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PHONE OR FAX

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Member Notes From The Office

Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues for the year 2001 and a few who even went beyond that! Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated and will ensure that you keep receiving copies of the newsletter, e-mail updates and other DTBA information. Please check your mailing label on the front of this newsletter to check the date your dues are paid through. If you have any questions about the status of your dues or payment, please contact me at the DTBA office.

Another thanks for those of you who took the time to fill out a membership survey, either during the conference or when dues notices were sent out. That information is being compiled and will become part of a handout and also will be included on the DTBA web site in the near future. It is also planned to be included in upcoming membership directories and will help promote your ranch and services. If you have not filled out a membership survey and would like to do so, please call the DTBA office and we can mail or fax one to you so your information can be included in these items.

We have recently compiled a member's e-mail list and have been using it to notify our members of upcoming events, sales and other pertinent news items. The response has been very good and to this method of sharing information and the ability to get word to our members that quickly is very handy. If you have not been receiving the updates and notices and have access to an e-mail address, let me know and we'll add your address to the list.

Anytime you have any changes to your address, phone number or any other contact information, please pass that information along to me so I can update the membership files.

One other very important item...by this time, each DTBA member should have received a copy of the 2001 membership directory and should be receiving newsletters approximately 4-5 times per year. Since these items are typically bulk-mailed to save postage costs, they are not forwarded or returned if there is a problem with your address or if it needs to be updated. It has come to my attention that some of our members, especially in Minnesota, have not been receiving these items. If you have not received a directory, let me know and I'll get one out to you right away. Also, please let me know if you have not been receiving newsletters. We need to get a handle on our mail service so decisions about how to best mail our information can be made and the membership informed.

For any membership items or needs, contact Karen at the DTBA office, 605-923-6383 or e-mail to: tgkc@gwtc.net.

Bison Meat Cookbook On Tap

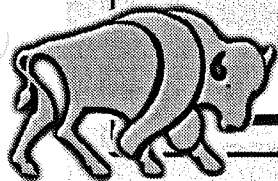
The DTBA will be working with members to produce our first bison cookbook! This exciting project is coming together and more information will be available in the very near future.

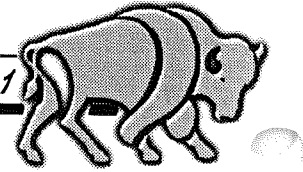
DTBA member, Lorene Bender, Britton, SD, is chairing the cookbook committee. She will coordinate the project and has several projects of this nature under her belt and is looking forward to working on this one.

What we are asking DTBA members to do is to submit their favorite bison meat recipes which will then be used in our cookbook. When the books are printed, they will then be offered for sale with all the proceeds going back into the DTBA to help fund other promotional projects. This is an excellent way to promote bison meat and promote our organization.

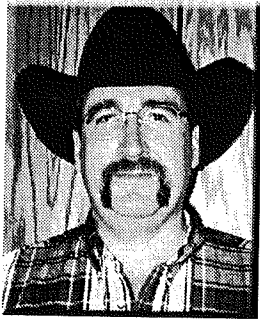
At this time, the cookbooks are slated to be published in time for the 2001 holiday season, so be thinking of ordering lots of copies for Christmas presents!

For more information on this upcoming project or if you are interested in volunteering your time and talents to help with this, please contact Lorene Bender at (605) 448-5837 or the DTBA office at (605) 923-6383.





From The President: Scott Peterson



Well, it looks like spring has finally decided to arrive and none too soon for many of us. This winter has been a hard one for many of our members and I'm sure I'm not the only one to welcome the sunshine and the start of the green grass.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended the Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale and the DTBA Winter Conference in Rapid City during the last weekend of January. Thanks to the hard work of

many dedicated people, the event was well attended and another tremendous success. It's a credit to the DTBA to have so many wonderful people step forward to help with this major event. Thank you to everyone involved, from participants to organizers!

As we wind down from the Winter Conference, don't forget to mark the DTBA Summer Conference on your calendars. The conference will be based out of Spearfish, SD and will include tours of Greg and Sherry Smeenk's Thunder Canyon Ranch near Newell and Sandy and Jacki Limpert's Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch near Buffalo. The dates for the summer conference are Friday, June 1 through Sunday, June 3. Look in this newsletter for more registration information and a tentative schedule of events.

One of the best things about the DTBA is the members. I would encourage all of the members to become involved in this association and make your input count. There are countless tasks that volunteers are always needed for and the DTBA board welcomes any and all input from our members. Along those lines, don't forget that the Board of Directors meetings are open to the membership and we will begin publishing the meeting dates so that our members will have the opportunity to attend and/or have input for consideration. The next scheduled board meeting will be held in conjunction with our Summer Conference and is slated for Friday, June 1 beginning at 1 p.m. at the Spearfish Holiday Inn.

The recent Board of Directors meeting brought forth many

new ideas and items for us to begin working on. Board member Steve Schmitz introduced some marketing ideas, including a bumper sticker and billboard with the theme of "Buffalo - Heart Healthy". We are very excited about Steve's proposals and look forward to sharing these ideas with the membership at our summer conference. Another major item considered at the board meeting was that of hiring an Executive Director for our association. The board voted to begin taking action on this matter and we are currently sourcing job descriptions from other associations that have a director in place already. We have also appointed a number of new committee chairs and those appointments will also be found in this issue of the newsletter.

