



# MID YEAR HIGHLIGHTS SUMMER 2024

2024 DTBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**PRESIDENT  
CHRIS SEIVERT**



**VICE PRESIDENT  
BOB WESLEY**



**SECRETARY  
SHERRI STORMO**



**TREASURER  
LINDSEY HESTER**



**DAL  
ALEX SLEEP**



**DAL  
KELLY LUTTER**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's been quite some time since the last message from the president was published, August 2021 to be exact. A lot of things have happened between then and now and I know many of you are wondering where the DTBA has been and where we are headed. We are all familiar with the worldwide pandemic of 2020. Our ever-popular show and sale "Girlz Going Wild and the Young Guns" has had some ups and downs over the years and had to be switched over to a new performance-based sale that highlights the individual producer. We had to say goodbye to our past Executive Director Tammi Cooley due to her sudden and unexpected passing. The past few years have been challenging and each DTBA Board member, past and present, went into survival mode and have made great changes to be where we are today. This year has been no different.

After our winter conference the Board had some meetings to make significant strides toward enhancing DTBA's operational efficiency and strategic alignment with our organizational goals. After careful consideration, we decided to restructure certain roles within the association to better fulfill our needs while ensuring fiscal responsibility. As part of this plan, we decided to transition certain administrative, communication, and media publishing responsibilities from outsourced arrangements to an internal position. This move will not only streamline operations, but also enable us to provide enhanced customer service and maintain cost control measures, fostering sustainability and growth for DTBA.



# MID YEAR HIGHLIGHTS SUMMER 2024

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED

The decision to eliminate the "Executive Director" title and create a "Business Administrator" title ruffled some feathers in the association and rightfully so. We are a tight community, many of us longtime friends, family and coworkers. The Board of Directors was elected by the members to represent the DTBA and its members. Although some of you may feel betrayed, or blindsided, I assure you this decision was not an easy one, but one that we are following through with. Due to differences in opinions between the Board and the Executive Director, the Executive Director offered his resignation and then we respectfully accepted it. We have had several strong resumes submitted and have created a hiring committee consisting of several long-time members. I am confident this committee will have the best interest of the association and all of you when reviewing these applicants.

Through this process, we have restructured some of our officer and director at large positions. Bob Wesley had asked to step down as President and I agreed to step into this position. Alex Heim submitted his resignation as Board member and Vice President, Bob Wesley stepped in as Vice President. Sherri Stormo remains Secretary, Lindsey Hester remains Treasurer (and has accepted the unpaid role of Interim Business Administrator). Alex Sleep was recently elected in 2024 as Director at Large and with Alex Heim resigning, Kelly Lutter was asked by the board if she would join (Kelly was in the running for Director at the 2024 winter conference as well).

The show and sale is one reason the DTBA is what it is today. This committee is made up of just a few people and has been for quite some time. These individuals work tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure that the right animals are part of the sale, the right vaccines are given, data is collected in a timely manner, and given out to the auctioneers to get the sale book ready before the sale. Many things have to happen to get this sale where it is.

Alex Heim has recognized the wants and needs of consignors, and for the past couple of years has shared some of his corrals to these animals on properties that he manages. Without Alex, his family, friends, and employees, the sale may not have happened. He has put in countless hours and resources to ensure a safe environment for these animals and allow the producers to view them prior to the sale. I cannot express my gratitude enough for Alex and all the others that make this association what it is today. I also want to thank Alex for the years of service on the board. His attention to detail, analyzing situations, and bringing in a different point of view has been extremely valuable to the board and many of its members over the years. Thanks Alex!

The DTBA has a long road ahead of us, but you'll see in this newsletter what has been going on within the DTBA so far this year and how they align with our purposes. Thank you for your continued support of DTBA through your membership, friendship, sponsorship, and involvement. We can't do it without all of you!

Sincerely,

Christopher Seivert



# MID YEAR HIGHLIGHTS SUMMER 2024

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## DTBA PURPOSES

TO PROMOTE BUFFALO AND BUFFALO PRODUCTS, NAMELY BREEDING STOCK, MEAT AND BY-PRODUCTS.

TO SEEK FAIR AND EQUITABLE REGULATIONS IN THE CONTROL OF DISEASE AND IN THE MOVEMENTS OF BUFFALO AND BUFFALO PRODUCTS, FOR INTRASTATE, INTERSTATE AND INTERNATIONAL PURPOSES.

TO PERPETUATE BUFFALO AS A GREAT NORTH AMERICAN NATIVE ANIMAL AND TO STUDY, SPONSOR RESEARCH, COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE CURRENT INFORMATION PERTAINING TO BUFFALO.

TO CONTINUE THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF BUFFALO BY PROMOTING CONSERVATION PRACTICES BASED ON ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY.

