

DTBA December 2025 Newsletter

WWW.DAKOTABUFFALO.COM * INFO@DAKOTABUFFALO.COM



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

As 2025 comes to a close I hope you all had a Very Merry Christmas and an awesome start to the New Year! Many of us have gathered our herds and have done the annual round up and I hope you all had great calving rates, wean weights and ample grass to return your herd to for the winter.

The DTBA board members and committees have been busy this year. As I was scrolling through the draft newsletter Lindsey put together, I had to reflect a little bit over the past year and what we have planned for the coming months, it shows the outstanding commitment the board and all of the committee members have done behind the scenes.

There have been many meetings, many discussions, late nights, mid day chats all about this organization and how we can better serve its members. Im not going to touch on everything as Lindsey summed it up pretty good throughout the newsletter.

The winter conference along with the show and sale is going to be one for the record books, I think. The Show and Sale committee have put in countless hours coming up with a plan to make this big, maybe the biggest it's ever been! I wont spoil all the fun so bring your check books, a big appetite and be ready for a great time. In case you didn't catch it already, we are bringing this party to Deadwood!

Message Continued Next Page ...

2025 Board of Directors



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President

Mosquito Park Ent
Vivian, SD

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Director

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Alex.Sleep@retranches.com



Sherri Stormo
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In This Issue..

- **Message from President**
- **Note from Lindsey**
- **Committee Updates**
- **Membership Summary**
- **New Member Story: Diversity to Survive!**
- **Thank you Sponsors!!**



DTBA Summer 2025 Newsletter

Message from the President Continued

After several years of discussing a merger with North Dakota Buffalo Association, we brought it back to the table after last winter conference and said let's make this happen! Just a few days ago we had the final discussion and we are going to become a larger team in the industry, combining the two associations and keeping our voices heard! I feel that big things will continue to happen and combining forces will make us stronger than ever!

Our membership renewals are looking good, but we have a little way to go. Every year at winter conference we play a little catch up. Please don't forget to renew. As we look back at the list of members we have a pretty good number of renewed members, the returning members are members that may have lapsed a year or more. Hey Guys! Welcome back! The new members are in the double digits! If you long time members have ranch hands, family or friends bring em on over! We love hearing the stories of new producers or even the friends and family of current producers. Your ranch hands are part of the team, bring em on in to the DTBA family and show em a good time at the conferences. Lifetime memberships started just a few years ago and we are growing. Lets keep DTBA a lifetime association and keep the camaraderie going. This year we hit the 30 year milestone and talking to many of the producers that are still around today that started this association we really look forward to seeing you all and help share the stories!

Thank you to all the scholarship sponsors and keeping this tradition going. Unfortunately, we haven't been getting much more than a few applicants over the past several years so we are looking at some options to keep supporting the youth and we found some great avenues to pursue!

DTBA Sponsors. Would you look at the list of sponsors! This is amazing. The DTBA is EXTREMELY grateful to all of you. This Association could not be what it is without all of you. We are trying to keep conference expenses down while providing you the best services we can. So please, if you are not a current sponsor, please be sure to thank the other sponsors and consider being a sponsor as well.

Finally, my second term on the board is coming to an end and I would like to thank everyone that has entrusted me as the President the past couple of years. I may have ruffled some feathers along the way, but I think I made some pretty good friends in this industry as well. I've always tried to think of the members in all DTBA discussions and tried to do what is best for the Association. From the passing of an Executive Director to where we are now, it has been a VERY rocky road, but for the board members left on for the remainder of their terms and the soon to be incoming board, I feel the direction of this Association will continue to do what's best for the members. All of you! Thank you to all the current and past board members, Committee members and members of the Association. I look forward to this coming conference and many more to follow! God Bless you all and have Happy New Year!!