When you are getting ready to work animals, don't forget that the association has a portable chute system available for rent to our members. Several people have mentioned that they weren't sure the chute was available outside the western region of South Dakota. Let me assure you, it is. The portable chute is available to any of our members. If it needs to be transported across the state and made available to our members there, then it can be arranged. The chute is currently located in Belle Fourche, SD, but it doesn't have to stay there. Rental information and a picture of the chute is inside this newsletter and I would encourage you to utilize this system if you are in need of it. For more information on the chute, contact myself or Karen Conley at the DTBA office and we'll get you set up and ready to go.

Finally, it is vitally important for this association to stand strong. Remember the "United We Stand...Divided We Fall" slogan? It stands true today and it does apply to the DTBA. We must all work together to further the association and the industry as a whole. On behalf of the board of directors, I would encourage you to all become and stay active in this association as we look toward the future. The board is here to serve the membership and we welcome your input, suggestions and ideas. Contact information for the board members is located on the front cover of this newsletter and I would encourage all our members to keep in touch. See you all in Spearfish this June.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Arlie & Lorene Bender, Bender Farms, Inc., Britton, SD
 Steve Bode, Bode Bison Ranch, Algona, IA
 LaVern Busckohl, Busckohl Ranch, Custer, SD
 Custer State Park, Custer, SD
 George Frame, Plainview, IL
 Mark Gainor, Milnor, ND
 Kay Ingle, Triple U Buffalo Ranch, Ft. Pierre, SD
 Lance Kuck, Laughing Water Ranch, LLC Bassett, NE
 Myron Kuhlman, Kuhlman Ranch, Hazel, SD
 Randy & Kaylene Melton, Melton Buffalo, Ronan, MT
 Ron & Joyce Merrill, Bison Springs Ranch, Deer Park, WA
 Kerr Mitchell, Kerr Mitchell Ranch, Inc., Marfa, TX
 Mark Selting, Wilder Buffalo, McLaughlin, SD
 Geri Smith, Plainview, IL
 Dave Stevens, NI Ranch, Lodge Grass, MT
 Mike & Melora Torp, Owl Creek Bison Ranch, Nisland, SD
 Kevin Wenzel, Cheyenne River Breaks Ranch - GKT, Scenic, SD
 Glen & Jill Klawonn, High Point Bison, Pine Bluffs, WY
 Misty Dilley, Buffalo Dundee Ranch, Center, CO

NEW DTBA COMMITTEES

New Committee appointments have been made during recent DTBA Board of Director's meetings. The appointments are:

SUMMER CONFERENCE 2001: Jacki Limpert

WINTER CONFERENCE 2002: Jacki Limpert

BLACK HILLS BUFFALO CLASSIC SHOW:

Jud Seaman and Dixie Byrd

MARKETING/EDUCATION/PROMOTION:

Steve Schmitz and Greg Smeenk

COOKBOOK: Lorene Bender

NOMINATING: Roy Liedtke

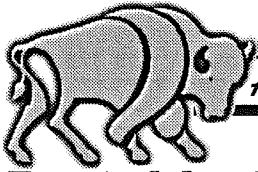
CONSIGNMENT SALES: Greg Smeenk

REALITY-BASED CARCASS CLASS: Sandy Limpert

NBA STATE/REGIONAL COMMITTEE:

Jud Seaman will act as liaison

Our condolences go out to the families of Robert W. "Bob" Jones of Huron, SD and D.M. Boone of Aladdin, WY, on their recent passing. Both were active members of the DTBA and will be missed by many.



Portable Chute For Rent To Members...Will Travel

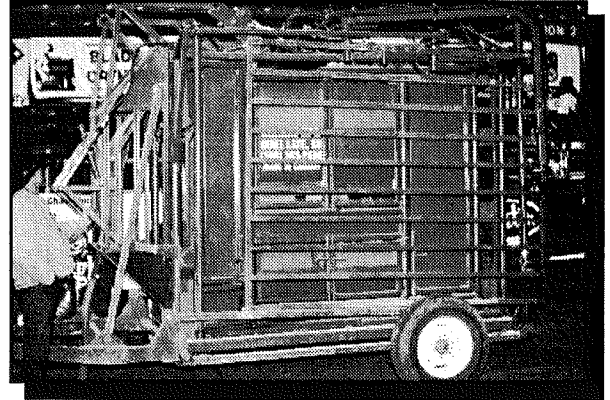
The DTBA has a portable chute system that is available for rent to DTBA members to help them work animals. The association is doing this as a service to our members as well as to help with DTBA sales and events.

The chute system is manufactured by Berlinic Manufacturing of Quill Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada. It comes equipped with wheels, the scale and a power pac. Members renting the chute will need to ensure that they have an alley or ready chute that will lead to the working chute.

The DTBA Board of Directors has authorized the renting of the chute system by current DTBA members at the rate of \$125 per 24 hour period that the chute is checked out to a producer. Additionally, there will be a \$500 deposit required and a rental agreement form will need to be signed prior to checking out the chute.

The chute is currently located in Belle Fourche, SD, but is available to all DTBA members and is ready to travel. Travel arrangements can be made for getting the chute to various locations and members are encouraged to use the chute, regardless of your location.

If you need more information on the chute system or the terms of the rental agreement, please contact Scott Peterson at (605) 892-4466 or the DTBA office at (605) 923-6383. To book dates for the chute system, call the DTBA office at 605-923-6383. All the scheduling will be handled through there.



