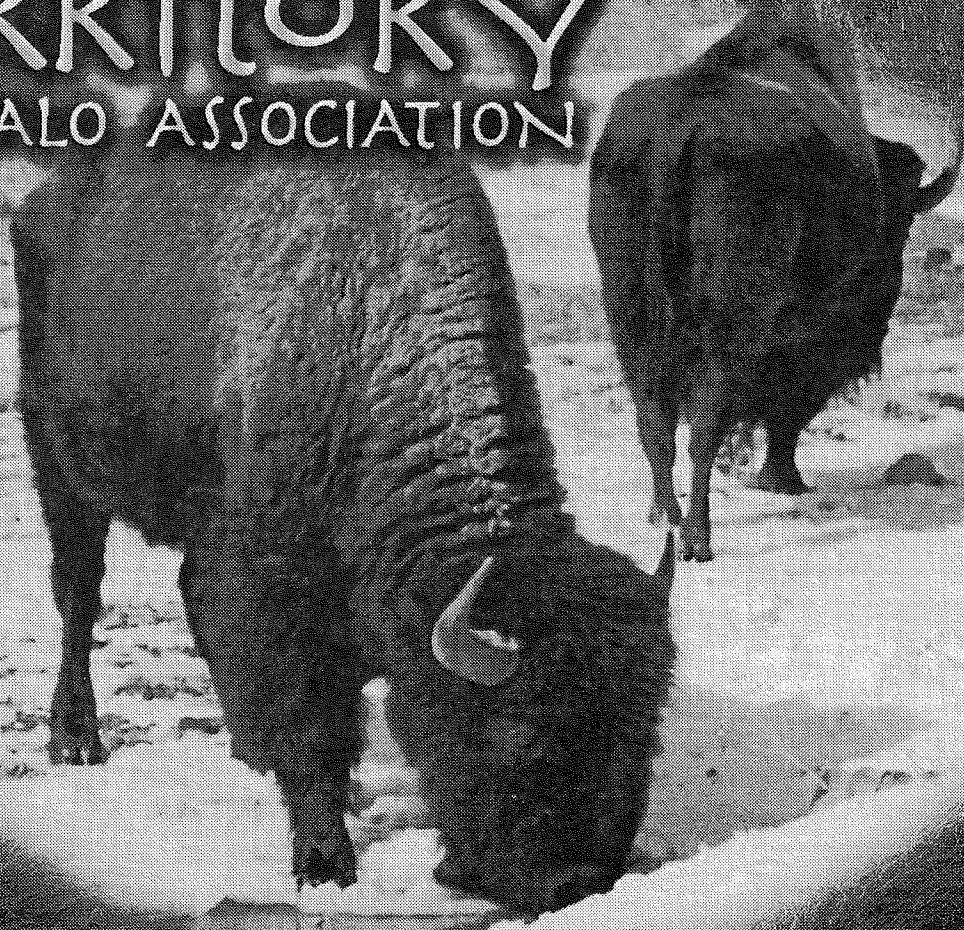


DAKOTA TERRITORY

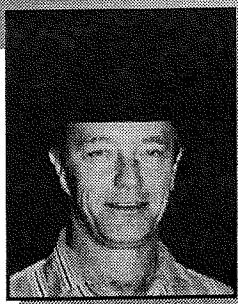
BUFFALO ASSOCIATION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE.

- DTBA SUMMER CONFERENCE INFORMATION
- NBA DISTRICT RESTRUCTURING UPDATE
- DTBA STRATEGIC PLANNING RESULTS



April 1999



From the President

The DTBA hosted two informational meetings for new producers last week. One was in Yankton, S.D. on Wednesday the 24th and one in Watertown, S.D. on the 25th.

