1436 396th Trail - Ellsworth, NE 69340

(605) 390-5851

DaveSchroth@msn.com

Sheyenne River Bison



David & Diana Lautt

david@lauttsrental.com



Sandy & Jackie Limpert

www.SlimButtesBuffaloRanch.com



Scott & Susan Peterson

Scott@ScottPetersonMotors.com

Skull Creek Bison



Wayne, Leann, Jenna, Conner Buchholz

skullcreekbison3@icloud.com



**Ramkota Hotel
& Conference Center**

2111 N Lacrosse St
Rapid City SD, 57701

(605) 343-8550

www.RapidCity.BWRamkota.com



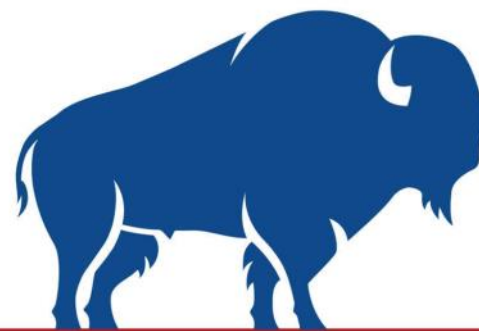
Kristopher Brown

1492 240th St
Cadott, WI 54727

(715) 563-1519

grandviewbisonranch@gmail.com

www.IconMeats.com



DAKOTA PURE
BISON

Alex & Cassie Heim

26727 266th St
Wood, SD 57585

(605) 770-6190

alexheim@gmail.com

www.DakotaPureBison.com



Greg & Tami Nott

10468 County Road 112
Carr, CO 80612

(720) 891-5810

gt@bigheartbison.com

www.MemphisRanch.com



Moritz Espy

Hermosa, SD 57744

(605) 430-7471

moritz.espy@agri-prime.com

www.Agri-Prime.com



Photo: Greg Nott



Do you like photography? Have some great bison, wildlife, or ranching related photos you would like to share? Send them to us, along with the photo credit and a caption or short story, and we'll put them in the newsletter. You'll be famous!

Photo: Custer State Park





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Ranch Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____ Email _____

Website _____

DTBA Membership Dues \$75 ☐ New Member ☐ Returning Member

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I agree to allow the DTBA to publish this information in a Membership Directory and on their website.

Signature _____ Date _____

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Rapid City, SD 57709

*Hoping for a
Cooler Autumn
Season!*



Photo: Strategy Bison