DTBA December 2025 Newsletter

Hello!,

As we reach the end of the year, I want to share how much I've truly enjoyed working alongside our incredibly active and dedicated board & committee members across all DTBA committees. Their intentional, strategic thinking has helped focus our efforts on projects that are coming together in meaningful ways for the association. I'm proud of the momentum we're building, and I encourage you to read on for highlights and updates from each committee.

I'm also excited to officially share that the North Dakota Buffalo Association (NDBA) and Dakota Territory Buffalo Association (DTBA) will be merging by the Winter Conference. Conversations around a merger first began six years ago but were paused along the way. This year, the timing and alignment felt right—and the stars truly aligned to make it happen. Both associations share strong, producer-focused missions and values, and a commitment to fostering creativity, engagement, and connection among our diverse membership.

With all of this progress, I feel energized as we wrap up 2025 and genuinely look forward to what we will accomplish together in 2026.

Look out for us in Denver! DTBA will have a booth at the NBA Winter Conference, please stop by and say hi! We will also be at the 'NATIVE: The Prodigies of an Icon' movie premier Wednesday evening as DTBA was a film sponsor. Also, Alex & I will be DTBA representatives at the 'New Member Welcome Breakfast' Thursday morning. This is to welcome new members and first time conference goers and introduce them to DTBA as a regional association as we can.

Thank you guys!
Lindsey Hester
DTBA Administrator
970-724-3868





DTBA December 2025 Newsletter

***Jason Bender - Chairman
Dave Lautt
John Cammack
Conner Buccholtz
Kevin Leier***

Show & Sale Committee Update

Girlz Gone Wild Bred Heifer Challenge is Closing In!!

We are excited to report that the Girlz Gone Wild Bred Heifer Challenge is coming to a close. Thanks to the incredible support of Kevin Leier and Heartland Bison Ranch, along with our dedicated consignors, this year's contest has turned out to be very special!

We're proud to have 33 heifers from 11 producers participating in this year's event. Representing a broad regional reach, our consignors hail from North and South Dakota, Nebraska, and even the Southern U.S., giving this contest strong representation across our membership. We will have 27 of these bred heifers available for show and sale Feb 7th.

The heifers were delivered to Heartland Bison Ranch on April 15th. After settling in, they were worked, weighed, and turned out to grass. They were bred by three Heartland Bison bulls—some who were former DTBA Young Guns Performance Bull Contest winner—making this group of heifers truly elite.

This year, GGW followed a new judging criteria, with the competition divided into three equal categories:

- End Weight (33%)***
- ADG on Grass (33%)***
- Live Judging for Conformation (33%)***

In early 2026, the heifers will be relocated to Cammack Buffalo Ranch for the final leg of the contest. They'll be available for viewing during our 30th Anniversary Celebration, February 6th, 2026, Cammack Buffalo Ranch up to 3pm. Winners will be announced, and the heifers will be offered for sale on February 7th.

We're thrilled to showcase this special group during such a milestone event. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Kevin Leier, Heartland Bison Ranch, and all of our courageous and committed consignors. We couldn't do it without you!

Cammack Buffalo Ranch, Texoma Bison Co., Cross Timbers Bison, Crazy Arrow Ranch, Rafter K Bar Ranch, Heartland Bison Ranch, Skull Creek Bison, Blue Creek Ranch - Turner Ent., Sheyenne River Bison, Caprock Bison Co. LLC , Antelope Creek Bison



DTBA December 2025 Newsletter

Show & Sale Committee Update

Thunder will Roll Into Deadwood!!

Feb 6-7th 2026



A tremendous amount of planning and enthusiasm has gone into the Black Hills Buffalo Thunder Show and Sale, and it truly shows.

This year marks the return of live, side-by-side judging by Dave Lautt and Dick Gehrring, who have worked diligently to establish a predictable, easy-to-follow judging system that benefits both consignors and buyers. Their thoughtful approach brings clarity, consistency, and renewed excitement to one of the premier events in our region.



