

DASCHLE TO MEET WITH AREA BISON PRODUCERS

The Dakota Territory Buffalo Association is always looking for volunteers and helpers with various events and functions. At times, you may have to help cook or hand out literature. Other times, your services may be as simple as picking up the phone and making a call. Once again, it's time to put out a call for volunteers and the requirements are about as easy as it gets. Show up and eat dinner. That's all we're asking!

So, what's the catch, you think. There isn't one. This is a special occasion and the DTBA wants to be a part of it in a big way.

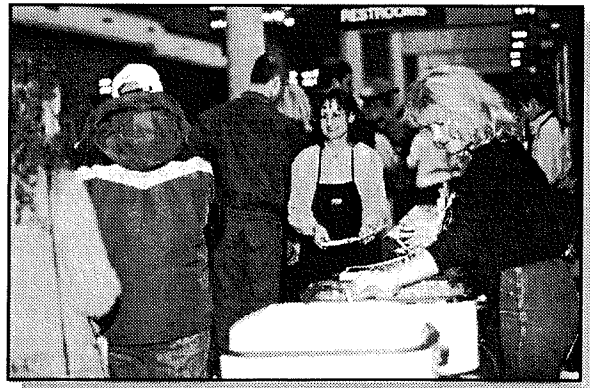
On Wednesday, March 15, South Dakota Senator Tom Daschle will be in Sturgis, SD to meet with area bison producers. The meeting will begin at 5:15 p.m. and a bison meal will be served afterward. They are welcoming up to 100 people, so this is YOUR chance to be seen and heard.

This visit is an excellent opportunity for Daschle to learn about the bison industry in South Dakota. Not only will he have the chance to visit with producers, he will also have the opportunity to sample some bison meat.

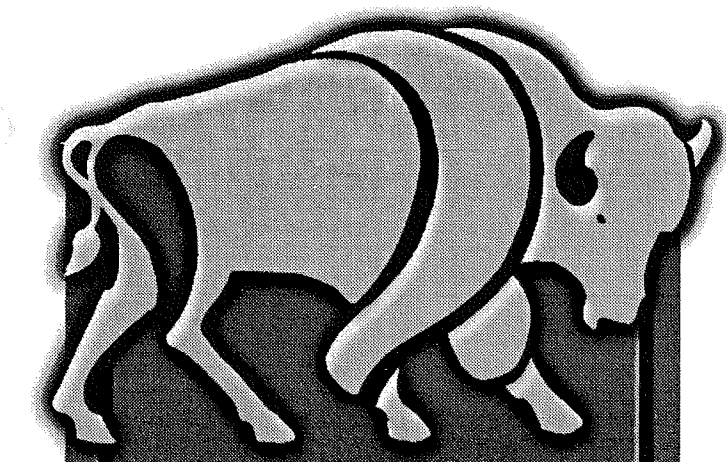
If you've ever wondered if there was something you could do to help out the DTBA, this would be the time to stop wondering and start doing. This is our chance to be a voice in Washington for the bison industry. Help us to show Daschle how important we know the bison industry is. A strong showing at this event will speak louder than any letter, press release or picture ever could. By being at the meeting, your presence will count and be appreciated by all who have worked so hard to make this meeting happen.

There is nothing as disappointing as fighting tooth and nail to get someone of this caliber to make the time to listen to a group or to address an audience and then have no one show up. Not only does it convey the message that no one cares, it is embarrassing to those who made the arrangements. Let's not have this happen, as it is so important for the bison industry to have a strong rapport with this kind of leader.

Take the time, mark the date on your calendar and be at Sturgis Livestock in Sturgis, SD on Wednesday, March 15 at 5:15 p.m. to participate. We appreciate your time and support and hope you will join us in this venture.



Sherry Smeenk, center, and Jacki Limpert, right, serve bison meatballs during A Taste Of South Dakota at the Black Hills Stock Show.



