



Our Mission: Promoting bison and bison meat and furnishing a positive forum for creativity and camaraderie among a diverse membership.

Our Vision: DTBA is here to facilitate the relationship between Bison producers and their markets.

Message from the President

Hi All! I hope everyone had a great summer with mild weather and green grass. Its hard to believe Fall is here and freezing temps and snow storms are knocking on the back door or already hit some of you. Time sure does fly when you're having fun.

Our summer ranch tour to Gordon Nebraska was a success. Alex Sleep, Manager of Deer Creek Ranch and Jessica Lovitt with McGinley Ranch along with their crew put on a great show. With a large crowd in attendance, we viewed several aspects of their operations. The weather was great, the food was amazing and the people were wonderful. I always look forward to the summer ranch tours across the regions, meeting new people, running into old friends and having a good time learning about other operations and listening to all the other passionate buffalo producers telling each other the good, the bad and sometimes the ugly. I was also able to attend the NBA Western Regional summer conference at Prairie Ridge Buffalo Ranch in Limon CO. Ray and Debbie Thieman, along with their whole family showed everyone a great time cooking up some great food, entertainment and some knowledgeable speakers. We were treated with a couple special celebrity guests and their film crew from "Homestead Rescue" where they helped a local buffalo producer down the road do some work at their place. The show is supposed to air sometime in 2025.

For many of us, this time of year means round up. The anticipation and excitement and maybe a little bit of worry that comes with gathering the herd, getting some qualified volunteers to help, getting all the paperwork straight, expecting the unexpected and preparing for all sorts of scenarios. I look forward to this time to see what went right, what went wrong and where we can improve. May you all have a safe and successful round up. The markets seem to be looking strong this year!

The last newsletter mentioned a lot of restructuring so I wanted to take a little time to pick up where I left off and provide an update on the progress of a few of our goal-oriented projects this year.

First, the board aimed to revitalize the administration by ensuring that all DTBA-related documents were accessible to board members. We are pleased to announce that they have successfully organized and 99% of these documents are now uploaded to the Google Share Drive, making them easily accessible.

All essential materials are now available on the Google Share Drive! This includes DTBA founding documents & historicals, committee documents, treasury information, membership lists, contest results, newsletters, a list of usernames, and everything else we could gather that will benefit the Association and is now 100% accessible to board members.

Next, we identified the need for an administrative role focused on enhancing fiscal responsibility, aiming to manage most DTBA tasks internally while further solidifying the foundation of the organization.

The board & I are happy to announce the hiring of Lindsey Hester to work as our Business Administrator. We have already successfully lowered our outsourcing costs while enhancing our communication and overall output with this position.

We have successfully assigned all DTBA-related materials to a single individual. As a result, we have compiled DTBA's history and historical documents into one cohesive narrative on the DTBA Homepage.

We now feel well positioned to establish a workflow structure for the Business Administrator, Board of Directors, and Special Committees that is both replicable and sustainable over time. To guarantee the reproducibility of the desired results, it is essential to uphold consistency, allowing our board to concentrate on creativity and growth.

Thank you for all your continued support!
Christopher Seivert

2024 Board of Directors



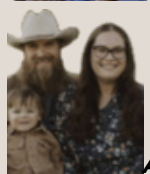
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- **State/Regional Meeting Minutes**



DTBA Fall 2024 Newsletter

Meet our New Business Administrator



Lindsey Hester
DTBA Business Administrator
Hester's Buffalo Meat Co.
Kremmling, CO
info@dakotabuffalo.com
970-724-3868

Hello, I'm Lindsey Hester. I am glad to be working as the DTBA Business Administrator. I have had a blast getting to know you guys the past few years. I look forward to more years with you all.

I was born in a rural farming town in West Texas where my mom leased out her farms and oil - one of which is a 125 year working farm, which is cool-Go Mom! My dad & uncles worked as cattlemen, ag commissioners, and State FSA Directors. I was raised off the farm but had agriculture all around me and it is where I am most comfortable to be still. I went to college at Texas A&M College Station then finished at Colorado State University with Human Nutrition then went to Iowa State for my Dietetics Masters to be a Registered Dietitian.

I live in Kremmling, CO with my husband, Forrest and two kids, Gus & Lucy. We worked together at his family sawmill & retail lumber business 'Hesters Log and Lumber' and eventually bought it when his parents wanted to retire. Life was nuts ~ people thought we lived at the sawmill, it was our whole life. During this time, I started buying & selling real estate to just try to make a buck but ended up starting a commercial, residential, and short term rental business. I wanted to invest not be a landlord(-blah!) but it all worked out and we love the people we work with (almost all of them have had to help us get buffalo back in).

We came into buffalo from buying a neighbor parcel of land and needed to keep it ag. Yes, we could have gotten a goat but Forrest loves buffalo. We have had alot of agriculture experience but not really in livestock & we thought "yes, this is a good idea" & bought nine buffalo calves, the learning curve was sharp and fast. It took a few years to see where our place in the buffalo industry was (because there is soo many factors).

We are a direct retailer of homegrown, grain finished buffalo meat & have a Meat Market "Hester's Buffalo Meat Co." We depend on our region & tourism as our customer base.

I hope to be effective as the Business Administrator with my experience with bookkeeping, small business and diligence.