DTBA December 2025 Newsletter

Show & Sale Committee Update

Black Hills Buffalo Thunder Bull & Girlz Gone Wild Bred Heifer Show & Sale

The mission of the DTBA Black Hills Buffalo Thunder Show & Sale and Girlz Gone Wild Performance Class Contest is to support buyers and consignors through transparent, criteria-based live judging that highlights the structural, functional, and traits essential for long-term reproductive success.

With today's limited buffalo inventory, the bison industry has a unique opportunity to rebuild the North American herd, and this event is dedicated to strengthening its future by promoting solid genetics and setting high standards for longevity and propagation.

Through a consistent, easy-to-understand scoring system adapted for the bison industry, we aim to support sound breeding decisions and help producers recognize how individual animals can add lasting value to their herds.

Mark Your Calendars - Animal Viewing!

Girlz Gone Wild Bred Heifers

Friday, Feb 6th 2026 - 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Cammack Buffalo Ranch

Black Hills Buffalo Thunder Bulls

Saturday, Feb 7th 2026 - 12:00 pm-3:30 pm

Muley Hill Lodge Arena

Sale - Feb 7th 2026 - 5:30 pm

The Lodge at Deadwood

We're pulling out all the stops to make this event high-energy and high-reward, with special prizes for top buyer and seller of both bulls and heifers—plus bragging rights for years to come!

Mark your calendars—you won't want to miss it!



DTBA December 2025 Newsletter

***Sherri Stormo-Chairman
Lindsey Hester
Alex Sleep
Amanda Fisher
Frank Kralicek***

Events & Sponsorship Committee Update

**DTBA 30th Anniversary Conference & Celebration
Featuring Girlz Gone Wild Bred Heifer & Black
Hills Buffalo Thunder Show & Sale, Feb 6-7th
2026 - The Lodge at Deadwood, Deadwood SD**

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE!

Register & More Information here!

<https://www.dakotabuffalo.com/winter-conference/>

Register by January 20th!

FEBRUARY 6-7TH 2026

DTBA 30TH ANNIVERSARY

CONFERENCE & CELEBRATION

THE LODGE AT DEADWOOD

DEADWOOD, SD

FEATURING GIRLZ GONE WILD BRED HEIFERS

&

BLACK HILLS BUFFALO THUNDER BULLS



Beyond the Sale: How quality animals perform from Range to Rail

Speaker Panel

This producer-led panel will examine how quality animals and intentional selection decisions impact every segment of the bison industry. Our speakers representing animal selection, cow/calf operations, feeding and finishing, and processing and marketing will share real-world insight on how good selection can reduce risk, improve outcomes, and add lasting value at each stage of production.

How does animal quality—or the lack of it—show up in your operation, and what do you wish producers upstream understood?

Meet Our Speakers

Animal Selection

Dave Lautt

Dick Gehrring

Cow/Calf Operations

John Cammack

Kevin Leier

Feeder/Finisher

Boyd Meyer

Conner Buchholtz

Processor/Marketer

Randy Miller

Bob Dineen

DTBA 30th Anniversary Conference & Celebration AGENDA

Feb 6th-8th 2026 ~ The Lodge at Deadwood ~&~Muley Hill Lodge Venues

Friday February 6th

**Morning Up to 3:30 pm: Girlz Gone Wild Bred Heifers viewing Cammacks Buffalo Ranch:
16800 Old Stoneville Rd Stoneville, SD 57787**

5:30 - 8:00 pm: Dinner, Social, & Kid Crafts at Muley Hill Lodge

Fun Auction - Please bring your Fun Auction Items with you to Muley Hills!