DAKOTA TERRITORY BUFFALO ASSOCIATION

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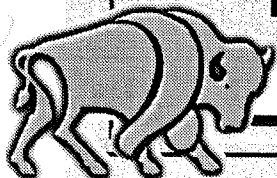
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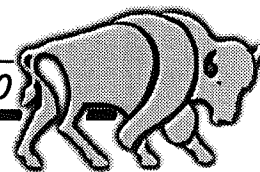
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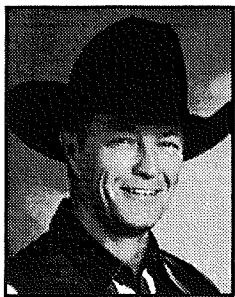


Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Newsletter

March, 2000



From The President



With approximately 300 dedicated buffalo producers in attendance during our annual DTBA Winter Conference and the Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show & Sale, it made the entire event a tremendous success. The presentations during the Friday conference were from some very knowledgeable and qualified people. I, for one, learned a great deal. I always come away energized and focused after a gathering such as that. I know it comes from being around such a progressive and positive group of people.

The quality of the buffalo at the sale this year was very evident. They just keep getting better and better! That is a direct reflection of what you, as producers, are doing to raise these fine animals. That is why I have so much confidence in this whole industry. You are committed to producing quality animals which will benefit the entire industry in the long run.

We elected two new directors at the business meeting: Roy Liedtke, Gillette, WY; and Scott Peterson, Belle Fourche, SD. Welcome aboard. I would like to take moment to say our thoughts and prayers go out to Scott and his family after his

2000 DTBA Bison Census Numbers Released

The Dakota Territory Buffalo Association recently conducted a census to find out how many bison there are in the state of South Dakota. Although the organization, which currently has over 300 members, encompasses many other states besides South Dakota, the bulk of the membership resides there and it is considered the home base for this association.

The survey was conducted anonymously, with the results being lumped together so as not to identify anyone who participated in the survey. Only animals born in 1998 or before were included in the survey, so all the calves born in the spring of 1999 were not a part of the census. To obtain the most accurate results in this voluntary survey, the DTBA Board of Directors contacted the ranches in South Dakota and ran through a series of questions to obtain the final results. This year, 155 ranches were surveyed and the total numbers surprised nearly everyone.

"We knew there were a lot of bison in the state, but we never realized there were this many," says Sandy Limpert, one of the project's driving forces and former president of the DTBA. "The North Dakota Buffalo Association recently released their figures and we surpassed them in numbers, something we never expected to do."

With the number of ranches surveyed being 155, on private ranches, there were 7,156 one to three year old cows; 9,738 four to twelve year old cows; and 1,337 cows thirteen years of age and older. The total number of cows was 18,231.

Bison Producer Injured

Recently, a good friend and fellow bison producer was seriously injured in an accident. Scott Peterson, Belle Fourche, SD was injured in a four wheeler accident at his ranch and is currently recuperating at home.

Scott and his wife, Susan, own Jumpoff Buffalo Ranch near Belle Fourche, SD. Scott was just recently elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association. Additionally, he owns Scott Peterson Motors in Belle Fourche and is well known throughout the region.

We wish to pass along the thoughts and prayers of all to Scott and his family and wish him well as he recovers.

4-wheeler accident. We wish him a speedy recovery. It might do us all well to be thankful for the blessings we have. In this fast paced world we live in, we need to remember what is truly important in our lives.

Committees have been formed and chairpersons named:

Promotion: Scott Peterson, 605-892-4446
BHBC Sale: Steve Sutton, 605-258-2863
BHBC Show: Jason Sparling, 605-380-0800
BHBC Conference: Jacki Limpert, 605-866-4846
Research: Annette Smith, 307-663-7645
Regulatory & Legislative Affairs: Chad Heim, 605-472-1000
 Chad Kremer, 605-683-6339
Nominating: Roy Liedtke, 307-682-6599

I would like to thank everyone involved for making the 4th Annual Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show & Sale and the DTBA Winter Conference a success. We all need to remember this is a team effort. From the Show & Sale crew taking care of the buffalo to those who were madly stapling papers at the last minute, a lot of people pitched in and helped out. Many hands make for a light load. I think we all realize the importance of doing our share to make the buffalo industry successful.