There were about 70-75 people at each meeting and I thought they were very productive. We were in the heart of farm country and there was a lot of interest in the feeding and finishing of

bulls as well as the cow-calf operation

A great big thank-you to Brad and Connie Beavers of Jefferson and Kevin and Joan Stormo of Lake Norden for organizing those meetings. They did a fantastic job of taking care of all the details and I appreciate being able to depend on them. Also thank you to Sandy Limpert and Jim Strand who took time out of their busy schedules to travel across the state and help put on these meetings. It is a privilege to be part of an industry that is so progressive and where everyone is so willing to help.

Sounds like calving has begun in some areas. It won't be long and it will be in full swing. Hope to see you all in North Dakota the second weekend in April.

Greg Smeenk,
President DTBA

Summer Conference Update

**BE SURE AND CHECK THE
NEXT DTBA NEWSLETTER
FOR MORE SUMMER
CONFERENCE INFORMATION
INCLUDING AGENDA AND
REGISTRATION.**

**DAKOTA TERRITORY BUFFALO ASSOCIATION
SUMMER CONFERENCE
FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, JUNE 4 - 6
CHADRON, NEBRASKA**

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Super 8 Motel

45 rooms held until May 4, 1999

36 doubles, has a pool.

\$49.39 plus tax

Must call motel direct at 308-432-4471. Do not call the 800 number as it will tell you the motel is booked full.

The Westerner

20 rooms held

2 people, 2 double beds for \$39.88

Call 1-800-947-0847

**MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW!
ROOMS LIMITED!**

Committee Meeting

DTBA Board members, Dixie Byrd and Chad Kremer are the co-chairpersons of the Educational Committee. They are hosting an Educational Committee Meeting on Wednesday, April 21 at 2 p.m. at Hutch's Cafe in Presho, SD.

Any DTBA members interested in helping out with the Education Committee are invited. If you plan on attending, please call Dixie at 605-895-2119 or Chad at 605-683-6339 and let them know.

Remember...If every member gives a little of their time, the association will come out the winner in the end. Sharing the burden among many makes it less of a burden on a few!!!

EDUCATION

Buffalo Babble

I just wanted to take a minute of your time and says "thanks" for all the wonderful comments and remarks concerning the new DTBA newsletter. I appreciate all the feedback! Also, for those of you who called in address corrections, THANKS!! I made all the changes, so double check and make sure the information comes to you correctly.

Since I will be handling the newsletter duties, you can direct any comments, questions, mailing concerns or address changes to my attention. I will be happy to deal with them for you. If anyone has any story ideas, news tips or information they would like to see in the newsletter, you are welcome to bring those things to me as well. You don't need to do any writing or calling, just leave those details to me. All I need is the basic information and I can take it from there. Below, you will find my address if you care to send things in the mail, or you can call or fax me at the phone number provided and for those of you who like to e-mail, that address is there, too.

I hope you enjoy these newsletters. I look forward to visiting with many of you at the upcoming sales and summer conferences. Feel free to stop me and visit. I always have time to talk with good friends.

Sincerely,
Karen Conley
DTBA newsletter editor

**SEND TIPS, SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS
OR NEWS ITEMS TO:**

**Karen Conley
15290 225th St.
Box Elder, SD 57719
phone/fax: 605-923-7755
e-mail: tgkc@gwtc.net**

Winter Conference Strategic Planning Outcome

During the DTBA membership meeting held on January 29, 1999 in Rapid City, SD, the members each took a turn answering the following question: What is the largest problem/issue you have with the bison industry? While there were a variety of answers, several issues surfaced repeatedly. The top ten issues were determined and these items were addressed by work groups in a three hour strategic planning session. Those issues and the suggestions of the work groups follow. The issues are not listed in any order of importance. The suggestions/solutions to the issues are listed in declining order based on the value each group assigned to the idea.

Educate the financial community for the benefit of newcomers.

1. Determine actual costs of production: Heifer calf to producing cow; Feeder to finished bull.
2. Show history of actual net profits.
3. Identify best target consumer: age, income, number in household, background, health consciousness.
4. Determine best ways to advertise to this consumer.
5. Compile history of past auction results and projections for future sales.

Keep control of industry from bottom to top.

