

Important Membership News!!

Thank you to those members who have paid their dues for the 2002 calendar year. Many of you sent in dues with your conference registration and that is a big help. If you have not paid your dues for the year, please do so as soon as possible. In order for you to be listed in the membership section of the website and in future resource guides and membership directories, your dues need to be current.

If you are unsure about the status of your membership dues, check the mailing label of this newsletter. The year listed is when your dues were/are paid through. If it indicates a year less than 2002, your dues are not up to date. If you think there is an error or you are unsure about your status, please contact Karen at the office and she'll check into it right away.

Along with your dues, please take the time to fill out the membership survey and information sheet inserts in this newsletter and return them to the DTBA office.

The survey is designed to help the board better serve the needs of the membership. Without your input, they can't judge if the current services are adequate for the membership and improvements are difficult to make without feedback. You are welcome to mail, fax or e-mail the survey back to the office. If you would like to indicate your name on the survey, you are most welcome to do so. If you prefer to remain anonymous, that's fine, too. While we intend to share all the findings with the membership, individual responses will be kept confidential.

The information sheet is the only way the association has of updating your personal information. Many of you filled out this same sheet when registering for the conference or renewing your dues. If you have filled one out since December, there is no need to do another one unless you have changes you'd like to make. If you are not sure if your information is correct and up to date, check with Karen to find out. Again, you are welcome to fax, e-mail or mail the information to the DTBA office, whichever is most convenient for you. This information is included on the website and is used for the Resource Guide and will also be included in the fall Membership Directory. If you do not have an information sheet on file, you will only be listed in the membership section with your name, address and phone number.

Section 32 Bison Meat Purchase

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced recently that it would purchase \$10 million worth of bison meat during the next few months. Contracts will be awarded by July 15, 2002.

To find out more about the purchases and for information on how to submit a bid, go to the following website: www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/cp/OtherRedMeat/Otherwhatsnew.htm. We will also try to post this information on the DTBA website.

2002-2004 Membership Directory

Along with the other inserts inside this newsletter, you'll find information on the upcoming DTBA Membership Directory. Due to lack of response, the association was unable to publish a new directory this past fall. The Board of Directors made the decision to postpone the directory and allow more time this spring and summer to produce a new one.

The plans are to have a new directory ready for the fall sale season. It will be printed and ready for distribution by September of this year. This new directory will be in use for two years instead of the usual one year. Please take time to read through the informational insert and return the form if you are interested in advertising in this publication.

The association publishes and distributes the directory as a service to our membership. It is not a fundraiser for the association and typically, the revenue from the advertising just covers the production and printing costs.



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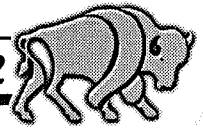
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Remarks From The President: Scott Peterson



It's growing closer to the time when the little red calves will dot our pastures. Although the winter has been mild, spring is always welcome and I hope everyone has a good calf crop this spring.

Our annual Winter Conference was once again successful. There were many challenges to overcome, including sharing dates with the National Bison Association's Gold Trophy Show and Sale and conference, but everyone took it in stride and we got along very

well. Over 200 people attended the event this year, including a number of new members. We received a lot of good feedback and I appreciate people taking the time to express their thoughts. On that note, this newsletter contains a survey of our Winter Conference. Please take the time to write down your thoughts and opinions and forward that information back to us. It will help to guide the board as we plan for future conferences and meetings.

I'd like to thank Conference Chair, Jacki Limpert, for the wonderful job she did in lining up the conference, speakers and all the numerous details that go along with it. Helping her was Karen Conley, who lined up much of the materials you received in your conference packets. We had a wonderful slate of speakers who deserve our thanks, including: Dr. Sam Holland, Stan Swanson, Dr. Daniel Farrington, Angie Bachmeier, Ed Eichten, Dennis Tuel and Brad Beavers. Thanks to all of these people for giving their time and information for our membership.

Our Reality Based Carcass Class was another positive note for the association. This year, for the first time, we had heifers entered and the results were very interesting. I would like to thank Sandy Limpert for chairing this committee and also Bruce Anderson, Al Holzer and the entire crew at RC Western Meats for allowing us to bring animals in and basically shut their plant down for four days to conduct this class. We could not put on a carcass class of this caliber and this in depth without the assistance of all these people. Plans are already underway for next

year's class, so keep up your records and plan to enter next fall.

Another pair of under-recognized people who are instrumental in our show and sale are Steve and Kim Sutton. They work closely with the DTBA board to ensure that we have use of the facility for our animals and they also does much of the promotion for this event. Without the cooperation and assistance of the Sutton family, we would be hard pressed to find a facility that could host our event, much less one of the caliber that we have.

Finally, to everyone who took the time to attend the conference and/or the sale, thank you. Your support of the DTBA and your interest in the buffalo industry are what keeps us going. I hope that everyone took away some new information, new ideas or new animals from this event. You are the reason we put on the conference and the show and sale and I thank you all for your participation.

Congratulations to our new board members, Jerry Austin and Rick Knobe. I look forward to working with these capable folks, along with the remaining members of the board. Please note on the front cover of this newsletter, all the contact information for each board member. We have included e-mail addresses to help facilitate contact between the board and members of the association. The door is always open and we are here to work for you and we're ready to listen and take direction from your suggestions and ideas. This contact information is also included on our website, so don't hesitate to use it. One of our goals for the upcoming year is to improve communication within our organization and this is a good start.

One final note...please remember that the DTBA will not be hosting a Summer Conference this year. The National Bison Association (NBA) is hosting their Summer Conference in Jamestown, ND on July 18 through July 20. We have decided to focus our efforts on supporting the NBA event and are asking our membership to show their support by attending this conference. We will be having a board meeting on the morning of Thursday, July 18 with a time to be announced later. As always, our board meetings are open to any members and we'll keep you informed about the specific time and location when those details are finalized.