Here's hoping you all have an abundance of grass, ample rains, and lots of cinnamon colored calves!

In the private sector, there were 1,369 breeding bulls and 6,839 feeder bulls in the state.

In public herds, including those in Custer State Park, Wind Cave National Park and the Badlands National Park, there were 326 one to three year old cows; 713 four to twelve year old cows and 202 cows thirteen years of age and older for a total of 1,241 cows in public herds. There were 128 breeding bulls and 455 young bulls in the public herds.

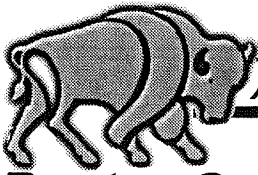
The total number of bison in private herds is 26,439; the total number of bison in public herds is 1,824 and the total number of bison in South Dakota is 28,263.

"We would really like to urge every state and regional association to conduct their own survey," says Limpert. "These numbers can be invaluable for everyone in the bison industry and can do so much to help each organization gain a little ground as far as having a voice with which to be heard."

The bison industry is so small that every animal counts at this point in time. Every organization should put together a committee to conduct a census within their state. Then, in a spirit of cooperation, the numbers need to be shared amongst each and every bison group so that as a whole, the numbers will begin to add up and the industry will gain some footing where it's needed. These numbers can be a valuable marketing tool as well as a resource when legislative issues occur that might affect the bison industry.

Address Corrections/Updates

The new Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Directory for 2000 is now available. When you look through your copy, please carefully check your listing for accuracy, spelling and correct mailing information. If you have any updates or changes to the listing that appears in the directory, please send the updates and corrections to Karen Conley, 15290 225th St., Box Elder, SD 57719 or call (605) 923-7755, fax (605) 923-5154 or email to: tgkc@gwtc.net. This same information is used for newsletter mailing information, so it is vital to make sure it is correct and kept updated as needed. Thank you for your time and help in this matter.



Poster Contest Winners

The Fourth Annual Dakota Territory Poster Contest was a huge success this year, with over 150 entries from a five state region. The winning entry in the poster contest has his or her drawing reproduced on the cover of the Black Hills Buffalo Classic Sale catalog and also receives rodeo tickets, a two night stay at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn and tickets to the DTBA Banquet, all held in conjunction with the Black Hills Stock Show in Rapid City, SD.

The winner this year was Cody Senn of Dickinson High School in Dickinson, ND. Cody did a fabulous drawing of a buffalo and his talent paid off. Other finalists who were Honorable Mention winners were: Vanessa Keith, Basin, WY; Toby Wray, Dickinson, ND; Rhonda Riley, Newell, SD; Chris Urban, Dickinson, ND; Delane Willcie, Pierre, SD. Each of these winners will receive \$25 gift packages of bison meat from the DTBA.

Bison Cocktail Meatballs

Combine the following:

- Two 10 oz. cans of Cream of Celery condensed soup
- Two cups of milk
- Four tablespoons of beef bouillon granules
- One 8 oz. tub of sour cream
- One package Lipton dry onion soup mix

To the above, add two or three pounds of Bison Meatballs. Bake in the oven at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

BUFFALO NICKELS

Heat grease and deep fat fry the Nickels for approximately two minutes or until they are golden brown. Serve with a variety of different dips. Sweet and sour, Ranch dressing or ketchup are some good selections.

Order Buffalo Nickels and Meatballs from North American Provisioner, PO Box 672, New Rockford, ND 58356-0672. Call 1-800-630-7363 or visit their website at www.buffalonicke.com

For more information on the above recipes contact Jacki Limpert at (605) 866-4846 or Sherry Smeenck at (605) 748-2410.