Recent New Producer Seminar Held In Sioux Falls

What kind of fencing to use, how to change an existing operation over to buffalo, pasture concerns, animal health issues, feeding out slaughter animals and general production techniques are all questions a producer might have when considering purchasing buffalo for the first time. Who has

The DTBA recently hosted an informational meeting for any new and prospective producers who might be interested in the buffalo industry. The meeting was held in Sioux Falls, SD in early March and was coordinated by DTBA Board Member, Steve Schmitz. The speakers were experienced producers who covered a variety of topics and interests. Topics included information on how to get started and maintain your herd of buffalo, how to handle the animals and a look at the future of the industry.

Schmitz also owns and operates Double S Buffalo near Jefferson. Not so long ago, Steve and ranch partner, Dave Staum, were the new producers. Steve shared some of his thoughts about the industry as the seminar got underway.

Dave Staum, Elk Point, SD, the other half of Double S Buffalo, presented information on the ranch and how he and Schmitz came to be buffalo producers. Staum related how the operation came about and what they have learned from their experiences in starting a buffalo operation from scratch. There is no substitute for learning from someone who has just been there!

Another Jefferson, SD producer, Brad Beavers, presented information on the corral system he has in place at his Beaver Creek Buffalo Company. Beavers is well known and respected in

the industry and his corral system is the talk of buffalo producers around the state. He has spent much time and energy perfecting his working system and he offered his tips, suggestions and the pros and cons of various set ups.

Nolz's Poor Farm Bison of Sioux Falls, SD, was also represented by producers Ed and David Nolz. The Nolz's buffalo set up is a unique one, located at the junction of I-90 and I-225 with the buffalo being visible from both interstates. The Nolz family runs the operation and they spoke about how their set up works and what the focus of their buffalo operation is.

Hartford area producer, Orrin Geide, Circle G Ranch, is known in the area for his feeder bull operation. Geide went through his feeding operation and give information for those who are interested in feeding slaughter buffalo. There is a great deal of opportunity in this particular area of the industry right now and Geide's information was beneficial for anyone considering this aspect of producing buffalo for meat purposes.

Over 60 people attended the seminar from SD, MN, IA and NE. Of those attending, more than half were people considering getting into the bison industry and looking for more information to that end. Many area DTBA members also came out to show their support and help answer questions and be on hand to visit with prospective producers.

In addition to the seminar, those who came a little early were treated to a bison chili and dried bison meat luncheon sponsored by Dakota Bison Meats.

Thanks From Stacy Baker

Sale Results

Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Consignment Auction
Seven Down Arenas, Spearfish, SD • March 16, 2001

HEIFER CALVES: 16 head sold. Average weight was 411 pounds. Prices ranged from \$150 to \$200 with an average of \$172 per head.

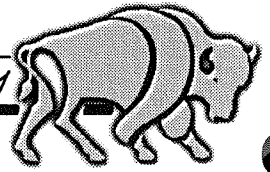
YEARLING HEIFERS: 7 head sold. Average weight was 538 pounds. Price was \$200 per head.

BULL CALVES: 53 head sold. Average weight was 464 pounds. Prices ranged from \$250 to \$325 with an average of \$300 per head.

Gene and I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak with your members at the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Winter Conference. What a great group of people! It's refreshing to see so many positive, dedicated producers and agri-businesses working together to promote their industry...especially when times are tough. By focusing on your customer first -- their perceptions, needs and wants -- you continue to build the foundation for a vital, successful industry. Thanks for allowing us to be a part of it.

- Stacy Baker, Marketing Dynamics

"What lies behind us, and what lies before us, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." - Ralph Waldo Emerson



2001 Winter Conference Focuses On Marketing



Ralph and Mary Mahoney, Fulton, SD, were honored to receive the Pioneer Award, an honor they well deserve.

Galleries, also downtown, got the conference underway. On Friday, the annual meeting led off the day's events. President Greg Smeenck offered some opening remarks and addressed the crowd. Smeenck led the audience through a brief overview of the association's activities the past year. Nominations for new directors were also taken at this time.

National Bison Association (NBA) President, Paul Lyman, took time to attend the conference and addressed the membership. Lyman discussed the NBA's realignment of regions this past year and he also asked the members of the DTBA to be represented more strongly in the NBA. He explained the proposals in front of the Gold Trophy Show and Sale Committee to implement qualification procedures and the impact and meaning it will have to the state and regional associations.

Dennis Sexhus, the CEO of the North American Bison Cooperative (NABC) in New Rockford, ND, gave an update on the NABC and its marketing arm, North American Provisioner, Inc. (NAPI). Sexhus explained the current industry situation as of January 2001. He said there is production growth, inadequate/non-existent marketing, inventory buildup, increased competition and depressed prices. Sexhus feels bison producers are hurting themselves very badly with this situation and he senses a splintering of the masses looming. In closing, Sexhus noted that quality, price integrity and support are the key ingredients to making successful marketing of bison meat.

South Dakota State Veterinarian, Sam Holland, gave a report and update on some of the diseases and issues facing the industry. Holland's big news of the day was noting that effective February 1, 2001, testing for Brucellosis on cattle and buffalo is no longer in effect in South Dakota nor will animals imported from clean states have to be tested. All cattle and buffalo used for breeding purposes that are over 18 months of age will still have to be official calfhood vaccinates as stated by South Dakota law and



Rod Sather had a couple of stuffed "dogs" that he offered for sale during the Fun Auction. Sandy Limpert paid the high price to take the dogs home!