Welcome New DTBA Members!

Gary Allen, Busy Nook Bison Farm, Oconto Falls, WI
Tom & Kris Martin, K bar T Bison Ranch, Ellsworth, WI
Scott & Jenny Ellenbecker
 Mosquito Park Enterprises, Mitchell, SD
Tim & Pam Schieber, Amber Dawn Bison, Caledonia, MN
Forest Peaslee, Rockey Mt. Red Deer Farm, Jefferson, ME
Mike Thiel, Catron Land Co., Camp Crook, SD
Mike & Wanda Stone, Stonehill Bison, Windom, MN
Jeff Goodyear, Maple Ridge Bison Ranch, Hinsdale, NY
John Fire, Sturgis, SD
David & Gail Bornitz, Fedora, SD
Delores Jones, Huron, SD
Tom & Donna Junk, Mosquito Park Enterprises, Vivian, SD
Brad & Deb Strandberg
 Black Hills Buffalo Products, Worthington, MN
Glenn Murphy, Big Coulee Bison Co., Inc., Rolla, ND
Lowdon Heller, Ideal, SD
Wendell & Michael Peden
 Peden Consulting, Ltd., Rapid City, SD
Mark & Gayle Larson, Larson Ranch, Iroquios, SD

NBA Scholarships Available

The National Bison Association (NBA) recently sent out information regarding the Throlson American Bison Foundation Scholarship. The foundation will be awarding two scholarships, one for \$1,000 and one for \$2,000. Applicants must be an undergraduate with junior or senior standing or a graduate student in a recognized livestock, animal science, veterinary or agriculture program in the United States or Canada; have at least one semester or two quarters remaining in their degree program; and be scheduled to be enrolled as a full time student for the following fall semester/quarter.

Applications are due by July 1, 2002. If you or someone you know is interested in an application and the criteria, please contact the DTBA office and Karen can send you a copy of the forms. Call (605) 923-6383 or e-mail: info@dakotabuffalo.com.

A big congratulations and warm welcome to the smallest and newest DTBA member, Jayme Marie Peterson, daughter of Scott and Susan Peterson. She was born on March 18 and weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces. She joins big brother, Jon.



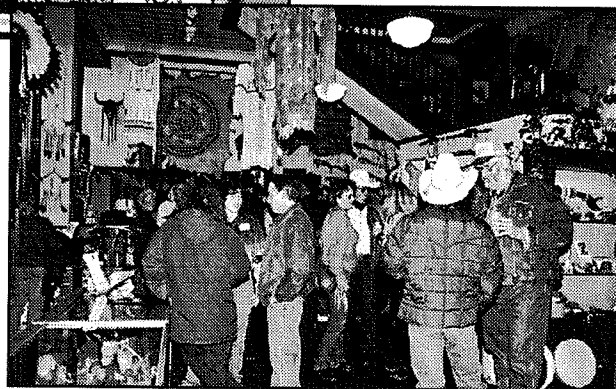
DTBA Hosts Successful Winter Conference This Past January

Over 200 buffalo producers and enthusiasts from around the region made their way to Rapid City, SD the last week in January to attend the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association's (DTBA) annual Winter Conference. The conference is held in conjunction with the Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale and the Black Hills Stock Show.

On Saturday, the conference got an early start with the annual meeting leading off the day's events. Testifying their commitment to the association, members turned out in large numbers for the one day conference. Many new members made this their first association event. Non-members were welcomed to join in and many did just that. DTBA President, Scott Peterson, offered some opening remarks and addressed the large crowd. Peterson 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.



Due to the conflicting schedules with the National Bison Association (NBA) Winter Conference, NBA Executive Director Dave Carter faxed an overview of the NBA event, along with best wishes for a successful DTBA conference. The remarks were read to the audience and were appreciated by those in attendance. Carter went over some of the issues covered at the NBA conference, including the hot topic of meat inspection and other pending legislative issues. Targeted marketing was also another source of much discussion in Denver.



South Dakota State Veterinarian, Dr. Sam Holland, was next on the DTBA agenda. He gave a report and update on some of the diseases and issues facing the buffalo industry. One comment made by Holland, in light of the struggles the industry is currently facing, is that "the meat industry is mature. The buffalo industry is immature". Holland's comment more than summed up the situation the industry is in right now.

Other topics that Holland touched on included: the TB testing requirements and perhaps relaxing them in the future for the state; Dealer/Liquidation statutes where Holland suggested that it would be wise to include buffalo in these regulations; field slaughter and federal inspection guidelines regarding it; interstate shipment of state inspected meat and the issue of including buffalo as an amenable species. Holland also shared information on Chronic Wasting Disease and then took time to answer questions from producers in the audience.

Dr. Daniel Farrington of Black Hills State University, Spearfish, SD, presented to the group his proposal for buffalo research to be conducted right in the heart of DTBA country. Farrington noted that a group of researchers has been working on a project to include buffalo research, especially DNA work. He asked the audience what they, as a buffalo community, would want to see the research group focus on. The group is working to obtain the necessary grants and funding to get the research project underway and they are open to suggestions about topics and programs producers think would offer valuable information.

Farrington would like to keep the project centered either in Spearfish or Rapid City, so as to keep it in this region. We will have more information on this project in upcoming issues of The Buffalo Heard.

The next presentation was made by Stan Swanson of the Great Plains Buffalo Cooperative. Stan updated the group on the progress of the venture. The project is moving along rapidly and is expected to begin providing meat to contractors this month.