THE ASSOCIATION SHALL BE KNOWN AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, WITH THE MONIES ACCUMULATED BEING USED TO CARRY OUT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND THE PROMOTION AND WELFARE OF BUFFALO.

### OUR VISION

DTBA IS HERE TO FACILITATE THE  
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BISON  
PRODUCERS AND THEIR  
MARKETS.

[INFO@DAKOTABUFFALO.COM](mailto:INFO@DAKOTABUFFALO.COM)

### OUR MISSION

PROMOTING BISON AND BISON  
MEAT AND FURNISHING A  
POSITIVE FORUM FOR  
CREATIVITY AND CAMARADERIE  
AMONG A DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP.

[DAKOTABUFFALO.COM](http://DAKOTABUFFALO.COM)



# DTBA WINTER CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS 2024

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS & CONSIGNERS! WE  
CANNOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU!



HAD A GREAT TURNOUT OF ANIMALS  
AND A STRONG SALE!

## STACK THE DECK SHOW WINNERS

### DTBA FULLHOUSE TROPHY



CAMMACK BUFFALO  
RANCH  
JOHN & MELANIE  
CAMMACK



### STACK THE DECK-DEALER'S CHOICE



ANTELOPE CREEK BISON  
SCOTT & MIKE ASSMAN



### STACK THE DECK KING HIGH



ANTELOPE CREEK BISON  
SCOTT & MIKE ASSMAN



### STACK THE DECK QUEEN HIGH



CAMMACK BUFFALO  
RANCH  
JOHN & MELANIE  
CAMMACK





# DTBA WINTER CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS 2024



**FUN & ENGAGING  
KID PROGRAM  
ALONG WITH  
GREAT SPEAKERS &  
VENDORS!**



## 2024 VS. 2023

2024 DTBA Winter Conference Recap			
<b>Stack Deck S/S</b>		Compared 2023	
- Income	215,350		
- Expenses	208,844		
--Net	<b>6505</b>	up 2465	
<b>Fun Fund</b>		Compared 2023	
- Income	18,570 with Heads/Tails		
- Proceeds	475 Buff Museum		
- Proceeds	175 Hospit. room		
- Expenses	1859		
--Net	<b>16061</b>	up 6,433	
<b>Kid Pgm</b>		Compared 2023	
- Income	0		
- Expenses	2234		
--Net	<b>-2234</b>		
<b>Prints/Folders</b>		Compared 2023	
- Income	0		
- Expenses	102		
--Net	<b>-102</b>	up 800	
<b>Registrations</b>		Compared 2023	
- Income	<b>25,725</b>	22900	
<b>Scholarship</b>		Compared 2023	
- Income	7859		
- Expenses	1963		
-- Net	<b>5895</b>	same	
<b>Hospitality</b>		Compared 2023	
- Income	175		
- Expenses	553		
- Hos. Room	459.27		
--Net	<b>-837.27</b>		
<b>Band</b>		Compared 2023	
- Income	0		
- Expenses	1210		
-- Net	<b>-1210</b>	-100	
<b>Speakers/Probonos</b>		Compared 2023	
- keynote	1000		
- Food	2472.43		
- Hotel rooms	504.57		
<b>Ramkota</b>		Compared 2023	
- Food	29247.02	38171.76	
- Audio/Visual	1233.31		
<b>Total Income</b>			\$54,846
<b>Total Expenses</b>			\$36,368.00
<b>Net</b>			<b>\$18,477</b>

fun auction proceeds

**OVERALL, HAD AN INCREASE IN NET INCOME FROM 2023! THANK YOU FOR THE FUN AUCTION ITEMS & BIDDING-IT IS A HUGE CONTRIBUTOR TO THE DTBA BUDGET! THE DTBA HAS BEEN ABLE TO SEND OFF PROCEEDS TO A FEW BUFFALO ORGANIZATIONS!**



# THE DTBA IMPACT BETTER TOGETHER!

DTBA VISION, MISSION, & PURPOSE IN ACTION

## SUPPORTING CAUSES ALIGNED WITH OUR VALUES



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WERE VERY AGREEABLE TO SEND PROCEEDS ON BEHALF OF THE DTBA MEMBERSHIP TO ORGANIZATIONS IN THE BUFFALO INDUSTRY. THIS WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY SHOWN BY OUR MEMBERS AT OUR 2024 WINTER CONFERENCE. WE ARE COMMITTED TO EXTENDING OUR SUPPORT AND FOSTERING A STRONG BUFFALO COMMUNITY. WE REMAIN EXCITED TO CONTINUE THIS JOURNEY TOGETHER, BOLSTERING THE WORK OF OTHERS IN OUR INDUSTRY.