Nearly 300 bison producers and enthusiasts from around the region made their way to Rapid City, SD the last week in January to attend the annual Winter Conference. The conference is held in conjunction with the Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale and the Black Hills Stock Show.

This year, an afternoon Ladies Wine Tasting at Once Upon A Vine in downtown Rapid City and a reception and registration at Prairie Edge Trading Company and

Holland said legislation was amended to reflect those changes.

Other topics that Holland touched on included the animal identification issue, noting that it is a big issue and something that producers need to be aware of and thinking about. A red flag was also raised by Holland in regard to some recent hunting bills passed in neighboring states and the prospects and ramifications of one here in South Dakota.

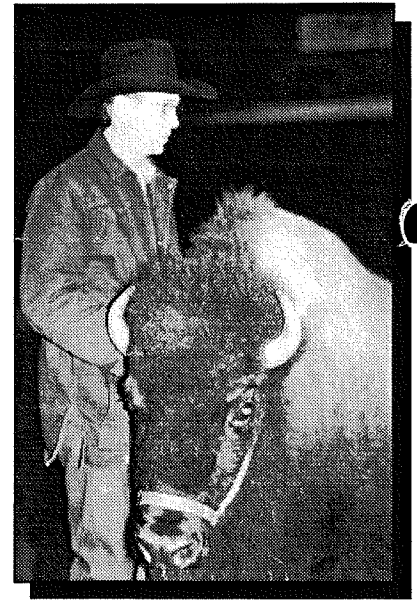
On the subject of field slaughter, Holland asked for a statement from the DTBA with their take on the situation. He also touched on the subjects of Johne's Disease, quality assurance and licensing and bonding of dealers.

The next presentation was made by Stan Swanson of Silver Sage Bison in Lusk, WY. Stan pitched his idea of a new bison processing plant and collocated feedlot, the Great Plains Buffalo Cooperative, slated to be built in the southeastern region of Wyoming. He has spent a great deal of time researching and developing and shared his plans for this new venture.

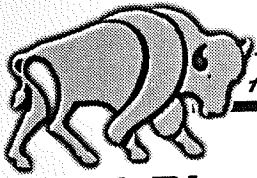
The final presentation of the morning was devoted to the newest edition to the Black Hills Buffalo Classic lineup. Carcass Class chairman, Sandy Limpert, and RC Western Meats owner, Bruce Anderson, explained about the new class to those present. Dubbed "The Reality-Based Carcass Class", this unique class was a first of its kind anywhere and was very well received, both by those participating and those wanting to know more about it.

The afternoon session featured guest speaker, Stacy Baker, of Marketing Dynamics out of Spokane, WA. Stacy and her husband, Gene, own and operate the company and Stacy certainly did her homework in the bison industry. After her presentation for the Northwest Bison Association last year, word has spread throughout the industry about Stacy's marketing techniques and her positive, no nonsense approach to marketing and she is finding herself the keynote speaker for a number of bison association meetings as of late. "Creating a Dynamic Marketing Plan" took the group through the process of marketing and making and following a plan. Her presentation was very well received and left many wanting more information or suggestions from her.

The election of the new DTBA officers then took place and the business meeting wrapped up. There were three positions up for election on the board and when the votes were tallied, Jacki Limpert, Jud Seaman and Steve Schmitz were the three new board members. Following a short board meeting, new officers for 2001 are: President, Scott Peterson, Belle Fourche, SD; Vice-President, Jud Seaman, Rapid City, SD; Secretary/Treasurer, Roy Liedtke, Gillette, WY; and Directors, Greg Smeenck, Newell, SD; Jacki Limpert, Buffalo, SD; and Steve Schmitz, Jefferson, SD.



Jim Strand and his two year old heifer, Jet, were a big hit at the BHBC sale. Jet has become the mascot of the bison industry and she and Jim are quite the pair.



2001 Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show And Sale Results

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR:

Larry and Dixie Byrd, Trails End River Bison, Presho, SD

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:

L.T. Bison Ranch, Darcie-Anna Moeller, Stony Plain, Alberta

GRAND CHAMPION MALE: A two year old bull consigned by Larry and Dixie Byrd, Trails End River Bison, Presho, SD. The bull was purchased by Rod Sather, Mosquito Park Enterprises, Vivian, SD, for \$9,250.

GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE: A yearling heifer consigned by Larry and Dixie Byrd, Trails End River Bison, Presho, SD. The heifer was purchased by Rex and Ronda Snyder, Snyder Land and Development, Lyman, WY for \$11,000.

RESERVE CHAMPION MALE: A yearling bull consigned by Kevin and Joan Stormo, Tatanka Hills, Lake Norden, SD. The bull was purchased by Rod Sather, Mosquito Park Enterprises, Vivian, SD, for \$3,600.

RESERVE CHAMPION FEMALE: A pen of two yearling heifers consigned by Larry and Dixie Byrd, Trails End River Bison, Presho, SD. The heifers were purchased by D.M. Boone, Boone's Bison, Aladdin, WY for \$4,500 per head.