Tentatively, an equity drive is slated for March of 2002. (see related update)

Just prior to the lunch break, the final presentation of the morning session was devoted to the DTBA's Reality Based Carcass Class. Chairman, Sandy Limpert, and RC Western Meats owner, Bruce Anderson, explained about the class to those present. This year marked the second year for the carcass class and the first year for heifers to be entered. With \$5,000 at stake for each winner of the bull and heifer class, Anderson and Limpert again pulled out all the stops to make sure the class was fair and that the winning animals were truly

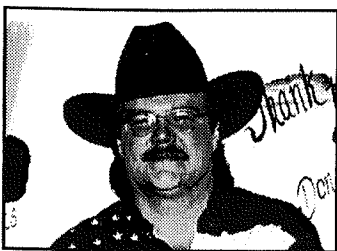
the top ones. Never before has any data been gathered on slaughter heifers, so participants and those attending were eager to hear of the results. Surprisingly, the top two heifers outdistanced the top bull by quite a margin!! Goes to show we have a lot to learn about feeding and growing out the heifers.

The afternoon session featured guest speakers, Brad Beavers of Dakota Bison Meats; Angie Bachmeier of Big Sky Buffalo; Ed Eichten of Eichten's Hidden Acres and Dennis Tuel of Buffalo Pass Ranch. All these speakers were selected and asked to come to the conference to share their experience and insight into the marketing of buffalo meat. Each one gave a short presentation on their own operation, what works for them and any other information that they cared to share. Following the presentations, they formed a panel and answered questions from the audience. Who better to help producers market buffalo meat than other producers who are out there making it work. Many positive comments about the presentation were offered when the session concluded.

The election of the new DTBA officers then took place and the business meeting wrapped up. There were three positions open for election on the board. A handful of candidates were up for election by the membership and when the votes were tallied, Scott Peterson, Rick Knobe and Jerry Austin were the three new board members. Following a short board meeting, new officers for 2002 are: President, Scott Peterson, Belle Fourche, SD; Vice-President, Jacki Limpert, Buffalo, SD; Secretary/Treasurer, Jud Seaman, Rapid City, SD; and Directors, Steve Schmitz, Jefferson, SD; Rick Knobe, Sioux Falls, SD and Jerry Austin, Fairburn, SD.

While the meetings and presentations were underway on Saturday, the Black Hills Buffalo Classic judges were looking over the animals entered in the 2002 show and making their selections. The awards were presented that evening at the banquet.

Results From The 2002 Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale



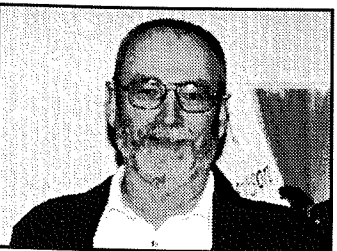
Dave Lault



Rod & Emily Sather



Heath Peterson



Dennis Sexhus



Casey Byrd



Connie & Brad Beavers

The final weekend in January once again found many buffalo enthusiasts from around the country in Rapid City, SD to show and purchase these quality animals at the 2002 Black Hills Buffalo Classic (BHBC).

A favorite among producers, the BHBC offered a full slate of classes for animals, with 120 head going through the sale ring on auction day.

Beautiful weather greeted the judges for the show this year. Our thanks to Adolph Hepper, Kenny Smith, Doug Griller and Tom LeFaive for putting their talents and eyes to use in judging our show animals.

We would also like to thank the many producers who made the effort to show animals at our event or just come up for the sale. Due to a conflict in dates, the BHBC overlapped with the National Bison Association's Gold Trophy Show and Sale, so there was some apprehension on the part of both association's to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to take in both sales if they so desired. The extra effort put forth by everyone to make the best of this situation was much appreciated and despite long drives and juggling schedules, everything went very smoothly.

A big thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors and participants who continue to make the BHBC one of the top shows in the country. Without all of you, it would never happen.

We look forward to seeing everyone next year as once again, the DTBA will be proud to host the BHBC in Rapid City, SD. Be watching in the near future for confirmed dates and information.

SHOW RESULTS

Producer of the Year: Sheyenne River Bison, David and Diana Lault, Harvey, ND.

Rookie of the Year: Mosquito Park Enterprises, Rod Sather, Vivian, SD.

Grand Champion Male: A yearling bull consigned by David and Diana Lault, Sheyenne River Bison, Harvey, ND. The bull was purchased by Rod Sather, Mosquito Park Enterprises, Vivian, SD, for \$3,700.

Grand Champion Female: A two year old bred heifer consigned by Doug and Keith Candee, Antelope Creek Bison Ranch, Dickinson, ND. The heifer was pur-

chased by Rex and Ronda Snyder, Snyder Land and Development, Lyman, WY for \$10,250.

Reserve Champion Male: A bull calf consigned by Michael and Kathleen Gear, Red Canyon Ranch, Thermopolis, WY. The bull was purchased by Scott Peterson, Jumpoff Buffalo Ranch, Belle Fourche, SD, for \$1,000.

Reserve Champion Female: A yearling heifer consigned by Casey Byrd, Buffalo Dance Bison, Presho, SD. The heifer was purchased by Bill Gast, Penokee Mountain Bison, Marengo, WI, for \$1,400.

Heifer Calves:

Gold: Sheyenne River Bison, David and Diana Lault, Harvey, ND.

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

Bronze - Nolz Poor Farm Bison, Ed and Deanna Nolz, Sioux Falls, SD.

Honorable Mention - Circle B Bison Ranch, Robert and Colleen Burrows, Newton, WI; Red Canyon Ranch, Michael and Kathleen Gear, Thermopolis, WY; Heim Buffalo Ranch, Evie, Chad and Amy Heim, Rockham, SD; Thunder Canyon Buffalo, Greg and Sherry Smeenk, Newell, SD.