The DTBA and our members have been crucial in encouragement, knowledge, and relationships to help keep our business sustainable. We do not need to go about the buffalo business alone - we have each other! Being a part of the DTBA has been great and I am really happy to have this job! Thank you!



DTBA Fall 2024 Newsletter

Save the Date!

**2025 DTBA Winter Conference - \$130/adult, \$25 per kid - Room Block Rate \$112 up to Jan 8th
February 7-8, 2025**

**Ramkota Inn, Rapid City, SD - REGISTRATION IS OPEN, BOTTOM OF DTBA HOMEPAGE FOR LINK
<https://www.dakotabuffalo.com/winter-conference/>**

Attention all DTBA members, families, and friends: please save the date for our 2025 DTBA Winter Conference! Our theme for 2025 is 'Resilience is Land & Operation,' emphasizing our capacity within the bison industry to adapt and grow in any situation now & into the future.

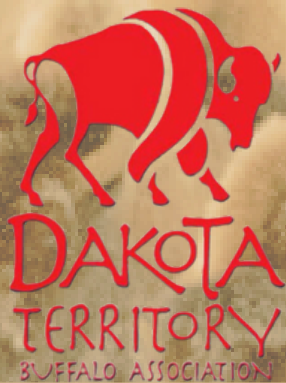
The DTBA Event Committee has carefully considered the feedback from 2024 and has been diligently planning. The first step was to reduce the registration fees, and a big thanks to Dakota Pure for sponsoring our meat for the event! As a result, we were able to set the registration fee at just \$130 for adults and \$25 for children's meals!

On Friday, we will enjoy a delightful bison chili lunch complete with all the fixings, followed by a bison strip loin dinner with dessert. The kids will enjoy their 'Carnival Night' on Friday, featuring bison hotdogs, delicious sides, and a cookie buffet, all alongside the bouncy houses! Moving on to Saturday, we'll kick off the day with coffee and pastries for breakfast, grab a bison deli meat lunch on the go, and indulge in a three-entrée buffet featuring bison meatballs, bison meatloaf, and bison lasagna, accompanied by all the fixings and dessert. Be sure not to miss the Hospitality Room this year, where we'll showcase some beloved recipes from our 'Pride of the Dakotas' cookbook!

The DTBA Board has primarily concentrated on enhancing the resiliency of DTBA to protect our association from potential future disruptions. We are more confident than ever in the current position of DTBA. The Events Committee recognized a strong opportunity to extend the board's focus to the wider application of bison on the ranch, specifically regarding 'Resilience in Land & Operation.' We are lucky to have a great lineup of speakers who are passionate about the future of agriculture. The discussions will center around addressing the unique challenges faced in land and operations management, particularly for family business or ranch managers. We will also have the speakers lead a 'Round Table' discussion and showcase one of our member ranches for an informal 'Behind the Scenes' look at their operations, complete with a Q&A session.

Don't leave the kids at home this year! We have a Kid's Carnival Night planned for them on Friday during the banquet dinner. It will be the bouncy house games and bison hotdog buffet. We will also bring back the DTBA Kid Program on Saturday from noon-3 pm. We will decorate t-shirts & cookies that will be displayed for your vote, and go to the pool after. Then in the evening, the winners will be revealed, and the 'Sale' will commence.

Get ready for the Stack the Deck Show & Sale that will happen on Saturday! Our fabulous member ranches are rolling into town with their top-notch bulls. Voting will happen during the bull viewing, and then the real fun kicks off with the sale in the evening. Don't miss it!



DTBA 2025 Winter Conference Resilience in Land & Operation

February 7-8th 2025
Ramkota Inn Rapid City, SD

Agenda

Friday, Feb 7th

- 12-1:00pm Lunch
- 1pm Registration Opens
- 1:45pm Welcome Message
- 2 pm '1000 Farm Initiative Research'
- 3pm Prairie Family Business Association
- 3:30pm Grassland Initiative
- 4pm Round Table Discussion
- 5pm Social/Cash Bar
- 5:30pm Banquet Dinner
 - Update on Youth & Ag
- Fun Auction & DJ Dave Lutt!
- Hospitality Room with treats!

Saturday, Feb 8th

- 730 am Breakfast
- 845 am Bison Industry Updates
- 10 am Business Meeting
- 1130 Lunch ready
- 12-3 pm Bus to Bull Viewing
- 3-4 pm Behind the scenes with
- 430 pm Social/Cash Bar/Buffer Dinner
- 5 pm Stack the Deck Awards
- 530 pm Stack the Deck Sale
- Closing Remarks & Thank You!
- Hospitality Room with treats!

Kid Agenda

Friday

1 pm-8pm Bouncy Houses

5 pm Kid Carnival Dinner

Saturday

Bouncy Houses

12-3 pm Kid Program

Cookie & Shirt Decorating

& Swimming

5 pm Cookie & T Shirt

Awards & Auction

3rd Annual STACK THE DECK Show & Sale

DAKOTA TERRITORY BUFFALO ASSOCIATION

Saturday, Feb 8th 2025

- Flat consignor fee - no commission fee.
- Buyers score all animals - no official judges
- Performance based sale

Consignors as of 8/24

- Antelope Creek Bison
- Cammack Buffalo Ranch
- Crazy Arrow Ranch
- Heim Land & Bison
- Heartland Bison Ranch
- Custer State Park

SIX Bull Slots Available - Includes Option of a Pen of Heifers

DEALER'S CHOICE Top four bulls scored by buyers

KING HIGH Highest selling bull

QUEEN HIGH Highest average selling heifer(s)

DTBA FULL HOUSE Consignor with the highest selling bulls & heifers combined

dakotabuffalo.com **info@dakotabuffalo.com**



DTBA Fall 2024 Newsletter

Meet Our Speakers!