CLASS RESULTS FROM THE SHOW:

HEIFER CALVES:

Gold - Thunder Canyon Buffalo, Greg and Sherry Smeenck, Newell, SD

Silver - Four "R" Bison Ranch, Ralph and Mary Alarid, Cheyenne, WY

Bronze - Jay Melius, Spearfish, SD

Honorable Mention - Tatanka Hills, Kevin and Joan Stormo, Lake Norden, SD; Tri-C Bison Ranch, Tom, Tony and Dennis Cink, Wesley, IA.

PEN OF THREE HEIFER CALVES:

Gold - Nolz Poor Farm Bison, Ed and Deanna Nolz, Sioux Falls, SD
Silver - Thunder Canyon Buffalo, Greg and Sherry Smeenck, Newell, SD

Bronze - Double Diamond Buffalo Company, William and Susan Melius, Faulkton, SD

Honorable Mention - Sheyenne River Bison, David and Diana Lauth, Harvey, ND; RL Bison Ranch, Rob and LeeAnn Trynoski, Aurora, CO; Red Canyon Ranch, Mike and Kathy Gear, Thermopolis, WY

YEARLING HEIFERS:

Gold - Trails End River Bison, Larry and Dixie Byrd, Presho, SD

Silver - Buffalo Dance Bison, Casey Byrd, Presho, SD

Bronze - Sheyenne River Bison, David and Diana Lauth, Harvey, ND

Honorable Mention - Antelope Creek Bison Ranch, Doug and Keith Candee, Dickinson, ND

PEN OF TWO YEARLING HEIFERS:

Gold - Trails End River Bison, Larry and Dixie Byrd, Presho, SD

Silver - Buffalo Dance Bison, Casey Byrd, Presho, SD

Bronze - Butler Ranch, Jim Butler, Faith, SD

Honorable Mention - Tepee Ring Bison, Wayne and Sue Arnold, Brady, MT; Antelope Creek Bison Ranch, Doug and Keith Candee, Dickinson, ND

TWO YEAR OLD BRED HEIFERS:

Gold - Trails End River Bison, Larry and Dixie Byrd, Presho, SD

Silver - Thunder Canyon Buffalo, Greg and Sherry Smeenck, Newell, SD

Bronze - Antelope Creek Bison Ranch, Doug and Keith Candee, Dickinson, ND

Honorable Mention - Johnson Bison Ranch, Floyd Johnson, Shadehill, SD; Heim Buffalo Ranch, Evie and Chad Heim, Rockham, SD; Tatanka Hills, Kevin and Joan Stormo, Lake Norden, SD

BULL CALVES:

Gold - Antelope Creek Bison Ranch, Doug and Keith Candee, Dickinson, ND

Silver - L.T. Bison Ranch, Darcie-Anna Moeller, Stony Plain, Alberta

Bronze - Sheyenne River Bison, David and Diana Lauth, Harvey, ND

Honorable Mention - Red Canyon Ranch, Mike and Kathy Gear, Thermopolis, WY; Nolz Poor Farm Bison, Ed and Deanna Nolz, Sioux Falls, SD

YEARLING BULLS:

Gold - Tatanka Hills, Kevin and Joan Stormo, Lake Norden, SD

Silver - Buffalo Dance Bison, Casey Byrd, Presho, SD

Bronze - Red Canyon Ranch, Mike and Kathy Gear, Thermopolis, WY

TWO YEAR OLD BULLS:

Gold - Trails End River Bison, Larry and Dixie Byrd, Presho, SD

Silver - Buffalo Dance Bison, Casey Byrd, Presho, SD

Bronze - Middle Creek Bison Ranch, Roy and Donna Rozell, Oak Creek, CO

REALITY-BASED CARCASS CLASS RESULTS:

Gold Trophy and \$10,000 cash prize was awarded to Scott and Susan Peterson, Jumpoff Buffalo Ranch, Belle Fourche, SD.

Silver - North Prairie Bison Ranch, Dennis and Sue Sexhus, Keith and Susan Kakela, and Larry Baer, Leeds, ND.

Bronze - RL Bison Ranch, Rob and LeeAnn Trynoski, Aurora, CO.

SALE RESULTS:

Heifer Calves: 17 head sold. Prices ranged from \$350 to \$3,200 with an average of \$932 per head.

Pen of Three Heifer Calves: 16 pens sold. Prices ranged from \$350 to \$1,100 with an average price of \$602 per head.

Yearling Heifers: 18 head sold. Prices ranged from \$550 to \$11,000 with an average of \$1,936 per head.

Pen of Two Yearling Heifers: 17 pens sold. Prices ranged from \$350 to \$4,500 with an average of \$1,206 per head.

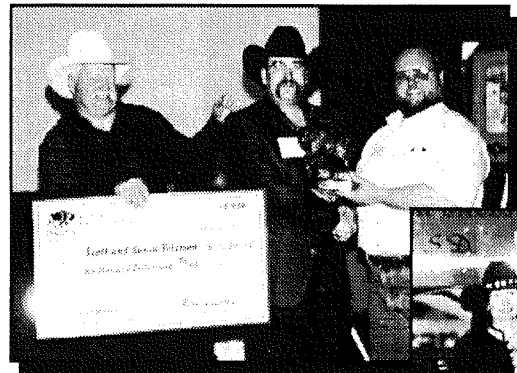
Two Year Old Bred Heifers: 12 head sold. Prices ranged from \$1,100 to \$6,500 with an average of \$2,196 per head.