Pen of Three Heifer Calves:

Gold - Nolz Poor Farm Bison, Ed and Deanna Nolz, Sioux Falls, SD.

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

Bronze - Tatanka Hills, Kevin and Joan Stormo, Lake Norden, SD.

Honorable Mention - Gehl's Buffalo Hill Ranch, Mark and Kathy Gehl, Prescott, WI; Lister Buffalo Company, Scott and Letti Lister, Spearfish, SD; Jumpoff Buffalo Ranch, Scott and Susan Peterson, Belle Fourche, SD; Butler Ranch, Jim and Lavonne Butler, Faith, SD.

Yearling Heifers:

Gold - Buffalo Dance Bison, Casey Byrd, Presho, SD.

Silver - Jumpoff Buffalo Ranch.

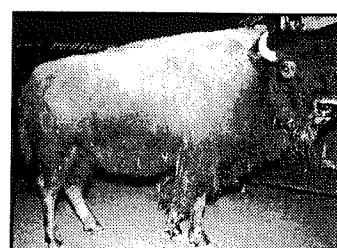
Bronze - Trails End River Bison, Larry and Dixie Byrd, Presho, SD.



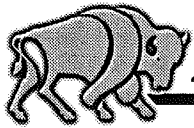
Dixie Byrd



Doug Candee



Grand Champion Female



Results From The 2002 Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale

Honorable Mention - Beaver Creek Buffalo Company, Brad and Connie Beavers, Jefferson, SD; Croft's Tepee Creek Buffalo Ranch, Jerry and Duffy Croft, Deadwood, SD; Bentinck Bison Ranch, Dwaine and Debra Kirk, Westhope, ND; McFarland Ranch, Steve McFarland, Hettinger, ND; Mosquito Park Enterprises, Rod Sather, Vivian, SD; Thunder Canyon Buffalo; Mahoney Buffalo Ranch, Ralph and Mary Mahoney, Fulton, SD.

Pen of Two Yearling Heifers:

Gold - Jumpoff Buffalo Ranch.
Silver - Mosquito Park Enterprises.

Bronze - Beaver Creek Buffalo Company.

Honorable Mention - Buffalo Dance Bison; Lister Buffalo Company; Montoso Bison Company, Alfred Keller and John Painter, Tres Piedras, NM; Colorado Bison Company, Merle and Susan Maass, Mead, CO.

Two Year Old Bred Heifers:

Gold - Antelope Creek Bison Ranch.
Silver - Sheyenne River Bison.
Bronze - Buffalo Dance Bison.

Honorable Mention - Beaver Creek Buffalo Company; Trails End River Bison; Heim Buffalo Ranch; Jumpoff Buffalo Ranch; Butler Ranch.

Bull Calves:

Gold - Red Canyon Ranch.
Silver - Sheyenne River Bison.
Bronze - Nolz Poor Farm Bison.

Honorable Mention - Gehl's Buffalo Hill Ranch; Antelope Creek Bison Ranch.

Yearling Bulls:

Gold - Sheyenne River Bison.
Silver - Red Canyon Ranch.
Bronze - Tatanka Hills.

Honorable Mention: Trails End River Bison; Antelope Creek Bison Ranch.

Two Year Old Bulls:

Gold - Buffalo Dance Bison.
Silver - Trails End River Bison.
Bronze - Rx Ken Mar Buffalo Ranch, Dr. Ken and Marlys Throlson, New Rockford, ND.

Black Hills Buffalo Classic

Reality-Based Carcass Class Results

Bulls:

Gold Trophy and \$5,000 cash prize was awarded to Dennis and Sue Sexhus, Sam and Zoe Sexhus and Keith and Susan Kakela, Sexhus/Kakela Bison Ranch, LLP, Leeds, ND.

Silver - Circle G Ranch, Orrin Geide, Hartford, SD.

Bronze - Mosquito Park Enterprises, Rod Sather, Vivian, SD.

Heifers:

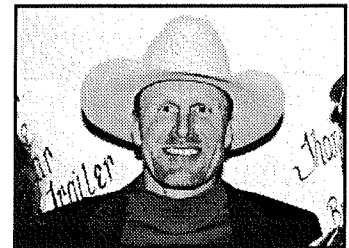
Gold Trophy and \$5,000 cash prize was awarded to Heath Peterson, Prairie Rose Buffalo Ranch, Revillo, SD.

Silver - Jumpoff Buffalo Ranch, Scott and Susan Peterson, Belle Fourche, SD.

Bronze - Beaver Creek Buffalo Company, Brad and Connie Beavers, Jefferson, SD.



Kathy & Mike Gear



Orrin Giede



Marlys & Dr. Ken Throlson



Joan & Kevin Stormo

Sale Results

Heifer Calves: 16 head sold. Prices ranged from \$250 to \$5,100 with an average of \$766 per head.

Pen of Three Heifer Calves: 13 pens sold. Prices ranged from \$250 to \$850 with an average price of \$377 per head.

Yearling Heifers: 18 head sold. Prices ranged from \$450 to \$3,600 with an average of \$911 per head.

Pen of Two Yearling Heifers: 17 pens sold. Prices ranged from \$450 to \$1,200 with an average of \$803 per head.

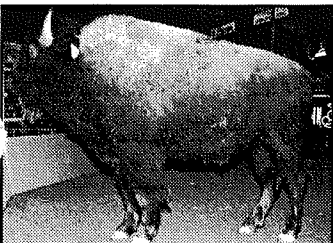
Two Year Old Bred Heifers: 14 head sold. Prices ranged from \$450 to \$10,250 with an average of \$1,443 per head.

Bull Calves: 17 head sold. Prices ranged from \$250 to \$2,200 with an average of \$669 per head.