Website Update

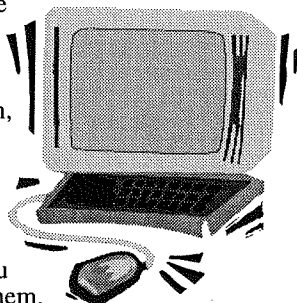
The DTBA website, www.dakotabuffalo.com, has been up and running since early June of last year. The site offers information about the DTBA as well as bison in general. It also features a membership listing, events calendar and news items of interest to both members and other bison producers.

The website is currently working with a new provider and the transition has gone smoothly and the information is being updated regularly and the site is staying current.

The contact information for site coordinator, Stan Swanson, is: Stan Swanson, 1566 Redbird Rd., Lusk, WY 82225. You may also call him at (307) 334-3142 or send e-mail to: luswan@coffey.com.

If you have any news items for the website, please contact Stan at the above number. We are encouraging all members to give us their e-mail addresses if they have one. You can send your e-mail address to info@dakotabuffalo.com, he website address.

If you are interested in placing an ad on the website, you may also contact Stan for that. All DTBA members are welcome to run advertisements and Stan can give you complete details and information on them.



Upcoming Events & Sales

Friday, March 10 through Sunday, March 12:

Minnesota Buffalo Association Annual Conference, Grand Casino, Hinkley, MN. For information, contact Ken or Anita Lind at 320-358-3341.

Friday, March 10 through Sunday, March 12:

Nebraska State Buffalo Association Spring Conference. Arbor Day Farms Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Call Sheila Peterson at 308-381-4057 for more details.

Tuesday, March 14:

Diamond Tail Ranch, Denver, CO. For more information, call Mike Duncan at 303-759-3303 or 303-475-2227 cell.

Thursday, March 17:

Denver Mountain Parks Annual Bison Auction. Call 303-697-4545 for details.

Friday, March 18 and Saturday, March 19:

"Interstate Challenge" Show and Sale. Shawnee, OK. Contact Gerald Parsons at 580-759-3605 or Nick Anderson at 918-225-2260.

Saturday, March 25:

Minnesota Buffalo Association Spring Sale, Albany, MN. Contact Dan Meyer at 320-352-3036 for details.

Saturday, April 1:

Lewiston Sales Barn Buffalo Auction, Lewiston, MN beginning at 10:30 a.m., CST. Call 570-532-2112 for information.

Saturday, April 8:

Missouri Bison Association's First Annual Spring Bison Sale, Regional Stockyards, Joplin, MO. For more information, contact Duane Rogers at (816) 540-5576 or Peter Kohl at (816) 322-8174.

Saturday, April 8:

North Dakota Buffalo Association Spring Sale. KIST Livestock, Mandan, ND. Contact Sale Chairman, Greg Maddock at 701-438-2503 for more information.

Sunday, April 9:

Antelope Creek Bison Ranch Sale, Dickinson, ND. Contact Doug or Keith Candee at 701-225-8884.

Thursday, April 13:

Colorado Bison Association Spring Conference. For location and more information, contact Marlene Groves at (303) 646-3333.

Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29:

North American Bison Cooperative Spring Meeting, open to members only. Bismarck, ND. For more information on the NABC, contact them at (701) 947-2505.

Friday, June 2 through Sunday, June 4:

Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Summer Conference, Sioux Falls, SD. Watch future newsletters for further information and locations.

Wednesday, June 14:

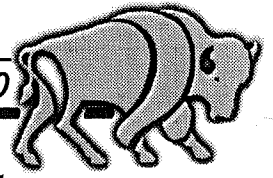
National Buffalo Museum Annual Fundraising Auction, Jamestown Civic Center, Jamestown, ND. Call the museum at 701-252-8648 for details.

Saturday, June 24:

Hutchinson Annual Buffalo and Grass Field Day and Tour, Rose, NE. Contact David Hutchinson at 402-584-2389.

Tuesday, August 1 through Friday, August 4:

International Bison Conference, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Register on-line at www.bison2000.com or call 780-986-4100 for information.