1. Support a lobbyist who will keep government intrusion out of industry. "Support producer regulations".
2. Media attention. (Ted Turner, what are you doing for us?)
3. Educate bankers with herd history.
4. PRCA bull riding spokesman for industry "NOW".
5. Support organizations and co-ops. Require local organizations to belong to National organization.
6. Health studies for educating consumers.
7. Market through education.
8. Support small producers.

Marketing of end products; meat and by-products.

1. Quality of meat.
2. Advertising/sending representatives to conventions.
3. Education of public.
4. Keeping undivided goals.
5. Availability.
6. Promote hide market.

Research on nutrition, diseases and methods of control.

1. Develop niches for various feeding options.
2. Determine how management affects end product.
3. Develop uniform health regulations.
4. Develop uniform immunization guidelines.
5. Dialogue with experienced producers.
6. Determine who funds research and who does it.

Maintain quality control of meat while avoiding division within industry.

1. Correctly marked and packaged product.
2. Follow up on handling procedures.
3. Consistency of cooking and handling bison meat after slaughter.
4. Slaughter at standard age class.
5. Determine difference of grass versus grain fed bison.
6. Education on cooking (representative).
7. Publish cooking booklets.
8. Profit margin in selling meat may cause quality sacrifice.

Crisis Management to deal with issues of industry (e-coli, humaniacs, etc.)

1. Counteract animal rights groups. Keep bison out of wildlife category.
2. Control what the media is saying about the industry. Edit press releases and stories.
3. Bangs in Yellowstone National Park - "not all bison are infected like publicized".
4. Lobbyist for bison producers.
5. Treat animals with respect in public. Don't give the public misconceptions. Safe treatment emphasized.
6. Bankers not getting right information regarding diseases, etc. Individuals should see that they get the right information.
7. Quality control (e-coli). Labeling on safe handling and cooking.

Educate public on benefits of eating and raising buffalo and where to find meat and/or live animals.

1. School programs: FFA, PTA, home ec, slides, videos, recipes, demos, college programs.
2. Local and state fairs, farmers markets, conventions, samples, booths at shows.
3. TV and radio, mailings, cooking demos, guest commentary and facts, free public service announcements.
4. Ranch tours: advertise at local motels, cafes, small local papers, local Chamber of Commerce.
5. Funding for education programs.

Generate and/or increase volunteers to carry out goals of DTBA.

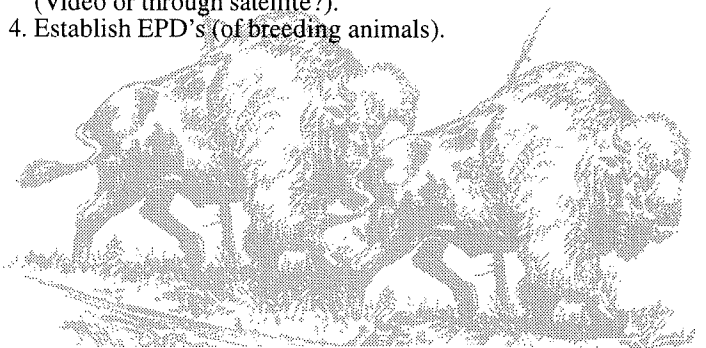
1. "Adopt" new members.
2. List areas of interest.
3. Contact new members.
4. Identify duties.
5. Contact potential volunteers based on their interest/goals. Communication!!!!

Uniformity of classifications and regulations of live animals and meat.

1. Producer in control - keep bison off wildlife list.
2. One standard nationally with flexibility (vaccination).
3. Standardize state inspection to meet federal guidelines.

Marketing live animals (private and sale barns and maintaining quality of breeding stock).

1. Cull animals. Cull/kill bottom end. Bottom thirty percent.
2. Ethics and representation of animals. All should be represented properly with high ethics. Reputation of seller and industry is at stake.
3. Promotion of sales with proper representation of sale animals. (Video or through satellite?).
4. Establish EPD's (of breeding animals).