Hospitality Room back at The Lodge at Deadwood - **Generously hosted by Karen Conley and Todd Goetz!! Thanks Guys!!**

Saturday February 7th

7:30-8:30 am Breakfast & Registration

8:30-9:30 am Business Meeting

9:30 - 12:00 pm Speaker Panel

- **9:30 am Dave Lautt & Dick Geherring - Production Breeding Stock Selection**
- **10:00 am John Cammack & Kevin Leier - Cow/Calf Operations**
- **10:30 am Conner Buchholtz & Boyd Meyer - Feeder/Finisher Operations**
- **11:00 am Bob Dineen & Randy Miller - Processer/Marketer**

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm *Lunch at Muley Hill* & Shuttle Service Begins to Muley Hill

- **Lunch & Games! **Sponsored by North American Bison, LLC Thank you guys!! You Rock!!****
- **Bull Viewing at Muley Hill**
- **Black Hills Buffalo Thunder & Girlz Gone Wild Winners Announced**
- **Judges Comments -**

4:00 pm *The Lodge at Deadwood Social & Appetizers & History of DTBA & NDBA Slideshow & PA*

4:30-5:30 pm Award Ceremony & BHBT & GGW Ranch Introductions 5:30 pm GGW &

BHBT Sale Begins

7:00 pm Buffet Dinner is served & Award Pictures - **Dinner Sponsored by Dakota Pure Meats - Thank you guys!! Super Generous!!**

Hospitality Room – **Sponsored by Karen Conley & Todd Goetz!! Thank you guys!!**

Sunday Feb 8th:

7:30 am Breakfast ----- 9 am Animal Load Out Muley Hills --- 1 pm Animal Load Out Cammacks



DTBA December 2025 Newsletter

Alex Sleep - Chairman
Frank Kralicek
Amanda Fisher
Lindsey Hester

Membership & Marketing Committee Update

DTBA Membership, Marketing & Events Committee: 2025 Highlights

The second half of 2025 was an active and productive time for the DTBA Membership, Marketing & Events Committee, with continued focus on member engagement, communication, and event support.

One exciting project underway is our 5 Part Article Series initiative designed to reach audiences beyond our current producer base.

DTBA has partnered with freelance agricultural journalist Melisa Farke to develop a monthly article series launching in Winter 2026 in Tri-State Neighbor and Midwest Messenger.

The series will highlight bison production, business and marketing, the cultural significance of bison, and day-to-day life on bison operations—while connecting readers back to DTBA and its members.

The committee also worked to improve the membership experience through updates to the online renewal process, member privacy options, and public business profiles on the DTBA website.

We have also revamped our online 'Classified Ads', 'Events Calendar', & a new DTBA Store-featuring DTBA Merchandise! We hope you guys will take advantage of these!

By year's end, membership renewals reached approximately 75% early in the cycle 11 new members joined, and engagement on DTBA's Facebook page continued to grow.

A our sponsorship drive showed strong retention and new interest, reflecting confidence in DTBA's direction and momentum moving forward. And we appreciate our 2026 sponsors!



DTBA December 2025 Newsletter

Alex Sleep - Chairman
Frank Kralicek
Amanda Fisher
Lindsey Hester

Membership & Marketing Committee Update

Membership Numbers

So far..

We ended 2025 with 127 memberships, totaling ~220 individuals - we set the goal for 130 memberships for 2026 - and this is how we are doing so far ✨

2026 DTBA Member Summary

Renewed Members	71		
Returned Members	11		
New Members	11		
Lifetime Members	7		
New Lifetime Member	1		
Short of Goal	29	NDBA Memberships Transferred:	

THANK YOU!

LIFETIME MEMBERS!

Alex & Cassie Heim- Heim Land & Bison
Frank Kralicek - Kralicek Farms
John & Melanie Cammack-Cammack
Buffalo Ranch
Conner & Elise Buchholtz - Skull Creek
Bison
David & Hannah Voss - Apple Valley
Ranch
Tim Sather - Mosquito Park Ent.
Chris & Grace Seivert - Mosquito Park
Ent.

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS!