### TAMMI COOLEY MEMORIAL DTBA SCHOLARSHIP

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
JAYDEN BENDER!

THE DTBA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE WAS VERY HAPPY TO AWARD JAYDEN BENDER AS A RECIEPIENT OF THE TAMMI COOLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP. SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF JASON & TAMMY BENDER & HAS BEEN RAISED IN THE BISON INDUSTRY. SHE EXPRESSED HER LONG TIME PASSION FOR BISON FOR THE ANIMAL AND THE COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE IT BRINGS TOGETHER. SHE HAS WORKED TO BRING BISON AS A PROJECT IN HER LOCAL 4H PROGRAM AND CONTINUES TO PROMOTE BISON TO YOUTH IN HER REGION. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING JAYDEN AT OUR WINTER CONFERENCE TO HEAR MORE OF WHERE HER EFFORTS HAVE TAKEN HER! THANK YOU JAYDEN AND BENDER FAMILY!




# SUMMER RANCH TOUR CONSERVATION & ECONOMICS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 2024

TURNER RANCHES: DEER CREEK & MCGINLEY RANCH  
GORDON, NE

ALL ARE WELCOME!  
FREE FOR DTBA MEMBERS  
\$75 REGISTRATION FOR NON DTBA MEMBERS

[REGISTER HERE ONLINE!](#) OR BY EMAIL



## DEER CREEK RANCH MANAGER: ALEX SLEEP

DEER CREEK RANCH IS A 76,183-ACRE PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG THE BOUNDARY OF TWO ECOSYSTEMS IN NORTHWESTERN NEBRASKA. THE NEBRASKA SANDHILLS PRAIRIE ECOSYSTEM ENCOMPASSES THE SOUTHERN THIRD OF THE RANCH AND INCLUDES LARGE AREAS OF SAND DUNES STABILIZED BY THE ABUNDANT PRAIRIE GROWING ABOVE THE DUNES AND WATER BENEATH THEM. THE NORTHERN THIRD OF THE RANCH IS DOMINATED BY MIXED GRASS PRAIRIE ECOSYSTEMS AND IS CHARACTERIZED BY ROLLING, SANDY LOAM-TYPE SOILS. THE CENTRAL AREA OF THE RANCH IS A MIXTURE OF BOTH OF THESE ECOSYSTEMS.

## AGENDA

MORNING WELCOME AT DEER CREEK

TOUR OF FEEDLOT

TOUR OF GRAZING PIVOT SYSTEM


LUNCH

MCGINLEY RANCH

TOUR OF MCGINLEY MAIN HERD

SOCIAL

DINNER AT MCGINLEY



## MCGINLEY RANCH MANAGER JESSICA LOVITT

SPANNING A TOTAL OF 79,145 ACRES, MCGINLEY RANCH STRADDLES THE STATE LINE OF NORTHERN NEBRASKA AND SOUTHERN SOUTH DAKOTA. THE RANCH LIES ABOVE THE OGALLALA AQUIFER AND TRANSITIONS BETWEEN LOW-LYING WET MEADOWS AND MIXED GRASS SANDHILLS, AND HAS APPROXIMATELY 60 NATURAL LAKES AND PONDS.



## OTHER HAPPENINGS & LOOKING FORWARD

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DTBA VISION, MISSION, & PURPOSE IN ACTION

SHERRI TOOK PART IN THE FARM BILL MEETING ON APRIL 12, 2024. SHE TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO THE SPEAKERS FOR INCLUDING & ACKNOWLEDGING THE BISON INDUSTRY. EVEN THOUGH THE SPEAKERS DIDN'T GET TO ADDRESS THE BISON INDUSTRY DIRECTLY, HER PRESENCE THERE AFFIRMED OUR COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING COMMUNITY AND SUPPORTING EDUCATION AND INCLUSION WITHIN OUR INDUSTRY.

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THE BEAUPREZ FAMILY WAS INVITED TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE ON MAY 2, 2024. THEIR TESTIMONY ADVOCATED FOR THE INCLUSION OF BISON IN THE WOLF DEPREDATION PLAN, AS BISON ARE PRESENTLY EXCLUDED FROM IT. WE APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAINTAIN BISON AS A FOCAL POINT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENTAL BODIES.

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### LOOKING FORWARD

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMENT CARDS AND PARTICIPATION ON THE EMAIL SURVEY! WE READ THROUGH EVERY ONE OF THEM & TOOK NOTES =) FROM THE FEEDBACK FOR WINTER CONFERENCE, WE LOOK FORWARD TO LOWERING THE REGISTRATION COST, KEEPING IT FAMILY FRIENDLY, LISTING BREAKFAST ON AGENDA, FOLLOWING 'ROBERT'S RULE' FOR THE BUSINESS MEETING, AND POSTING ANIMAL NUMBERS ON PENS. WE ARE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR OTHER IDEAS OF PLACES TO HOST US ~ BUT IS LOOKING LIKE 2026 (THE 30TH!) FOR THAT.





