



National Bison Association – 8690 Wolff Court, #200 – Westminster, CO 80031
303-292-2833 – www.bisoncentral.com

Partner Action Toolkit

Malignant Catarrhal Fever Vaccine Funding

Farm Bill Appropriations

Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) has been a devastating disease to bison across North America.

The bison industry is grateful for the tireless work of the USDA Agriculture Research Service on both the MCF and *M. bovis* vaccinations. Dr. Cunha with USDA ARS and Washington State University, the lead on the MCF vaccine, reported progress, and setbacks, in their live bison trials in Wyoming and is now in the process of completing their proof-of-concept study.

The National Bison Association needs your help in requesting \$2 million in funding in the next Farm Bill to support the development, production, promotion, and distribution of the MCF vaccine, which is 12 years in the making and near completion. Please contact your members of Congress and help us get across the MCF vaccine finish line.

Due to the small bison population, there is little incentive for commercial production of the vaccine, which is 12 years in the making. Dr. Cyril Gay, who is the Senior National Program Leader for Animal Production and Protection suggested the \$2 million figure that would support the MCF vaccine. As such, the National Bison Association is requesting member help to seek champions on the appropriation committees in the House and Senate.

Please reach out to your Congress members and encourage them to include this funding request in the next Farm Bill to not only protect your herd, but all herds including tribal and conservation herds across the continent. See further MCF Vaccine talking points below. We are particularly targeting the following Congress members who serve on the appropriations committees. Find your Congress member's contact information at

<https://www.congress.gov/members>

Senate:

Senator Martin Heinrich (NM)

- Staff contact: Jakob_lindaas@heinrich.senate.gov

Senator Jerry Moran (KS)

- Staff contact: travis_martinez@moran.senate.gov

Senator John Hoeven (ND)

- Staff contact: aaron_weber@hoeven.senate.gov

Senator Deb Fischer (NE)

- Staff contact: craig_berning@fischer.senate.gov

Senator Jon Tester (MT)

- Staff contact: Gabriella_Blatt@tester.senate.gov

House:

Representative Tom Cole (OK)

- <https://cole.house.gov/>

Representative Chris Stewart (UT)

- <https://stewart.house.gov/>

Representative Ryan Zinke (MT)

- <https://zinke.house.gov/>

Representative Stephanie Bice (OK)

- <https://bice.house.gov/>

Representative Lloyd Doggett (TX)

- <https://doggett.house.gov/>

Representative Carol Miller (WV)

- <https://miller.house.gov/>



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How You Can Engage

- Share a partner post about the bill on social media. You can also collaborate with National Bison Association on a partnered post — contact lydia@bisoncentral.com to coordinate.
- Hold a meeting with your Member of Congress' office to tell them about your support of the funding request — your local bison association or the National Bison Association can help set this up and provide talking points if desired.
 - **Current policy goals:**
 1. **Senate:** Encourage members sitting on the appropriations committee for:
 - a. Inclusion of \$2 Million in designated funding for ARS development, production, promotion, and distribution of the MCF vaccine
 2. **House:** Encourage members sitting on the appropriations committee for:
 - a. Inclusion of \$2 Million in designated funding for ARS development, production, promotion, and distribution of the MCF vaccine

Overview of the Bill

- [MCF Fact Sheet](#)
- [MCF and Truth in Buffalo Labeling Press Release](#)

Talking Points

- Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) has been a devastating disease to bison across North America.
- The bison industry is grateful for the tireless work of the USDA Agriculture Research Service on both the MCF and M. bovis vaccinations.
 - Dr. Cunha with USDA ARS and Washington State University, the lead on the MCF vaccine, reported progress, and setbacks, in their live bison trials in Wyoming and is now in the process of completing their proof-of-concept study.
- Due to the small bison population, there is little incentive for commercial production of the vaccine, which is approximately 15 years in the making.
- \$2 million requested to support the MCF vaccine.

Social Media Posts and Graphics

Tag National Bison Association:

- Instagram: @nationalbison
- Facebook: @nationalbison

#Hashtags: #bisoncentral, #truthinbuffalolabeling, #nationalbison

Tag your Members of Congress:

- Tag Senate/House Agriculture Committees:
 - Twitter: @HouseAgDems @HouseAgGOP @SenateAgDems @SenateAgGOP

- Instagram: @houseagdems @houseaggop @senateaggop (there is not currently a Senate Ag Dems account)
- Facebook: @HouseAgGOP @senateagGOP (no accounts for House or Senate Ag Dems)
- Some tips for finding the social media handles of your Members of Congress:
 - First try @ + their full name (i.e. @JohnBoozman)
 - If that doesn't work, try using @+ Senator or Representative (i.e. @SenatorTester) or Googling Twitter/Facebook/Instagram + their name
 - Thanks to the National Kidney Foundation for putting together this list: <https://advocacy.kidney.org/congressional-social-media-accounts/>
 - For Twitter handles, visit <http://www.tweetcongress.org/tweeters>