The DTBA Events Committee jumped at the opportunity to partner with the Prairie Family Business Association. The PFBA is committed to providing world class resources for all areas of family business and owner/key employee relationships. Traditionally, these resources were only available to large corporations, but PFBA now makes them accessible and practical for businesses at all stages, laying the groundwork for long-term success. Browse their website and be sure to check out their free podcast series ~ is excellent!



Laura Kahler is the director of the South Dakota Grassland Initiative (SDGI) and a graduate of South Dakota State University. After studying agricultural education in college, Kahler gained experience in 4-H youth programs, bringing agricultural education and context to clubs, schools, and grant-funded programs. Kahler's upbringing, studies, and background have coalesced to provide her with a unique perspective on South Dakota agriculture and habitat, culminating in a distinct understanding of the importance of collaboration and education to move the needle of regional land perspective and practice. She aims to provide insights on grassland resilience in the context of natural disaster scenarios.



Dr. Lundgren is an agroecologist, Director ECDYSIS Foundation, and CEO for Blue Dasher Farm. He received his PhD in Entomology from the University of Illinois in 2004, and was a top scientist with USDA-ARS for 11 years. Lundgren's research and education programs focus on assessing the ecological risk of pest management strategies and developing long-term solutions for regenerative food systems. He has had his own Ted talks, Documentaries, and many meetings at the White House educating on the issue. He led **'The 1000 Farms Initiative'**, designed to gather data throughout North America in order to analyze the effects of various farming practices on soil health, water infiltration rates, microbial life, bird diversity, productivity, farmer income, and food composition. This initiative stands as one of the largest efforts focused on regenerative agriculture, collecting information from over 1,000 farms and ranches. He is thrilled to share the data collected over the past three years with us at the Winter Conference. Additionally, he will have research posters available to provide more insights into his findings.

STACK THE DECK

Stack the Deck Show & Sale February 8th 2025 Updates

**We are looking to update the
Trophies for Stack the Deck
A poker themed Show & Sale
should have a poker style trophy,
Right?
Do you like any of these?**



We're thrilled to welcome Jud and Quality Auction Services back for the Stack the Deck bull sale! With his personal touch and humor, Jud always makes the event a memorable experience. Don't miss out on the fun!

He is committed to boosting the visibility of the Sale and our Consigners, reaching out to over 2,000 potential buyers acquired throughout his 30+ year involvement in the bison industry. Our goal is not just to achieve top dollar for your bulls, but also to establish our consigners as the go-to source for premium breeding stock.

We believe that this show and sale offers many advantages for our consignors! We have a flat fee of \$600 for each bull or pen of heifers. With the market booming and prices rising, our flat fee can help you keep money in your pocket! [Use this link to see 2024 Show & Sale Results.](#)

We offer flexibility regarding performance measures and fully support each ranch's management style. Whether you choose to grass finish or grain finish, and how frequently you weigh, is entirely at the ranch's discretion, as long as you can tell us what you do for the catalog.

All bulls are sold with a guarantee of a passed semen test up to June 2025 or provide a good semen test on the home ranch.

All bulls & heifers have been TB & Brucellosis tested & given injectable wormer. All heifers, unless otherwise noted, are Official Calhhood Vaccinates for Brucellosis (OCV). Interstate health papers will be furnished for each animal.

The DTBA Show & Sale would not be possible without Alex Heim & his willingness to board the bulls at his place! It is alot to take on & we try to ask him favors when he is in a good mood but the bulls are safe and near by for viewing & we really dont know what we would do without him!

We are needing 6 more bulls to round out the sale line up. Please consider consigning this year! It is not the same without your bulls!



Attention All!

Girlz Gone Wild Performance Class is back FOR ONE YEAR ONLY!

The Girlz Gone Wild 2 year old bred heifer challenge performance class was created in 2011 and entered its first group of heifers at our inaugural host ranch, Cammack Buffalo Ranch, in 2012.

It was said best by Kevin Leier, "It is no secret that the Young Guns & Girlz Gone Wild competitions set a new industry standard for performance tested breeding stock. Some of the very best breeding bulls & heifers in the nation have come through these programs & ranchers all over the US have benefited".

The DTBA has also greatly benefited from these programs as well, setting us apart as an innovative and forward-thinking association in the bison industry.

We are thrilled to announce that Kevin Leier of Heartland Bison is returning to host the Girlz Gone Wild Heifer Challenge!

Kevin has been an integral part of our program, hosting both the girls and bulls from 2013 to 2021. With a deep passion for performance data collection, Kevin now looks forward to involving his children in this important work now that they are older.

Here is the catch, IT IS FOR ONE YEAR ONLY!

What we would ask for is your best 2023 born heifer. The girls will go to grass at Heartland Bison Ranch in April 2025. Kevin will collect data on the performance measures.