Jeff & Kelly Oakland, Rylan
Goetz, Grace Preister, Clay
Giddings, Amy Burke, Shawn
Shelley, Tate & Bobbi Wells,
Matt & Hannah McLeod, Derrick
& Ronni Adrian, Sadie Puckett,
Logan Vaagene, Western
Heritage Meats

New Member Highlight

Western Heritage Meat Co

Their Story & Offerings

The Kerns expected to raise her family on the historic Double Rafter Ranch near Sheridan, Wyoming, continuing a six-generation cattle legacy. But like many family ranches, rising costs, shrinking margins, and limited access to processing forced the Kerns family to adapt in order to survive.

Through diversification—including authentic cattle drives, direct-to-consumer beef sales, and ultimately the creation of Western Heritage Meats—Cathryn & Taylor built solutions not just for their own operation, but for producers across the region. Today, Western Heritage Meats is one of only three USDA-certified meat processing facilities in Wyoming, serving hundreds of small producers.

Western Heritage Meats currently processes 5–10 bison per month, with the capacity to handle 10–15 bison in a single day, and the Kerns are actively seeking to expand services for bison producers. In addition to USDA-inspected slaughter and processing, the facility offers a smokehouse, cold shipping room, customized labeling, embedded barcodes, yield reports, and detailed slaughter data—tools designed to help producers succeed in a direct-to-consumer market.

Cathryn believes the future of family ranching depends on quality animals, transparent processing, and giving producers the ability to set their own prices by connecting directly with consumers.

As a DTBA member, Western Heritage Meats share the association's commitment to strengthening the bison industry high standards that support producer sustainability thru entrepreneurship. Their work helps ensure that bison producers have a viable path from pasture to plate.

READ THEIR FULL STORY HERE:

<https://cowboystatedaily.com/2022/11/01/forced-to-diversify-wyoming-ranchers-launch-usda-certified-meat-processing-plant/>



DTBA December 2025 Newsletter

Chris Seivert - Chairman
Liz Schroth
Hannah McLeod
Jayden Bender

Scholarship Committee Update

Investing in the Future of Agriculture: DTBA Scholarship Update

A heartfelt thank you to our 2024 Scholarship Gun Sponsors and to everyone who supported the raffle at our Winter Conference—your generosity is making a real difference!

The DTBA Scholarship Committee was proud to award scholarships to two outstanding college-bound students, Patrick Kralicek and Teagan Arnold. Both young men are pursuing degrees in Agricultural Business with plans to return to their family ranches and contribute to the future of the industry.

We're proud to support these driven students who represent the next generation of agriculture and bison leadership. Congratulations, Patrick and Teagan—we're cheering you on!



Dear Dakota territory Buffalo—
Thank you so much for awarding
me the Dakota territory Buffalo
Scholarship. I Plan to use
this toward my college tuition
this fall.

Many thanks again for
helping me get one step closer
to my future success.

Sincerely,

Teagan Arnold



DTBA December 2025 Newsletter

Chris Seivert - Chairman
Liz Schroth
Hannah McLeod
Jayden Bender

Scholarship Committee Update

Scholarship Proceeds: What's Next?

As the DTBA Scholarship Committee continues its mission to support the next generation of agricultural leaders, we've noticed a decline in scholarship applications in recent years.

To keep our proceeds making an impact, we're exploring new and meaningful ways to support education within the bison community.

The committee has begun conversations with South Dakota State University (SDSU) to explore future opportunities. SDSU has recently launched bison-specific coursework available to both undergraduate and graduate students—an exciting step forward in formalizing education around our industry.

While no final decisions have been made, we're enthusiastic about the possibilities. Our goal remains clear: to invest in the future of the bison industry by supporting educational efforts that raise awareness, inspire curiosity, and guide students toward careers in agriculture and bison-related fields.

Stay tuned as these discussions develop—we're committed to making every scholarship dollar count!



DTBA December 2025 Newsletter

Chris Seivert - Chairman
Liz Schroth
Hannah McLeod
Jayden Bender

Scholarship Committee Update

2025–2026 DTBA Scholarship Gun Raffle is Locked & Loaded!