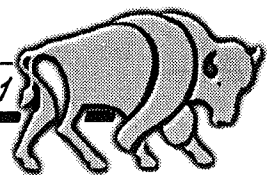
Bull Calves: 21 head sold. Prices ranged from \$350 to \$7,750 with an average of \$1,082 per head.

Yearling Bulls: 19 head sold. Prices ranged from \$750 to \$5,250 with an average of \$2,397 per head.

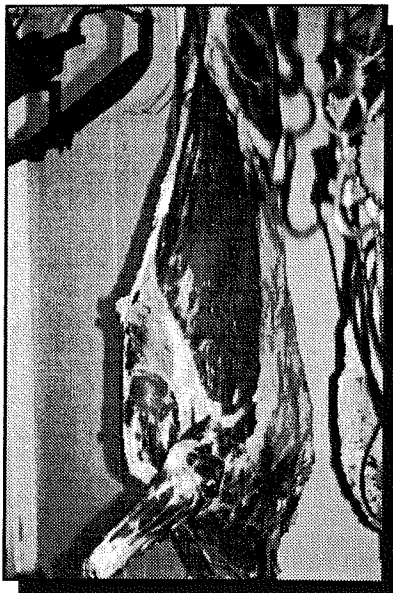
Two Year Old Bulls: 5 head sold. Prices ranged from \$1,250 to \$9,250 with an average of \$4,340 per head.

Volume Buyer, Rod Sather, Mosquito Park Enterprises, Vivian, SD.





New Reality-Based Carcass Class A Success



Carcass class contests are being held around the United States and Canada. The animals are brought in by producers, slaughtered, graded and the top grading carcass is determined the winner. But what does that really mean? What does that tell the producer? The results are determined by individuals or groups of individuals examining the carcass and putting a label on it. Is there room for human error? Is there room for "judgment calls"? You bet there is. How do you get around that and determine the true value of the carcass?

Last year, Buffalo, SD producer, Sandy Limpert, approached Bruce Anderson of RC Western Meats in Rapid City, SD. What Limpert was suggesting was to do a carcass contest, but with a different twist. He wanted to have the contest winner determined based on the retail value of the meat the animal was able to put in the box. After much discussion and lots of fine tuning, the DTBA was the official host of the new Reality-Based Carcass Class.

The contest was slated for January of 2001, in conjunction with the DTBA's Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale in Rapid City, SD. The animals would be brought into RC Western Meats in early January, slaughtered, evaluated and then the winner would be announced during the association's awards banquet the end of January. To add a little twist to the whole affair, Limpert was able to garner support to offer a \$10,000 winner-take-all cash prize for the winning entry.

The contest rules were simple. There would be a total of 15 entries. For a \$250 entry fee, producers had a shot at the \$10,000 cash prize. Anderson worked out a schedule and basically shut down his plant for four days, two days to slaughter animals and two days to have his crew cut, trim and package the meat.

In order to eliminate any human intervention in determining the winner, Anderson had an independent third party oversee the meat cutting and packaging process. South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, offered one of their meat science people as that third party. To further keep human intervention to a minimum, Anderson agreed to have one set of data, the meat data, and Limpert would handle the live animal portion of the data, including keeping track of the producer's animal and the live weights. Neither man would share their set of data with the other until it came time to announce the winner.

When the entries were opened for the contest, it filled up in just two days. Producers from North and South Dakota and Colorado all were vying for a shot at the prize money. During the time between the entries being turned in and the actual delivery date, much talk centered on how big of an animal to bring, how heavy they should be and so on. Size, weight...all the normal criteria didn't matter in this contest. How much meat the bull put in the box was all that mattered.

Before the delivery date, Anderson and Limpert fine-tuned the contest. After the animals were delivered and a live weight obtained, they would then be slaughtered. A hot hanging weight

would then be recorded. After hanging in the cooler for a set amount of time, the carcasses would be halved and then quartered. Under the watchful eye of the independent party, in this case, Bruce Shanks from SDSU, the meat would be trimmed to a quarter inch of fat cover. All the fat that was trimmed off would be weighed. Each cut would then be weighed with the current North American Bison Cooperative value per pound put on them. The remaining bones, minus the trimmed off meat, would also be weighed. A sample of burger from each carcass would then be cooked and the fat content measured. Anderson was able to formulate a sliding scale in which to base value of the burger on its percentage of lean meat, meaning the leaner the meat, the more it was worth per pound.

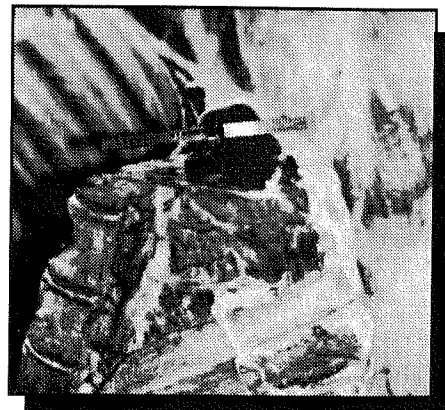
The day of delivery for the live animals arrived. As the animals arrived they were unloaded into the portable chute and scale, a live weight obtained and then they were run into the tub area outside the plant. To further ensure that no human intervention would occur, Anderson and his employees stayed inside the plant and the DTBA members handled the live animals until they were ready to be run into the kill area. Once inside the plant the animals were processed and assigned a number, a hot hanging weight was obtained and they were put into the cooler.