Then the girls will be exposed & be preg tested and ready for the 30th Anniversary Show & Sale!

This opportunity is not one to pass up. We are gearing up for an amazing 30th Anniversary and we want your heifers to be a part of it!



DTBA Fall 2024 Newsletter



Sponsorships Needed for Winter Conference 2025



We have the budget dialed in and know the needs. A huge thank you to Dakota Pure for being our sponsor for the meat for 2025! Their sponsorship gets the food cost per adult to \$130. The board was adamant that the conference registration cost be set just to cover the food. And we are happy to be able to pass along the savings to our members to set the registration cost of \$130 per adult for the 2025 Winter Conference.

We have a goal to raise \$6500 to cover the additional expenses of the Winter Conference. This includes; funds to discount the kids registration from \$55 per kid to \$25 per kid for food only, bouncy houses, kid program supplies, speaker rooms & food, catalog production, audio & visual. Thank you to Dave Lautt for donating the music!

The Sponsorship Committee has worked to promote our sponsors more in 2024 by putting them front facing on our website, promoting them on social media, and including thank yous on flyers & other shout outs. We truly value the hard earned money our sponsors put in and do not take it lightly. We will work to keep the costs low while keeping & adding in value. Thank you guys for your consideration =). Please see next page for Sponsorship Levels & Benefits.

We are very thankful for our DTBA members! You all are the greatest asset of the DTBA. Please be sure to renew your membership for 2025. We will send out three email reminders. The website link is

<https://www.dakotabuffalo.com/login/?fb=renew>

The board looks forward to continuing to further and strengthen our Mission & Values to all renewing, returning, and brand new members. A thank you to our 2024 'Lifetime Members' of Alex & Cassie Heim, John & Melanie Cammack, and Kralichek Farms & Frank K Jr. Cheers to a lifetime of DTBA!

Our Goal is to have 95% renewed members from 2024 and 120 total member ranches for 2025 membership.

As of 11/16, we have 24 ranches renewed with one of them being new members! Thank you! and keep them coming =)

2024 Member Summary		
Renewed Member Ranches =	67	
Returned Member Ranches =	19	
New Member Ranches =	17	
New Lifetime Memberships =	3	
Nonrenewed Member Ranches from 2023 =	42	
Totals		
103 Regular x 75 =	\$7725	
3 New Lifetime x 1500 =	4500	
11 Lifetime Members		
117 Member Ranches/178 Individual Members		

2024 Membership Recap



DAKOTA
TERRITORY
BUFFALO ASSOCIATION



The Dakota Territory Buffalo Association

2025 Winter Conference Sponsorship Levels & Benefits

<p>Platinum \$1500+ Donation</p> <p><u>Winter Conference</u> Logo on flyer, Power Point, & promotional materials Listed as 'Platinum Level' in DTBA Show & Sale Catalog & Event Program Table to display resources & materials 2 Tickets to Winter Conference</p> <p><u>Marketing</u> Large Logo on website w/ link to media of your choice Ranch/Business Feature on Social Media Regular Social Media Acknowledgement Logo in Bi Annual DTBA Newsletters</p> <p><u>Auctioneer Benefit</u> Banner on all DTBA Emails</p>	<p>Gold \$1000+ Donation</p> <p><u>Winter Conference</u> Logo on flyer, Power Point, & promotional materials Listed as 'Gold Level' in DTBA Show & Sale Catalog & Event Program</p> <p><u>Marketing</u> Large Logo on website w/ link to media of your choice Ranch/Business Feature on Social Media Regular Social Media Acknowledgement Logo in Bi Annual DTBA Newsletters</p>
<p>Silver \$600+ Donation</p> <p><u>Winter Conference</u> Name on flyer, Power Point, & promotional materials Listed as 'Silver Level' in DTBA Show & Sale Catalog & Event Program</p> <p><u>Marketing</u> Logo on website w/ link to media of your choice Regular Social Media Acknowledgement</p>	<p>Bronze \$300+ Donation</p> <p><u>Winter Conference</u> Name on flyer, Power Point, & promotional materials Listed as 'Bronze Level' in DTBA Show & Sale Catalog & Event Program</p> <p><u>Marketing</u> Website Promotion Social Media Acknowledgement</p>

Friend of the DTBA \$50+ Donation Name listed on website & Event Program

What Your Sponsor Dollars Provide the Association

Conferences

Kid Programing & discount kid meal ticket
Expenses for Speakers
Printing Services
Bus to view animals
Creating a positive forum for creativity & camaraderie among DTBA membership

Education & Research

Funds from sponsors contribute to bison research and educational initiatives.

Marketing

Supports Social Media Presence
Website Maintenance
Bi Annual Newsletters



FUN

AUCTION

Fun Auction Time!

The Fun Auction is an event in itself and is what the name implies – Fun!

Quality Auction Services are donating their talents to auction & clerk the event and they look forward to getting the kids involved! So you know it's going to be good =)

100% of the funds raised goes back into the bison industry either to cover DTBA Administrative cost or another bison foundation.

In 2024, the DTBA board happily sent proceeds from the auction to the Bison COE, National Buffalo Foundation, and Bison Discovery Center.

And please don't forget to bring your Fun Auction item! All items accepted!