NBA Restructuring

Memo from Del Hensel,
President of the National Bison Association
Regarding: Restructure of the NBA

At the Denver conference, the NBA board discussed changing the structure of the association to accommodate the State and Regional Associations. As you know, this issue has been discussed over and over since the merger of the old ABA and NBA. The board unanimously approved the concept which I have included for your information.

On Wednesday, the general membership also discussed this plan and voted to accept the concept. By approving the concept means we are not obligated to the exact wording and can fine-tune this if the majority chooses to do so.

To implement these changes would require an amendment to the bylaws. Amendments can only be made at the annual meeting in Denver, so no changes can be made until next January.

The changes proposed are not very major and i feel are a first step towards getting a better relationship between state and regional associations and the NBA. There are many concepts that have been proposed but it seems they may have been too complicated for the majority to accept at this time. As time goes by, we can continually change the system to more closely align our associations.

We do have a provision presently in the bylaws to allow for board liaisons and will accept any state or regional association that would like to choose someone for that position immediately. SEVERAL STATE AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS HAVE SAID THEY ARE PLANNING TO SEND SOMEONE TO OUR BOARD MEETING AS A LIAISON. YOU ARE ALL WELCOME TO DO THAT AT THIS TIME. It is my intent to allow liaisons a specified time at the Board meeting to bring up issues which are important to them.

Please feel free to call me anytime to discuss this or any other matter. My phone is 303-659-7439, fax 303-659-8510 or e-mail at henseldel@aol.com.

NBA PROPOSAL

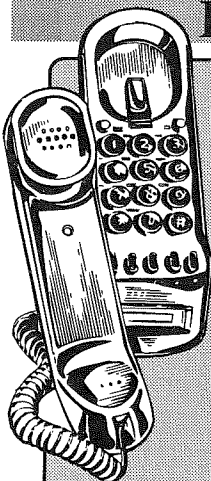
The NBA Board of Directors has been working to finalize a proposal to restructure the organization. This effort began over three years ago and was driven by a desire to work more closely with the State and Regional Associations.

After a considerable amount of effort, input and discussion, we have a concept to present the membership.

- Create eight districts. This is two more than we have.
 - We will keep an International Director and this will be a non-US residing member.
 - We will create a Public Herd Director.
 - We will keep the Director at Large position.
 - We will combine the Secretary and Treasurer position.
 - The eight districts would strive for an equal population distribution.
 - The districts will be reanalyzed every five years and restructured to ensure equal population distribution.
 - Districts will have a number rather than a name.
 - Each district will have a director.
 - Each District Director will have to be a resident from the district he represents.
 - Members can only vote for their own District Director nominees, Officers, Director at Large and the Public Herds Director.
- Voting will be done in Denver.
- The chairman of the meeting will only vote in case of a tie.
- All State and Regional Associations will be asked to send a delegate.
 - The Board will set aside a time at each conference to hear the state and regional delegates concerns.
 - The Executive Director will work with the state and regional associations to develop some type of incentive program to encourage joint membership. This will include, but is not limited to, a possible return to the state and regional associations of a portion of NBA membership dues, dedication of some portion of membership dues to be used for dedicated projects approved by the State and Regional Association, and a possible sliding scale of reimbursement based on percentage of the state and regional members that are also NBA members. The Executive Director is to make a report and a recommendation to the Board at, or before, the Summer Conference.

This is our concept. We'd like to hear from you before we draft Bylaw changes to be presented and voted on.

DTBA Phone Book



DTBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Greg Smeenk, 605-748-2410
Vice President: Chad Heim, 605-472-1000
Secretary/Treasurer:
Jud Seaman, 605-342-0322
Director: Dixie Byrd, 605-895-2119
Director: Chad Kremer, 605-683-6339
Director: Annette Smith, 307-663-7645

DTBA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Education Co-Chairs:
Chad Kremer and Dixie Byrd
Marketing: Roy Liedtke, 307-682-6599
Financial Relations: Annette Smith
Animal Regulations: Chad Heim
BHBC Show: Jason Sparling, 605-380-0800
BHBC Sale: Steve Sutton, 605-258-2863