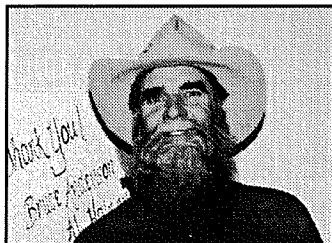
Yearling Bulls: 22 head sold. Prices ranged from \$650 to \$4,000 with an average of \$1,273 per head.

Two Year Old Bulls: 5 head sold. Prices ranged from \$750 to \$3,100 with an average of \$1,840 per head.

Volume Buyer was Doug Candee, Antelope Creek Bison Ranch, Dickinson, ND.



Grand Champion Bull



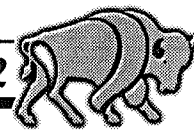
Bill Melius



Ed & Deanna Nolz



Scott & Susan Peterson



Thanks To The Sponsors For The 2002 BHBC And Conference

Without the continued generosity and support of the following sponsors, our winter conference and BHBC show and sale would not be the first class event that it is. Please take time to thank the following businesses and individuals on behalf of the DTBA:

Carl's Trailer Sales & Scott Peterson Motors; Beaver Creek Buffalo Company, Brad & Connie Beavers; Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, Sandy & Jacki Limpert; Gehl's Buffalo Hill Ranch, Mark & Kathy Gehl; Galloway, Inc., Blue Valley Ranch; Heim Buffalo Ranch, Evie, Chad & Amy Heim; Trails End River Bison, Larry & Dixie Byrd; Cannonball Ranch, Monte & Nancy Allen; Flying H Buffalo, Inc., Curt & Marcie Hepper; Longreach Buffalo Co., LLC, Roy Liedtke, Wendy Hutchinson & Kelly Hardy; Jumpoff Buffalo Ranch, Scott & Susan Peterson; Nebraska Buffalo Company, Gale Stevens; Red Canyon Ranch, Michael & Kathleen Gear; Silver Sage Bison, Stan & Claudia Swanson; Shady Creek Bison, Randy & Milissa Linz; Mosquito Park Enterprises, Rod Sather; Dakota Bison Meats, Brad & Connie Beavers, Steve & Jane Allard, Mike Allard, David & Jeanne Staum, Steve & Gail Schmitz; Circle B Bison Ranch, Robert and Colleen Burrows; Mahoney Buffalo Ranch, Ralph & Mary Mahoney; Doug & Sandy Stukel; Antelope Creek Bison Ranch,

Doug & Keith Candee; Montoso Bison Company, Alfred Keller & John Painter; Tedd & Carmen Thompson; North Dakota Buffalo Association; Skull Creek Bison, Wayne, LeAnn & Conner Buchholz; Jerry & Judy Johnson; Vigortone Ag Products, Area Sales Mgr. Robert Comp;; DesignWrite, Karen Conley & Todd Goetz; Black Hills Buffalo Products, Sandy & Jacki Limpert; Lowdon Heller; Rockie Hill Bison, David and Gail Griffin; Scranton Equity Feeds; Prairie Edge Trading Co. & Gallery, 777 Ranch and Dakota Mill & Grain; Bruce Anderson, Al Holzer and the entire staff at RC Western Meats; Ramona Bradeen, Bradeen Auctions and Real Estate; Farm Credit Services of America; Fast Break Embroidery and Screen Printing, Julie Reahorst; The Little Print Shop.

Additionally, this year, for the first time, we held a raffle and played Buffalo Bingo. Generously donating to these events were: Doug Woodall, Big Sky Buffalo and Hi-Hog Equipment - a feeder and Brad Beavers, Beaver Creek Buffalo Co. - a large, custom-fabricated ranch sign.

Many of you donated or purchased items for the Fun Auction. Thank you for your support of this association. Between these events, you raised nearly \$8,000 for the DTBA.

Our Volunteers Are What Makes The DTBA A Success!

We had volunteers this year who helped register conference attendees and sell clothing and raffle tickets during our conference. Connie Beavers, David & Jeanne Staum, Jane Allard, Steve and Gail Schmitz, Letti Lister, Arlie and Lorene Bender, Karen Brown and Jacki Limpert all chipped in and with their help, the registration process went very smoothly and we sold numerous raffle tickets and nearly \$3,000 in clothing. Great work everyone!

Many thanks to Jud Seaman for his efforts to get from Denver to Rapid City on Saturday night to help with our Fun Auction. His wife, Char, along with Stacey Kremer and Suzi Kremer, clerked the Fun Auction for us. As you all know, that's good, since some of us (Karen) are not real good with numbers (In case you missed it...just ask Dave Lault about "the incident"!). Rick Knoke rounded up lots of the kids to help bring up auction items. We also enjoyed the power point presentation during the banquet and thanks to Stan and Claudia Swanson and Steve Schmitz for coordinating that as well as to all the kids who participated. Auctioneer Ron Bradeen finished up in Denver Saturday night and drove all night to be at our auction Sunday morning. Our thanks to him for going the extra mile to call our auction.

Several members also helped man the DTBA booth at the Black Hills Stock Show. Tom Tropole, Kim Sealine and Greg and Sherry Smeenk took their turns answering questions, handing out information and visiting about buffalo. Filling in all the gaps, Paul and Barb Conley, did a great deal of booth sitting. Shawna

Stevens took her time to help fill in for breaks over the weekend.

Bev Austin and Duffy Croft volunteered to serve bison chili at the Taste of South Dakota. The chili went over great and they ran out, much to the dismay of the crowd!

A number of the guys helped Steve Sutton and crew with moving the animals and helping during the sale. Steve and his crew deserve a huge thank you for all that they do. Steve and his wife, Kim, are usually busy with the rodeo and don't have the opportunity to participate in the Winter Conference and we certainly appreciate their efforts, even though they can't enjoy our events. Additionally, Steve and Susan Lamb handle the entries for the BHBC.