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DTBA Board of Directors Needs Candidates

At our annual meeting coming up on February 8th, we will have 1 positions open on the Board of Directors.

We will sadly say our heartfelt thank yous to Bob Wesley as we agree to let him finally term out =). However, he says he is only a phone call away.

If anyone is interested in serving on the board, specifically the Show & Sale Committee - please contact one on the board members to let us know and gain more insight on what it entails.



DTBA Fall 2024 Newsletter

Check out the Updated DTBA Homepage!!
DTBA History with Links to photos
Now on our Homepage!
www.DakotaBuffalo.com

Do you ever wonder which member made up the first board of directors? Or how many different contest DTBA has founded and put on? Or who was the first Pioneer Award awardee?

Thanks to the history accumulated throughout the years and now revitalized online-we have the answers!

Below is the narrative but go online to browse the links, photos, and contest results =)

The DTBA boasts a vibrant history filled with innovation, resourcefulness, and resilience, cultivated through friendly competition in various contests that promoted community spirit and mutual admiration. The DTBA Founders started with a group of bison producers in the Dakota Territory region. The first board was established in 1996 by Sandy Limpert, Greg Smeenck, Judson Seaman, Roy Liedtke, Steve Sutton, Dixie Byrd, & Jason Sparling.

Shortly thereafter, DTBA recognized the 'Charter Member Group' of Ed & Deanna Nolz, Kevin & Joan Stormo, Sandy & Jackie Limpert, Rod Sather, Doug Woodall, Larry & Dixie Byrd, Bill Melius, Chad Heim, Chad Kremer, Zane Holcomb, Jim Butler, and Steve McFarland. This group gave DTBA its start & many of whom continue to be active members 30 years later! Not that any of us are over the age of 27.

The successors of the DTBA board drew inspiration from the legacy of innovation and community to further their efforts.

The DTBA founders focused resources into innovation, hands on research, and building a strong community. This naturally led to DTBA becoming the leader in many aspects of the bison industry. These innovators inspired the DTBA to establish the Pioneer Award to recognize and forever remember their unique & unforgettable contribution to the bison industry & DTBA. We are very thankful to our Pioneer Award recipients and remember them here.

Among these pioneers are those who organized and executed the 2007 International Bison Conference held in Rapid City, SD; which to date, was one of the most successful IBC events anywhere.

The vision & mission of the DTBA Founders & Charter Members aimed to be leaders in bison breeding stock, production & performance, and profitability and longevity of bison producers. This is documented through the meticulously organized & executed original Show & Sales & Class Contests of Black Hills Bison Contest 1999-2012 & 2013-2024. Which included the tough criteria of 'BHBC Producer of the Year' and 'Rookie of the Year'; The industry first 'Realty Based Carcass Contest' which included both bison bull & heifer carcasses results are here: 2001, 2002, 2003-1, 2003-2, 2004-1, 2004-2, 2005-1, 2005-2, 2006-1, 2006-2, 2007, 2008-1, 2008-2, 2009, 2015; The industry first 'host ranch managed' bison futurity growth performance class contest of 'Young Guns'; The industry first 'host ranch managed' heifer growth & pregnancy performance class contest of 'Girlz Gone Wild'; to the current people's choice format of 'Stack the Deck' performance bull & heifer show & sale.

The DTBA takes great pride in its extensive history within the bison industry, which positions us to shape its future. We are immensely grateful to everyone who contributed to this journey, and above all, we deeply appreciate our members—who are the true treasures of the DTBA.



DTBA Fall 2024 Newsletter

Looking Ahead...

FIND US
AT NBA

Are you going to the NBA Winter Conference? Be sure to find the DTBA table! We will have label pins for our members.

We hope to put these on our laynards to recognize each other & represent our region!

All those who visit the DTBA table will be put into a raffle whose name may be drawn for a prize!

DTBA is excited to be the sponsor for the 'NBA Recipe Contest'!

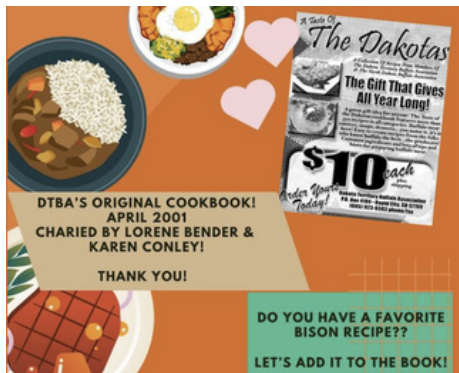
STRATEGIC
THINKING

In 2025, the DTBA will put together a 'Strategic Plan' to identify three key points to focus on for two years.

We would love to hear feedback from our members on what they believe would serve the DTBA best.

We will have a dedicated 'DTBA Strategic Idea' Board at our Winter Conference to capture any & every idea you guys may have!

So please start the brainstorming!



Recipes
Needed!

We are bringing back 'The Pride of Dakotas' Cookbook! It was first put together in 2001 by Lorene Bender, Jacki Limpert, & Karen Conley!

I've confirmed we can get it reprinted but why not add to it! We would love to get ~ 50 new recipes & reprint for the 30th!

Please send me your favorite recipes or better yet bring them with you to our Winter Conference!

SUMMER
2025

We are in the beginning talks of Co-Hosting the next NBA Summer Ranch Tour! We will start firming up details in January but are already excited to host again with NBA!