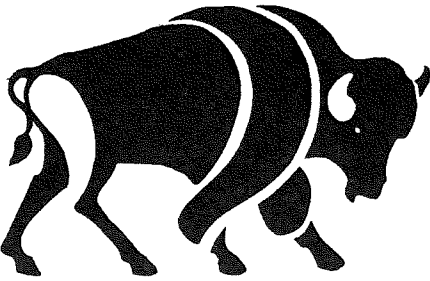
International Bison Conference

The International Bison Conference is coming to a millennium near you! The conference is scheduled for August 1 - 4, 2000 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Registration for this event opens on June 15, 1999. Keep up to date on conference and motel information in Bison World, Smoke Signals and the North American Bison Journal.

The theme for this world wide conference is "BISON ARE BACK 2000". People are expected from all across the United States and Canada, not to mention from all over the world. There will be a trade show, a full slate o speakers and seminars on all aspects of the bison business.

Nancy Allen of the North Dakota Buffalo Association has been named as IBC Co-Chairperson. For more information on this event, you may contact her at 701-222-6568.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED



**DAKOTA
TERRITORY
BUFFALO ASSOCIATION**

Are you interested in helping Dakota Territory Buffalo Association achieve its goals? The Strategic Planning Session from the 1999 DTBA Winter Conference brought to light many issues and needs faced by our association. We need your help to research, respond and reach out! If you are interested in giving some of your time to the DTBA, please let us know. Refer to the Strategic Planning outcome on page 3 of this issue and select the category (or categories) of your choice. If there are areas not listed please include those as well. Fill out the form below and return as shown.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (____) _____

FAX &/OR E-MAIL _____

AREAS OF INTEREST _____

RETURN FORM TO: KAREN CONLEY
15290 225TH ST.
BOX ELDER, SD 57719

Nebraska Legislative Bill Fails

After a committee hearing on March 9, the Agriculture Committee of the Nebraska Legislature killed LB 679, also known as the Bison Act. Numerous Nebraska State Buffalo Association members showed up at the State Capitol building in Lincoln, NE to urge killing the bill in committee. NSBA President, Larry Mason, testified against the bill as did veterinarian Dennis Hermish, InterTribal Bison Cooperative President Louis LaRose and former National Bison Association board member Georgia Peterson's daughter, Lori Peterson Kreifel. Four other NSBA members also testified along with a number of written statements submitted by NSBA members and other State and Regional Associations.

The Dakota Territory Buffalo Association supported the NSBA in its fight against the Bison Act. DTBA President, Greg Smeenk, submitted a written statement on behalf of the members of the DTBA lending the support and voices of the association's members. Smeenk asked that a Thank You from NSBA President, Larry Mason, be passed on to the members of the DTBA. The support from our organization was beneficial in the fight against the legislative bill, as was all the correspondence and support from within the industry.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, April 8, 1999:

Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Board Meeting, 7 p.m. Executive Room I, Seven Seas Motel, Mandan, ND.

Friday, April 9, 1999:

North Dakota Buffalo Association Spring Consignment Sale, KIST Livestock, Mandan, ND.

Saturday, April 10, 1999:

Antelope Creek Bison Ranch Annual Spring Auction, 11 a.m. MDT, Stockman's Livestock Exchange, Dickinson, ND.

Saturday, April 24, 1999:

North American Bison Cooperative Annual Membership Meeting, Jamestown Civic Center, Jamestown, ND.

Friday, June 4, through Sunday, June 6, 1999:

Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Summer Conference, Chadron, NE.

Wednesday, July 14 through Sunday, July 18, 1999:

North Dakota Buffalo Association Third Annual Bus Tour. Contact Monte or Nancy Allen at 701-222-6568.

Dakota Territory Buffalo Association
P.O. Box 4104
Rapid City, SD 57709

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BUFFALO ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Ranch Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

Mail to:
Dakota Territory Buffalo Association
P.O. Box 4104
Rapid City, SD 57709

\$25