The Yard Crew put in many long hours and on sale day, some very cold ones. Dixie Byrd headed up the show committee and kudos to Mike Torp, Steve Allard, Dave Stevens and Zane Holcomb for taking care of the animals for us. Sandy Limpert and Scott Peterson also helped out when needed.

Our speakers for the conference all did a fantastic job and we appreciate their insight and information. These people take time from their busy schedules to update us on health information, fill us in on new happenings in the industry and also to educate producers on how to make their own businesses successful.

At the risk of leaving someone out, we'll stop there. Thank you to everyone who helped out and attended. We certainly hope to see you all next January!

Comments From A BHBC Judge: Kenny Smith

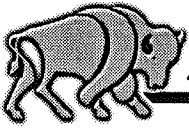
The following is an excerpt from a letter sent by Kenny Smith, one of our BHBC judges.

I would like to express my gratitude for the privilege of being invited to judge what I consider to be an absolutely top notch show and sale. I've been honored to serve as judge for around a dozen other shows in Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri during the past seven or so years. The Black Hills Buffalo Classic has given me the opportunity to be exposed to an entirely different level of competition and credibility. This show is well organized with solid meeting topics, great food, hospitality and accommodations. The added convenience of being in such close proximity to the Convention Center is a tremendous advantage. Your organization has a wonderful mix of volunteers to be thankful for as well. And finally, the judges have to feel like they are well taken

care of and appreciated. The four judge format with ample time is excellent. The vests from last year and the very nice bronze given at the end of the two year stint are great and memorable gifts.

I hope my contribution as a judge was looked upon favorably. I can assure you that all four judges (both years) took the job seriously. The overall quality of the animals is a great testament to the efforts of the producers and creates a tough scenario for choosing the winners. I sincerely hope the Association will be able to maintain the special atmosphere and focus that makes it what it is at this time.

I just wanted to say a big thank you for the opportunity to be a part of what the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association is all about.



Carcass Class Results Available

The results of the 2002 Reality Based Carcass Class are now available. They will be posted on the DTBA website in the near future, but if you would prefer to have a printed copy, contact Karen at the DTBA office and she will mail you the data. This year's contest included 10 bulls and 10 heifers, with this being the first time anywhere that data was collected on slaughter heifers. The results are very interesting and we would encourage anyone interested in the meat industry to get a copy and go through it.

Originally, we planned to print the entire set of data in this newsletter, but with breakdowns on 20 animals as well as all the feeding/growing data on each individual, it's too lengthy to include.

Access The NBA Website

For those of you who are National Bison Assn. members, you can access the "Members Only" section of their website, www.bisoncentral.com, by using a few simple prompts. The username is your NBA member number and the default password is "password" if this is your first time logging on. You will then be prompted to enter your own password for future use. There is new information on the Section 32 meat purchase on this site.

Classified Ads On The Web

For some time now, the DTBA website has had a section to include classified ads for our members. The response was good at first, but has since tapered off. Currently, there are two ads on the site and all current members are encouraged to take advantage of the large number of visitors to our site.

To encourage usage of the ad section on the website, current members will be able to run one free classified ad for the month of April. All you have to do is send the information to the DTBA office and your ad will be posted FREE through the month of April.

Beginning in May, there will be a nominal charge for ads on the website. Each member may run as many ads as they like, but each ad will incur a \$5 charge for the month. That's pretty economical, considering we are averaging about 500 visitors to the site each month. With the inclusion of the carcass data and the Resource Guide, that traffic should increase substantially.

In May, when your ad is posted, you will receive an invoice for that month. At the end of the month, you will be contacted to see if you would like to continue to run the ad and if so, you will be invoiced for the next month. Each month's ads must be paid before the next month's ad can run.

Make Hotel Reservations Early

As many of you experienced first hand this year, rooms at the host hotel for our Winter Conference and BHBC show and sale are hard to come by. Many people waited until after January 1 to call for reservations, only to find out no rooms were available. Here's how it works for the rooms: The Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn will be our host hotel for the 2003 event. The DTBA has a block of rooms reserved, with varying numbers of rooms in that block depending upon the day of the week. The bulk of the rooms are for Friday and Saturday night. On January 1, the block is opened up and any rooms not reserved are open to the public. Within hours, they are gone, due to the high demand from the Black Hills Stock Show.

To ensure that you have rooms at the host hotel, please call and make reservations EARLY. This means NOW!! We have talked to the hotel management and they said those interested may call anytime to reserve rooms for the winter event. Our dates will fall on the weekend of January 30, 31, February 1 and 2. At this time, the board has not made a decision on a Thursday through Saturday or Friday through Sunday event. We will let you know as soon as those dates are finalized.

If you have any questions about this process, please call the DTBA office or send an e-mail. To contact the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn for questions or to make reservations, call (605) 348-4000.

DTBA Summer Conference Info

The DTBA Board of Directors made the decision that our association will not host a Summer Conference this year. In lieu of that, they are asking all DTBA members to support and attend the National Bison Association's Summer Conference in Jamestown, ND this July 17 through 20. The conference is being hosted by The North Dakota Buffalo Association and the National Buffalo Museum, which are sister organizations to the DTBA. By not hosting our own conference, the board is hoping that many of our members will take the opportunity to attend the NBA event, in essence making it one conference for the summer instead of multiple events. This will help with expenses and scheduling as well as giving our members the opportunity to meet other buffalo folks from around the country. The DTBA will be holding a board meeting on the morning of the 21 in conjunction with the NBA event. Time and location will be announced at a later date.

In addition to all that Jamestown has to offer, buffalo enthusiasts will have an opportunity to tour the North American Bison Coop in nearby New Rockford, the North Dakota State University Research Center in Carrington, Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge and the host ranch, Bison at Coteau Ridge, owned and operated by Oren & Connie Krapp.