We love ideas of location, speaker topics, and food! So please do not withhold them ~ just shoot me an email =)!

30th
Anniversary

Where will you be President's Day Weekend 2026? Mark your calendars to be at our 30th Anniversary of DTBA!

We have started to form a committee of Scott Pederson & Karen Conley to help with the planning & would love to have you on it!

We have a list of 'Guiding Questions' but there are no bad ideas to come up so please let me know what you are thinking!



DTBA Fall 2024 Newsletter

Highlights from our Summer Ranch Tour

The DTBA held its Summer Ranch Tour on August 17th 2024. It was hosted by two Turner Ranches; Deer Creek & McGinley Ranch by managers Alex Sleep and Jessica Lovitt. Delicious bison meals were served of bison burgers, brisket, and bratwurst all provided by Turner Ranches. Jud Seaman was a sponsor to help pay for the side dishes and travel expenses. A huge thank you to them for making the ranch tour possible!

The tour had no cost to DTBA members and \$75 fee for non members. We had a great turnout of ~40 people for the day. We started at 9 am with coffee and muffins as we all gathered around the shop at Deer Creek Ranch's feedlot. Alex messed around with the projector for a while but by a miracle got it to work for his wonderfully thought out presentation.

The presentation was a thorough education on the data & processes of the feedlot. It outlined the pounds of feed to gain data, commodities used, and pen design. It also covered the reseed pivot project that took a long time alfalfa field to cool/warm annuals. The goal was to break up soil compaction to bring back the biota. Deer Creek used mostly grazing bison & some haying to achieve this.

This was the background knowledge to along the onsite tour of the feedlot and pivot for the hands on part of the tour. We headed back down to the shop to grill the bison burgers, visit, and to listen to Johnny Cash on the radio.

After lunch, we caravanned to the McGinley Ranch. There Rebecca gave us a tour of their main herd and answered herd & pasture management questions. It was great for a small group to have the full attention of such an operation. Even our youngest members present had questions of their own – 'Do you really manage this many acres? How is it possible?'

We went to their working facility afterwards to see their Berlinic Chute/Cube Combo. The main discussion was on stockmanship awareness as a key factor of working facility operation on a 'Working Day'. Using the operators intuition of the bison to the movement of the animals through the facility safely and low stress.

Then it was dinner time. Arlen of Fawn Lakes Turner Ranch made a delicious brisket and bratwurst and Alex smoked some macaroni and cheese - yum!! I was trying to peddle off stale muffins from the morning session. We ended the day with good company, food, a few more questions, and a video, made by Alex, of bison movement on the ranch. We all filtered out at our own time bidding each other 'Happy Trails To You Until We Meet Again'.

Thank you for Coming!



★ Thank you Alex & Tianna at
Deer Creek, Jessica at
McGinley for Hosting!
Special Thank you to Jud at
Quality Auction Services for
Sponsoring!! ★



A heartfelt thank you to our 2024 DTBA Sponsors! Your generous support has been invaluable in making the Winter Conference & Summer Ranch Tour a reality. Additionally, it has allowed us to allocate proceeds to support other organizations dedicated to promoting bison welfare.

***Thank
you!***

***To our 2024
Sponsors***



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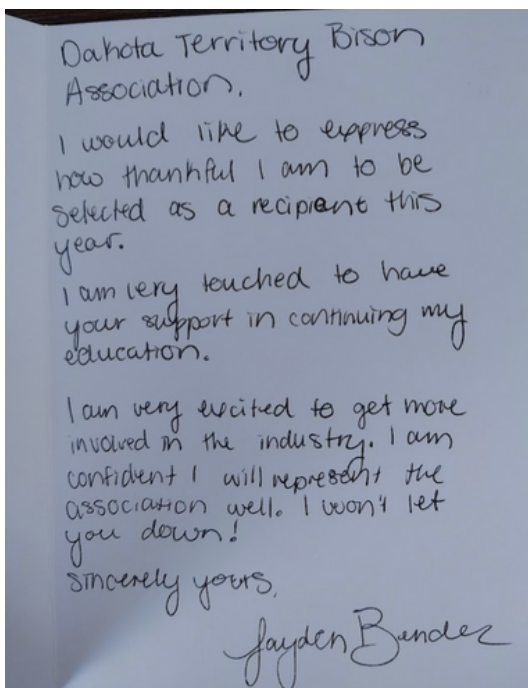
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National & Regional Association Updates & Minutes

NBA Bi-Annual Membership Meeting - August 20, 2024

President Ken Klemm opened with a welcome and positive perspective of the NBA as well 'well run' organization and blessed with an engaged board. There were ~30 members in attendance including Lindsey Hester of DTBA.

Meeting handed over to Jim Matheson, who recognized NBA board, staff, Karen Conley, & Barb Dowrley for diligence in work.

First order of business was to review Q1 & Q2 work & accomplishments. In terms of financial position, NBA is sitting very comfortably with just over \$51,186 in net income as of 6/30/24 (within 4% of budget). In terms of assets, the checking/savings has \$629,844 which is right where it was a year ago. The increase is thanks to investments with Raymond James.