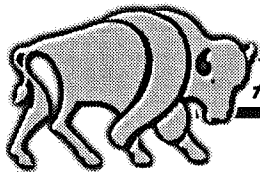
On the third and fourth days, the carcasses were brought out of the coolers and plant manager Al Holzer quartered each half. Throughout the process, photographs were taken to record the variations in the live animals, the carcasses and finally the meat cuts. Once the carcasses were quartered, they were then taken to the cutting floor where the final processing and packaging took place.

After the hands-on part of the contest was over, Anderson started to compile the data for each entry. A sheet was made for each entry and contained data such as the carcass weight, the carcass value, the middle value, the chuck value, the round value, the thin meats value and the trim. It also contained the waste items, including the fat and kidney and the bones. The winner would be determined by the highest percentage of growth from the carcass value to the retail value.

In the final calculations, the winning entry had a growth percentage of 51.83 percent. The second place bull had 49.67 percent and the third place bull had a 48.06 percent mark up. The remaining percentages were: 47.10 percent; 46.45 percent; 46.42 percent; 44.99 percent; 44.37 percent; 44.36 percent; 43.72 percent; 42.87 percent; 40.70 percent; 39.66 percent; and 36.98 percent.

So, what was accomplished by this reality-based contest? Limpert hopes that the data recorded and provided to the producers will help them understand their feeding program and how it affects the final product. From Anderson's point of view, it helps producers know what kind of animal will make the packer and the producer the most money. Over time, the records kept from this type of contest will help producers make genetic and production decisions that will help their yields and produce an efficient product.





Make Plans To Attend Summer Conference June 1-3

It may be dreary and dull right now, but summer is just around the corner. With the warming of the air and the longer daylight hours, it's time to start gearing up for the annual DTBA Summer Conference. As in the past, the summer conference is a family-oriented gathering with the ranch tours being the highlight of the weekend. Plans are already in place and it's time to register you and your family for some summer fun.

The conference this year is being based out of Spearfish, SD, located at the foot of the Black Hills. The ranch tours this year will feature two area ranches that are among some of the best buffalo-producing ranches in the area. Sandy and Jacki Limpert will open up their ranch, Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, just south of Buffalo and Greg and Sherry Smeenck are also letting us in on their Thunder Canyon Ranch located northeast of Newell, SD. Both ranches are unique in their own right and will give DTBA members a chance to see the wide-open plains of western South Dakota.

The Summer Conference is slated to begin on Friday, June 1 and run through Sunday, June 3. Tentative plans include a Friday afternoon board meeting and then a reception and registration on Friday evening at the Spearfish Holiday Inn and Convention Center.

On Saturday, Conference Chair Jacki Limpert has arranged for us to ride in style as two tour buses will transport attendees to the ranches and back to Spearfish that evening. Due to the long traveling distances between Spearfish and the ranches, the buses will leave the hotel bright and early on Saturday morning, approximately 7 a.m. Don't worry, though, coffee and treats will be available on the bus to help you wake up and when you arrive

at Thunder Canyon Ranch, breakfast will be waiting. Following a fantastic ranch breakfast, tours will be given of the ranch and the handling facilities.

Sometime before noon, we hope, the buses will depart northward for the Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch. Not to worry about lunch, though. You and yours will be well fed on this tour as lunch will be served at Slim Buttes when we arrive. A tour of the ranch, as well as the handling and feeding facilities will follow. Later in the afternoon, the buses will load up and head south back to Spearfish where we'll enjoy an evening of social time, a banquet and fun auction. On Sunday, breakfast will be served at the hotel with a business meeting following. It's free time after that with all kinds of time for families to tour the Black Hills or other area ranches or head home, your choice.

Since June is prime tourist time in the Black Hills, you are encouraged to contact the Spearfish Holiday Inn and make your hotel reservations now. The hotel can be reached at (605) 642-4683. This is shaping up to be a great conference and one you won't want to miss. There are lots of other things to see and do in the area, so bring the family and make a vacation out of it.

Registration for this year's summer conference is \$60 for each adult, \$25 for children 12 and under, up to a maximum of \$170 per family. Registration forms are included in this newsletter and are due in the DTBA mailbox no later than Saturday, May 26. Any registrations received after that time will incur a \$20 late fee.

For more information about the upcoming Summer Conference, please call the DTBA office at (605) 923-6383. Hope to see you all in June!!

Volunteers Who Make The DTBA Happen!

The success of our organization is only as good as our members and there are a number of members who deserve recognition for their help at the recent Winter Conference and those who help throughout the year.

First off, let's give a big thanks to all our sponsors for the 2001 Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale and the DTBA Winter Conference. Without your generous sponsorships and donations, an event of this magnitude would not be possible.

Many thanks to Kathy Fox who spent most of her conference time selling DTBA apparel to members. Kathy really outdid herself, selling nearly \$2,000 worth of merchandise. Great job, Kathy. She is always willing to help out with DTBA functions and misses out on many meetings and presentations just to help the association. Thanks for being an outstanding member!

Another member chipped in and did a great job helping with all the little, last-minute details of the Winter Conference. Kelly Fox jumped right in and did anything and everything, from running downtown to pick up plaques, to helping register, to packing boxes and things around the hotel. Thanks, Kelly, for all your help and for continuing to volunteer to help the association.