We're excited to announce the launch of our 2025–2026 Scholarship Gun Raffle—and this year's prize is one you won't want to miss! The featured firearm is a Seekins .300 Win Mag equipped with a Leupold scope—a top-tier setup!

🎫 Raffle tickets will be available at the upcoming NBA Winter Conference and final sales at our own Winter Conference February 7th!

A huge thank you to our Scholarship Gun Sponsors, whose generous support keeps this program going strong. Every ticket sold helps fund scholarships and invest in the next generation of agriculture and bison leaders.

Don't miss your chance to support a great cause—and maybe take home an incredible rifle!

2026 DTBA Scholarship Raffle Gun **Seekins .300 Win. Mag.** **with Leupold Scope**



100% of the funds raised go directly to support college students connected to the bison industry, as well as youth and student bison education programs.

Your sponsorship is truly making a lasting impact on the next generation of bison leaders!

THANK YOU **SCHOLARSHIP 2026 GUN** **SPONSORS!**



Foothills
Bison
Bender Family



FUN

AUCTION

Fun Auction Time! Friday, February 7th - Muley Hills Lodge!

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. We will be joined by the SDSU Bison Club as they will have items to auction off to support their club efforts!

In 2025, 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!



DTBA Board of Directors Needs Candidates

At our annual meeting coming up on February 7th, we will have 2 positions open on the Board of Directors.

We will sadly say our heartfelt thank yous to Chris Seivert & Sherri Stormo as are forced to agree to let them finally term out =). I can't talk about it - I might cry ... Needless to say, they have done a lot for us all =) ...

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



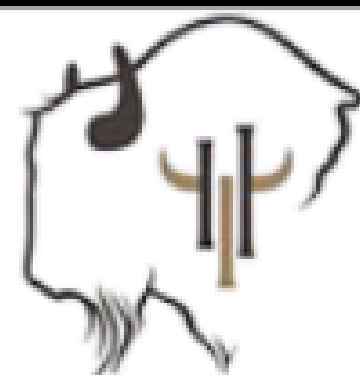
THANK YOU!

To our 2026 sponsors!

Your generous support makes the DTBA events
and bison community stronger than ever!



NORTH AMERICAN
BISON LLC



Conservation for Wildlife & Agriculture

Cody Palmer, Agent
(605) 895-2212



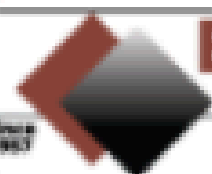
FISCHER
CLERKING, LLC



LONGREACH BUFFALO COMPANY



GOLDEN
PRAIRIE
BISON



**BLACK HILLS
ROOFING**

Commercial & Residential Roofing
Gutters, Windows, Gutters, Solar

FeedMax

THANK YOU!

To our Conference & Show & Sale Sponsors!

Highest Buyer Gun Sponsors



Belt Buckle Sponsors

Bulls



Heifers



Thunder Team



A huge THANK YOU to our 2025 DTBA Sponsors!

You guys are a delight to work with and we will work to perpetuate the bison industry!

Your dollars have been put hard at work to bring access of community, education, resources, market opportunities to bison businesses & families. You have made it possible to add so much value to our Winter Conference & Association while keeping costs as low as possible. So we are all grateful for your support =)

The bison community is strong & fueled by these grassroots efforts to move this part of the agricultural industry forward.





DTBA December 2025 Newsletter

Thank you for reading our End Year Update!

I honestly hope all is well with you all!

We are looking forward to seeing you February 6-8th in Deadwood!

DTBA 30th Anniversary Conference & Celebration Featuring Girlz Gone Wild Breed Heifer & Black Hills Buffalo Thunder Show & Sale, Feb 6-7th 2026 - The Lodge at Deadwood, Deadwood SD

Register & More Information here!

<https://www.dakotabuffalo.com/winter-conference/>