The NBA Board had a Strategic Planning Retreat in April in which all board members were in attendance. This lays out what the NBA focuses on for two years vs. the five year outline of the past to better accomplish the goals and set goals of the current NBA President at the time. The four major goals set were: Education & Outreach, Profitability, Lobbying & Advocacy, & Evolution of the NBA.

The Education & Outreach goal is being measured by consumer & producer outreach through regular posting of up to date materials and establishment of the 'Education & Outreach Working Group' of business veterans to contribute a new curriculum of learning about bison. They will work to rewrite the 'Bison Producer Handbook'. And give a fresh start to bison learning materials. The website will also hold a 'Veterinarian Training Tab' that will link all the resources from the Bison Health Symposium.

The Bison Health Symposium is the 1st in nine years. There were 20 presentations, 120 attendees from 16 states, four Canadian Provinces, & three countries. In the hallway, were 20+ student posters. This was supported by the USDA NIFA. The feedback was great and more frequent symposiums were requested as nine years is way too long between symposiums but also need time for research to develop. A survey sent out showed the popular timeline to be 2-3 years between symposiums between US & Canada. This was a great collaboration with Canada and an excellent event.

The '2024 NBA Outreach Map' displayed showed an impressive accomplishment of reaching all eight territories of the NBA bringing the outreach closer to our membership.

On Profitability, the measure will be new data on the value of the bison industry and bison economic literacy and bison liquidity improvement.

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National & Regional Association Updates & Minutes Continued

The Lobbying and Advocacy goal measure is ongoing at the NBA with the continued legislative & regulatory work and a new measure of engaging members more in the lobbying campaigns via offering campaign letters in one simple email. The ongoing efforts focus on: 2024 Farm Bill (2023 never got passed - hopeful for 2024) which NBA lobbies heavily for bison to be included & asking for \$2 M is appropriated for 2025 for MCF, \$2 M is appropriated for 2025 for Mycoplasma Bovis, & to secure 5 years of funding under 'Research Title'; APHIS Electronic ID Rule implemented Nov 5th '24; Ag Marketing Service Commodity Purchases; Foreign Ag Service-export opportunities in the Pacific Rim of Japan, Korea, & Taiwan to allow bison imports; Farm Service Agency-NRCS Bison Regulations; Food Safety Inspection Service - Water Buffalo labeling & separating the combined listing of Bison & Water Buffalo under 'Indemnity Livestock Value' and the issue is with the USDA.

All of this will contribute to the Evolution of the NBA goal as measured by more efficient & streamlined processes, add to staff (currently at 3.5 FTE), & rebranding development. The rebranding will include a new logo and website name of 'www.NationalBison.org' to be launched by January.

To date, NBA had hosted five Member Outreach Events, mostly being the Summer Conferences but also includes the Winter Conference and International Bison Health Symposium.

The Regional Summer Conferences report to be working for the NBA being very popular and receiving great feedback which has shown a progressive increase in attendance for the past two years compared to a 'National Summer Conference' structure of the past. To date, NBA has completed three of the four planned. All these take place on the Ranch/Park Reserve and bring them closer to members; improving regional networking. A vast range of topics covered from in person field harvesting & meal prep demonstration to overall ranch tour.

The NBA has facilitated seven & eight in total In person Consumer & Producer Outreach Events across the country with more planned that is mostly 'Foodie & Chefs' type events that perfectly fit our demographic. And the goal to move consumers past the 'Bison Burger' to the middle meats and feedback is great. The marketers are major contributors of the Growth Fund who make these efforts possible. Also, the Growth Fund sponsored digital campaigns (ie) Ted's Montana Grill Burger Campaign and social media influencer project. The campaign costs \$15,000 and effectiveness is expected to be great as it accesses all the followers of these influencers.

The new Member Center in the Member Portal on the NBA Website has launched which was built with 'user friendliness' in mind - with positive feedback so far. Added to the launch is four new Marketing Tools that were NBA developed and produced specifically for the NBA membership available in both hard & digital copies.

The Growth Fund exclusively funds the consumer & producer marketing & outreach for the NBA. Financially, it is on par with 2023 YTD Revenue which is right around \$70,000.

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National & Regional Association Updates & Minutes Continued

There are new Marketer Partners in 2024 of Turner Enterprises & Nature's Meat and the result is more outreach as seen 5% increase in bison processing.
In terms of membership, as of July 2024 NBA has 1,094 members this is an increase over January 2024 and July 2023.

In terms of grants, NBA has been very successful in being awarding grant in the past two years. The grants include: USDA SDSU Climate Smart Agriculture Grant, USDA NIFA Grant, SDSU Conservation Grazing Grant, and the pending grants are Western SARE and USDA AMS Bison Promotion Grant.

The updates for each are:

USDA SDSU Climate Smart Agriculture Grant: Managed by Karen Conley, six bison producers now enrolled, offers a calf premium payment (Karen is reaching out to feeders)

USDA NIFA Grant: contributed to the professional video & editing of presentations at the Bison Health Symposium.

SDSU Conservation Grazing Grant: wrote by Dr. Jeff Martin and awarded ~ & provides funding for three of the NBA Regional Summer Conferences (through 2027)

The Western SARE grant is pending but initially application was accepted. This grant funded the first edition of 'The Bison Producer Handbook' and if awarded will fund the new version as well as online/video resources.

The USDA AMS Bison Promotion Grant is available to national non profit and can be used for both consumer & producer outreach and can apply in 2025.