Registration will be handled through the NBA and everyone is welcome to attend the conference, even if you are not an NBA member. Registration packets will be mailed out this spring. If you are not an NBA member and would like information, please contact the association at (303) 292-2833 or visit their website at: www.bisoncentral.com. We'll keep you informed about the registration process, costs and deadlines in upcoming newsletters and on the DTBA website, www.dakotabuffalo.com. If you need more information or have any questions, please call Karen at the DTBA office, (605) 923-6383.

DTBA Portable Chute For Rent

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 other association related activities such as the Carcass Class.

The chute system is manufactured by Berlinic Manufacturing of Quill Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada. The chute 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.

If you need more information on the chute system, the terms of the rental agreement, or to book dates for usage, please contact the DTBA office at (605) 923-6383 or email to: info@dakotabuffalo.com. All the scheduling will be handled through the office. The chute is currently located in western 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.

DTBA/NDBA Cookbook Update

The DTBA/NDBA cookbook project is finally coming together. Lorene Bender reports that we have enough recipes to publish the cookbook and we're working on cover designs to send to the printer. We anticipate that the cookbooks will be printed and ready to sell by the National Bison Association Summer Conference in Jamestown, ND this July. Thank you to everyone who participated in this project. It should be a good fundraiser for the associations. We will let everyone know when the books are ready for you to purchase. Anticipated cost is still around \$10 per book at this time.

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

PRESORT
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RAPID CITY, SD
PERMIT NO. 26

The DTBA will conduct an open board meeting on Sunday, April 21 at 10:30 a.m. CST. The meeting will be held at the offices of Mosquito Park Enterprises (Rod Sather), Vivian, SD. Call for directions if you would like to attend and are not sure of the location. (605) 923-6383.

Upcoming Buffalo Sales, Meetings and Events Around The Country

Friday, April 5 to Sunday April 7: Minnesota Buffalo Association Annual Conference, hosted by the Tuel family, Buffalo Pass Ranch, Fergus Falls, MN. Call the MnBA at 877-929-2828.

Friday, April 12 through Sunday, April 14: Manitoba Great Spirit Bison Breeding Stock Show and Sale, Heartland Livestock Services, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. Call Louise at 204-532-2174 or Gail at 204-822-3327.

Saturday, April 13: Colorado Bison Assn. Spring Conference. Mad Russian Event Center, Milliken, CO. 303-243-0900 or 970-587-2001.

Saturday, April 20: North Dakota Buffalo Association Spring Auction, KIST Livestock, Mandan, ND. Scott Syverson at 701-326-4395.

Wednesday, June 12: Ninth Annual Fundraising Auction for the National Buffalo Museum. Civic Center, Jamestown, ND. Call the museum at 701-252-8648 for details and tickets.

Saturday, June 22: Hutchinson Buffalo Ranch Grass and Bison Field Day, at the ranch, Rose, NE. Contact Dave Hutchinson at 402-273-4574.

Saturday, June 22: Manitoba Bison Assn. Annual Summer Field Day. Hosted by Shale Creek Bison, Russell, Manitoba. Call 204-773-2674.

Wednesday, July 10 through Sunday, July 14: White Cloud's Sixth Birthday Celebration, Jamestown, ND. Call 701-252-8648.

Saturday, July 13 through Monday, July 15: Saskatchewan Bison Assn. Summer Field Day, Nipawan, Saskatchewan. Contact Don or Paulette Scott at (306) 862-4931 or the association at (306) 585-6304.

Wednesday, July 17 through Saturday, July 20: National Bison Association Summer Conference, Jamestown, ND. 303-292-2833.

Friday, July 26 through Sunday, July 28: Alberta Bison Association Summer Field Day, Lloydminster, Alberta. Hosted by Golden Valley Bison, Todd and Wendy Plandowski. Call the association at 780-986-4100.

Saturday, September 28 through Monday, September 30: Annual Buffalo Roundup Arts Festival and Buffalo Wallow Chili Cookoff, Custer State Park, SD. For more information, contact Custer State Park at 605-255-4515.

Monday, September 30: Annual Fall Buffalo Roundup, Custer State Park, SD. Contact the park at 605-255-4515.

Saturday, November 23 through Monday, November 25: Canadian Bison Association National Convention and Bison Show and Sale. Regina, Saskatchewan. Host hotel is the Travelodge, for reservations call 306-586-3443. For details on the CBA convention, 306-522-4766.

Tuesday, November 26: Canadian Bison Association National Bison Sale, Agribition Grounds, Regina, Saskatchewan. 306-522-4766.

Friday, November 29 and Saturday, November 30: Minnesota Buffalo Association Legends of the Fall and Minnesota's Harvest sales, Albany, MN. Call Dan Meyer at 320-352-3036, evenings only.



MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Mail Registrations 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 _____

Please enclose your DTBA Membership Dues @ \$50 for one year _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE DAKOTA TERRITORY BUFFALO ASSOCIATION

In order to be of greater service to our membership, the DTBA Board of Directors has authorized a VOLUNTARY questionnaire designed to help our membership. Frequently, the DTBA receives requests on where to purchase bison or bison-related items. We are working on compiling a comprehensive list of our members who would like their goods and services made available, both in the industry and to those outside the industry. Your participation in this survey will help to publicize your bison-related businesses. We will use the information provided by you to compile a list that will be made available at trade shows, auctions, DTBA events and also in upcoming membership directories. The list will be used in the DTBA office to answer questions and direct inquires to the appropriate parties. Please check all that apply to your operation and if you have other bison-related items, please write them in.