# STRATEGIC RESTRUCTURE

## BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

CRAFTING A ROLE TAILORED TO THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF DTBA,  
ENSURING THE SMOOTH, FISCAL & RESPONSIBLE EXECUTION OF  
DUTIES FOR OUR VALUED MEMBERS



### **Wheels Are In Motion!**

Thank You to Our Wonderful Hiring Committee! ~

Alex Sleep =>  
Jud Seaman =>  
Kelly Lutter =>

Kevin & Joan Stormo =>  
Chad Kremer =>  
Moritz Espy =>



**Our hardworking DTBA Hiring Committee has identified five stellar candidates for further consideration. A heartfelt shout-out to our dedicated members for their unwavering commitment!**

OUR DTBA HIRING COMMITTEE, A DEDICATED TEAM OF MEMBER VOLUNTEERS, HAVE BEEN WORKING WELL TO SIFT THROUGH THE 14 APPLICATIONS WE RECEIVED FOR THE ROLE. THEY'VE MANAGED TO NARROW IT DOWN TO FIVE POTENTIAL CANDIDATES, WHO THEY'LL BE SITTING DOWN WITH FOR INTERVIEWS OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS. WE'RE SO GRATEFUL FOR THEIR COMMITMENT & ATTENTION TO ENSURING THE DTBA CONTINUES TO GROW AND THRIVE.

### SHOW & SALE

BOB WESLEY

### EVENTS & SPONSORSHIP

LINDSEY HESTER

MAGGIE PRICE

SHERRI STORMO

### MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING

ALEX SLEEP

TIANNA SLEEP

LINDSEY HESTER

## COMMITTEES

### SCHOLARSHIP

CHRIS SEIVERT

LIZ SCHROTH

HANNAH MCLEOD



# SPONSORSHIP UPDATES

DTBA VISION, MISSION, & PURPOSE IN ACTION

THE DTBA SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE IS DEDICATED TO ENHANCING THE REPRESENTATION OF OUR VALUED SPONSORS. SECURING SPONSORSHIP FUNDS IS ESSENTIAL TO SUSTAIN THE PROGRESS OF OUTREACH & ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS AND ALLOW OUR VOLUNTEER BOARD TO FOCUS ON STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE DTBA.

THEY ARE WORKING TO UPDATE THE DTBA SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS FOR 2025. BELOW IS THE DRAFT SPONSOR BENEFIT DOCUMENT SO FAR.

The Dakota Territory  
Buffalo Association  
**Sponsorship Benefits**

**PLATINUM ELITE**  
**\$1,500+ Donation**

- All Benefits
- PLUS
- Premium Listing on Website-
- Table Displays at Winter Conference-
- One Annual Membership
- One Paid Registration to DTBA Winter Conference

**PLATINUM**

**\$1,000+ Donation**

- The Gold Package Benefits
- PLUS
- Featured Sponsor at DTBA Winter Conference
- Logo on Flyer in attendee packet,
- PowerPoint, &
- promotional materials

**GOLD - \$600+ Donation**

**The Silver Package Benefits**

- PLUS
- Regular Social Media acknowledgments

**Silver - \$300+ Donation**

- Listing on DTBA Website
- Direct Links From Website to Media of Your Choice
- Logo on flyer in WC attendee packet,
- PowerPoint, & promotional materials

- Auctioneer Level - \$1500 Donation
- Banner on all DTBA Emails
- Forward All Bison Auction to DTBA members
- Plus Platinum Benefits

- Friend of the DTBA \$5-299 Donation
- Name listed within the Winter Conference materials

**What your sponsor dollars provide the Association:**

**Conferences:**

- Speakers • Meals • Entertainment
- Shuttle services for animal viewing
- Education for new and seasoned producers
- Creating a positive forum for creativity and camaraderie among DTBA membership

**Advertising and Marketing:**

- Promoting bison and bison meat
- Website maintenance
- Social media presence

Contact the DTBA office with questions at  
Dakota Territory Buffalo Association  
PO Box 1315 • Rapid City, SD 57709-1315 •  
[Info@DakotaBuffalo.com](mailto:Info@DakotaBuffalo.com) • [www.DakotaBuffalo.com](http://www.DakotaBuffalo.com)



# Thank you!

For Reading The Mid Year Highlights  
Thank you to Our Sponsors!



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www.DakotaPureBison.com



Land's End & Hestel

Skull Creek Bison

Central Sheep Ranch

Midwest Farms

Old Summer Buffalo Ranch



www.QAS.hibid.com



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