The upcoming events listed included:

September 13-14, - Western NBA Summer Conference-CO

September 17-19 - NBA Legislative Round Up-DC

January 22-25 - NBA Winter Conference-CO

January 21-26, '25 - NBA Gold Trophy Show/Sale-CO

The meeting concluded with Jim sending thanks and opening up to questions. Lindsey Hester had a question if NBA videos could ever be available to download and use in their own promotional avenues such as social media. Answer is not yet as videos are licensed but as NBA moves to more 'in house' recordings then would be available.

Chad Kremer made closing remarks of thanks and looked for a motion to adjourn.



National & Regional Association Updates & Minutes Continued

Meeting Minutes for NBA State & Regional Committee Call 8/8/2024

Present: Jim Matheson, John Graves, Lindsey Hester, Daniel Bohnenkamp, Terye Gaustad, Jeff Williams

John started the meeting at 5:03 PM.

NBA Updates: Summer Regional Events, International Bison Health Symposium

Jim gave a quick update on the regional summer events explaining that the NBA has three of the four events completed with the final western conference in about a month in Colorado. All have been profitable with minimal fundraising, all were held on working bison operations and attendance ranged from 140 in Texas, to 80 in Kansas and 50 in New Hampshire. Feedback from post-conference surveys has been very positive. After the CO event, the NBA will have had a summer event in every NBA member region in the last 2 years. The NBA has also secured funding to support the regional summer events for the next three years, thanks to a grant that the NBA is a partner on. The Bison Health Symposium was also a success with over 120 attendees from 16 states, 4 provinces and 3 nations. We had 20 presentations on a wide array of health topics and again, got very positive feedback in the attendee survey. The presentations were all filmed and are available in the NBA member's portal for viewing, thanks to a grant from USDA NIFA.

IBC 2027 or 2029?

Jim followed up with an update on the International Bison Conference (IBC). Jim explained that the IBC has historically been held every 5 – 7 years, flipping the US/Canada border each time. The last IBC in Canada in 2022 was poorly attended by US members due to COVID, but possibly due to lack of demand as well. The group discussed the IBC and the lack of demand for such a conference, given all of the bison outreach happening these days. Jim explained that typically a State/Regional association cohosts the event, but no SRs have approached the NBA about cohosting in 2027 or 2029 thus far. Jim asked the group if they've heard any interest in hosting a IBC, to which no one had. John commented that with Canadians currently attending US bison events, is there demand for IBC moving forward? Jeff inquired about whether the NBA will continue its regional summer event approach, to which Jim explained yes, especially given the news of the grant.

Updates from each SR

Dakota Territory – Lindsey explained that she's the new hire for the paid position at DTBA as their Business Administrator. She has been busy bringing the DTBA up to speed in terms of office infrastructure, communications, etc. Chris Seivert is now president. DTBA is looking to improve service to its membership and will host a summer conference at a Turner property on August 17th. Lindsey shared that the DTBA has communicated that they want to continue to collaborate with the NBA, cohosting events, etc., and others. They are also working on their winter conference, the first weekend in

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National & Regional Association Updates & Minutes Continued

February, and the show and sale, which the committee is working on actively now. Missouri – Daniel reported that they are gearing up for their Winter and Spring sales. Venues have been selected.

Montana – Terye reported that a member of their board of directors lost a bull recently to a grizzly attack. The state of Montana does not include bison for livestock compensation, but thanks to the member's work, they will consider adding bison to receive death loss credit. John asked Terye to keep the group updated on the grizzly issue as it ties in with RMBA's work on wolf death loss compensation.

Texas – Jeff is the new president of the TBA and will have a Fall conference in late October where they'll focus on practical management topics. They'll work animals and load out in real time at the conference. They are also now planning their 2nd bison auction in February 2025 and are seeking animal consignments from surrounding states.

Rocky – John reported that RMBA has been getting more involved with local politics, most recently with the Colorado Wolf Management Plan. The plan compensates livestock owners for death loss from wolves, so RMBA got involved and lobbied the wildlife service to add bison, which they succeeded in doing so. Also, the city and county of Denver currently has a ballot initiative to ban livestock slaughter in city limits which would be bad precedent, and which RMBA is fighting. They have partnered with similar-minded groups to fight the ballot measure. John reported that RMBA launched a mentor/mentee program that is off to a great start but would like to see more participation, given that the membership asked for it.

Discussion on the pending USDA APHIS EID rule.

Jim gave an overview of the EID rule and explained the NBA's lack of a position on the issue, and its public comments submitted in April 2023, which did support the rule. The NBA Board will meet to discuss it's position on August 29th. Discussion was held. Lindsey asked about the national elections impact on the rule, which Jim explained could potentially change the implementation of the rule, along with 2024 congressional race outcomes.

Additional topics from the group

Jeff asked, as a new committee member, how many state/regional associations there are. A map, etc. John replied as did Jim who will share the NBA's directory of SRs at <https://bisoncentral.com/state-regional-bison-associations/>

Terye suggested that at the NBA Winter Conference, we go back to having a regional seating opportunity like we have in past years. Jim will bring it up at the next Winter Conference planning meeting.

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

**Thank
you!**

**Take Care!
& hope to
see you
soon ~
DTBA**