Several members also helped man the DTBA booth at the Black Hills Stock Show. Annette Smith and Melora Torp took their turns answering questions, handing out information and registering folks for a bison meat drawing. Filling in all the gaps, Paul and Barb Conley, "associate members" by way of Karen, did the lion's share of booth sitting and their help was much appreciated.

Jacki Limpert and Sherry Smeenck again volunteered their time and talents to serve bison chili at the Taste of South Dakota. The chili went over great and they ran out long before the tasting was over. Many comments were heard to the fact that the bison chili was the best offering of the event. Keep up the great work. Sherry and Bev Austin also did a presentation during the week on cooking with bison meat. They served samples and sent many attendees down to the DTBA booth to buy cookbooks!

Speaking of cookbooks, they would not be available without help from some of our members. Arlie and Lorene Bender, Bender Farms, Britton, SD, generously made a cash donation to help the DTBA purchase cookbooks and recipe cards for our booth and cooking shows. We were able to get the merchandise delivered during the stock show and sold a number of cookbooks and the recipe cards were also a big hit. Thanks Arlie and Lorene for your generous contribution.

A number of the guys helped Steve Sutton and crew with moving the animals and helping during the sale. Without their expertise and know-how, the sale would not run as smooth and quickly as it does. Steve and his crew deserve a huge thank you for all the work and hours they have put in since the beginning. Steve is usually busy with the rodeo and doesn't have the opportunity to participate in the Winter Conference and we certainly appreciate all his input, devotion and ongoing work to help the BHBC be the best it can be.

At the risk of leaving someone out, we'll stop there. Everyone pitched in and made the whole Winter Conference and show/sale a huge success. Thank you to everyone who attended and we certainly hope to see you all next January!!

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

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DAKOTA
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BUFFALO ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE SEND IN ONLY IF YOU ARE A NEW MEMBER OR HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2001 DUES!

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Ranch Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

E-mail _____

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

\$50

SATURDAY, APRIL 7: North Dakota Buffalo Association Spring Sale, KIST Livestock, Mandan, ND. Contact Greg Maddock at 701-438-2503.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7: First Annual Kansas Buffalo Association Spring Sale, Salina, KS. Call the association at 888-282-4766 for details.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8: Antelope Creek Bison Ranch Production sale, Gladstone, ND. Call 701-225-2280 for details.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1 THROUGH SUNDAY, JUNE 3: Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Summer Ranch Tours and Conference, Spearfish, SD. Call the DTBA at 605-923-6383 for more information.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2: Manitoba Bison Association Summer Field Day at Boggy Creek Ranch, Marchland, Manitoba. Call 204-424-5640.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9: Western Bison Association Meeting, J-S Ranch, Ukiah, CA. Call hosts Jim and Betty Lawson at 707-485-0830 for details.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15 AND SATURDAY, JUNE 16: Montana Bison Association Summer Ranch Tours and Meeting, Alder, MT. Contact Vince at 406-842-7292 for details.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15 TO SUNDAY, JUNE 17: North Dakota Buffalo Association Summer Conference, Maddock, ND. Hosted by Benson County Bison Producers. Call Melinda Martin at 701-766-4077 for details.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23: Annual Bison and Grass Ranch Tour, Dave Hutchinson's Perfect 10 Bison Ranch, Rose, NE. Contact Dave Hutchinson at 402-273-4574 for information.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4 THROUGH SATURDAY, JULY 7: National Bison Association Summer Conference, Snow King Resort, Jackson Hole, WY. Hosted by Medicine Lodge Ranch. For more information, contact the NBA at 303-292-2833.

FRIDAY, JULY 20 THROUGH SUNDAY, JULY 22: Saskatchewan Bison Association Summer Field Day, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Call the SBA at 306-585-6304 for more information.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8-SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10: Western Bison Association presents Wild West Buffalo Stampede Show and Sale, Reno, NV. For information call Ken Childs or Larry Toler at 760-789-5767.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24: Minnesota Buffalo Association's Harvest Auction, Central Livestock Sales, Albany, MN. Call the association at 877-929-2828 for information.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30-SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2: Third Annual Wisconsin Midwest Premier Bison Breeding Stock Show and Sale. Eau Claire, WI. Contact Lee Graese for information at 715-234-1496.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2001: North Dakota Buffalo Association Fall Consignment Auction, KIST Livestock, Mandan, ND. Contact sale chairman, Greg Maddock, at 701-438-2503.



DAKOTA
TERRITORY
BUFFALO ASSOCIATION

SUMMER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Mail Registrations by May 26 to:
Dakota Territory Buffalo Association
P.O. Box 4104
Rapid City, SD 57709

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Ranch Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

E-mail _____

Web Site Address _____

Number of Adults Attending DTBA 2001 Summer Conference @ \$60 Per Adult _____

Number of Children Under 12 Attending DTBA 2001 Summer Conference @ \$25 Per Child _____

Names of Those Attending _____

Registration Fees Will Total No More Than \$170 Per Family

**ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE
POSTMARKED BY
SATURDAY, MAY 26, 2001**

Total Amount Enclosed _____

*There will be a \$20 late fee on any registrations
postmarked after May 26, 2001.*

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE DAKOTA TERRITORY BUFFALO ASSOCIATION