Please mark each of the following that apply to your current operation:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breeding Stock | <input type="checkbox"/> Meat | <input type="checkbox"/> Hides |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bull Calves | <input type="checkbox"/> Specialty Meats | <input type="checkbox"/> Skulls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Absentee Owner Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Concession | <input type="checkbox"/> Leather |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunts | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Boxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Handling Equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Other By Products | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Production Auction - Date _____ Location _____ | | |

DTBA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

This is your chance to have a say in the workings of the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association. All replies will be kept confidential with regard to who submitted them, however, the results will be shared with the membership after they are compiled. If there are specific concerns that need a reply directly to an individual, the issue will be discussed and that party will be contacted as soon as possible with the results.

Please take the time to fill out the survey and return it to the DTBA office. You may send the results in the mail, via fax or even e-mail them, whatever is most convenient for you. If you desire, you are welcome to attend one of the board meetings and bring your survey with you if you'd like to discuss an issue in person. Check the newsletters and website for meeting dates and locations or contact the DTBA office for this information.

Most of the following questions are in relation to our Winter Conference and Show and Sale. If you see concerns or issues that are important to you but are not noted on this survey, please write them down so the board can be made aware of any other needs or concerns.

- Do you prefer the conference and show/sale be held on a Thursday through Saturday (sale on Saturday) or Friday through Sunday format (sale on Sunday)?

- Does the conference agenda meet your expectations/needs as a member of the DTBA?

- Are conference organizers meeting the correct informational needs of producers? Are they providing timely and relevant information for members in the DTBA?

- Do the conference speakers provide timely and relevant information for you as a member/producer?

- Does the present format, with speakers in the afternoon, meet your needs? Why or why not?

- Would you prefer to see breakout or turn n' learn sessions in the afternoon where you would have a choice of two or more sessions running simultaneously?

- Are there issues/topics that you would like to see covered in these sessions?

- What changes can/should be made to the conference agenda or the weekend's events that would better serve your needs or fit your schedule better?

- Are there other issues or concerns with the conference weekend that organizers need to be aware of?

- Does the food served during the breaks and the banquet meet your expectations? Why or why not?

- Should we consider making some menu changes to our banquet meat (ie...different meat cuts)?

- Does the DTBA serve the needs of its members overall?

- Are there other things you feel the DTBA should be doing to help our members? Are there other opportunities for the DTBA to assist members that are not currently being done?

- What other avenues can the DTBA explore to help meet the goals of education, promotion, research and being a source of information and leadership in the industry?

- What kind of promotional materials/avenues can the DTBA pursue to help with these activities (ie...brochures, video tapes, producer seminars, etc.)?

- If you have any other comments, suggestions, concerns or complaints, please include them.

DAKOTA TERRITORY BUFFALO ASSOCIATION

2002 - 2004 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The DTBA will again be producing a Membership Directory this fall. The directory is slated to be printed and ready to use by September 2002 and will be good for TWO YEARS, through the fall of 2004. This is a switch from our current yearly directory. This DTBA board of directors made this decision to help with the cost to advertisers and also to streamline the project.

The directory will have quarter, half and full page advertisements and will be a full color piece throughout, just as in past years. This time, thanks to our new resource directory, the book will also feature listings for our members who sell meat, by products, live animals, etc. If you are not on the resource list or did not fill out an information sheet since January 2002, please fill out and return the membership registration form inserted in this newsletter. You may also contact Karen and she can fill one out over the phone or via email for you and we'll add your information to the list and make sure you're included in this new directory.

Some members have asked what we do with the Membership Directories. Just so you all know, they are sent out to every member of the DTBA as well as to key members of other state/regional and national buffalo organizations. They are used as a resource tool for various media, including newspapers, television and radio and are distributed to all regional media and upon request to others. We have the books available any time the DTBA booth is set up and they are also distributed at the regional and national shows, sales and conferences. All new members to the DTBA receive a copy and other selected persons receive the directory as a way to help our members promote themselves. The books are popular handouts and have made their way around the country this past year. With the additional resource listings for each participating member, the new directory will be a valuable tool for marketing for our membership.

Pricing information for the new book is included below. The book will again be produced by DesignWrite under the direction of the DTBA Board of Directors. The board would like to encourage everyone to purchase at least a quarter page ad. By spreading the cost of that ad over two years, it's pretty insignificant for the amount of coverage you'll receive. Ads can be sent in camera ready or for an additional charge, DesignWrite can help with ad design. Start thinking about it now and let's put together a great directory to help promote ourselves and the industry. Call Karen at the DTBA office at 605-923-6383 for more info or send an email to her at: www.dakotabuffalo.com.

Please check the ad size you would like to reserve for the directory. Then fill out the information coupon below and return to the DTBA so your ad space will be reserved for the new directory. The covers are available on a first come, first serve basis. The deadline for reserving ad space will be July 1, 2002. Materials for camera ready ad will be due by August 1, 2002 and any advertising produced by DesignWrite will need to be arranged by July 1, 2002.

- _____ • Quarter page - \$225
- _____ • Half page - \$325
- _____ • Inside back cover - \$550
- _____ • Inside front cover - \$550
- _____ • Outside back cover - \$650

**SIGN UP NOW FOR THE 2002-2004
DTBA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY!!**

**DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVERTISE
YOUR RANCH AND BUSINESS TO THOUSANDS OF
PEOPLE. THIS DIRECTORY IS SENT OUT AROUND
THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS TO CANADA, MAXI-
MIZING EXPOSURE FOR YOUR OPERATION. FILL
OUT AND RETURN THIS FORM TO RESERVE YOUR
ADVERTISING SPACE IN THIS DIRECTORY!**

Your Name _____

Ranch/Business Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Please return form to: Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn., PO Box 4104, Rapid City, SD 57709 or fax to: (605) 923-6383.