2000 Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show Results

"The animals are excellent this year," said Jason Sparling, the show chairman for the 2000 Black Hills Buffalo Classic (BHBC), a show and sale hosted by the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association. "They are doing the right thing on the ranch and then bringing those animals here." Sparling went on to say that this particular show and sale caters to the buyers and the consignors this year did a tremendous job of doing just that.

Many people don't believe it, but the entries for the BHBC, held in Rapid City, SD each January in conjunction with the Black Hills Stock Show, fill up almost as soon as they open. This year, many of the classes were filled on the same day entries were accepted. That attests to the popularity of this particular event. The central location, the added attraction of the Black Hills Stock Show and the concurrent Dakota Territory Buffalo Association (DTBA) winter conference, all add up to make the BHBC a must do for area producers.

This year, nearly 200 animals were entered into the show. There could be many more, but space and time constraints with the stock show make limiting the numbers a necessity. Consignors this year were from South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado and Canada. The show was judged by Dale Dilley, Del Norte, CO; Bentley Harper, Bonners Ferry, ID; Mark Ivesdal, Sheyenne, ND and Lorne Miller, Binscarth, Manitoba. The new four judge format, two for the females and two for the males, was new this year and seemed to work out very well. In the past, the judges have been somewhat pressed for time to get all the animals judged before the Friday evening awards banquet, so this format was a change that the show committee felt was necessary in order to judge the animals in a timely and fair manner.

Winners in the eight classes of animals were:

Pen of Three Heifer Calves:

First Place - Double Diamond Buffalo Ranch, Bill and Susan Melius, Faulkton, SD.

Second Place - Sheyenne River Bison, David and Diana Lutt, Harvey, ND.

Third Place - Dust in the Wind Bison, Doug and Rhonda Johnson, Bristol, SD.

Honorable Mention - LeMar Bison Ranch, Jim LeMar, Spearfish, SD; Topline Ranch, Michael and Colleen Rohrer, Churchs Ferry, ND.

Heifer Calf:

First Place - Gehl's Buffalo Hill Ranch, Mark and Kathy Gehl, Prescott, WI.

Second Place - Sheyenne River Bison Ranch, David and Diana Lutt, Harvey, ND.

Third Place - Rocking R Bison, Ltd., Larry and Linda Rolfstad, Rapid City, SD.

Honorable Mention - Rocky Run Bison Ranch, Glenn and Mary Walz, New Rockford, ND; Buckmier Farms, Robert and Dennette Buckmier, Maddock, ND.

Pen of Two Yearling Heifers:

First Place - Four R Bison, Ralph and Mary Alarid and Family, Cheyenne, WY.

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

Third Place - Teepee Bison Ranch, Ray and Shirley Horton, Hot Springs, SD.

Yearling Heifer:

First Place - Red Canyon Ranch, Mike and Kathy Gear, Thermopolis, WY.

Second Place - Four R Bison, Ralph and Mary Alarid and Family, Cheyenne, WY.

Third Place - Grandview Bison, Art and Deb Hottell, Bushnell, NE.

Honorable Mention - Milliron Bison Company, Kevin Casey, Rapid City, SD.

Two Year Old Bred Heifer:

First Place - Woodring Buffalo, Jared Woodring, Athol, SD.

Second Place - Johnson Bison Ranch, Floyd Johnson, Shadehill, SD.

Third Place - Middle Creek Bison Company, Roy Rozell, Oak Creek, CO.
Honorable Mention: Jumpoff Buffalo Ranch, Scott and Susan Peterson, Belle Fourche, SD; North Fork Bison Ranch, J.O. and Rhoda McDonald, Hutlett, WY.

Bull Calf:

First Place - Topline Ranch, Michael and Colleen Rohrer, Churchs Ferry, ND.

Second Place - Double Diamond Buffalo Ranch, Bill and Susan Melius, Faulkton, SD.

Third Place - Four R Bison, Ralph and Mary Alarid and Family, Cheyenne, WY.

Honorable Mention - Jay Melius, Spearfish, SD; Schander Buffalo Ranch, Greg and Linda Schander, Bowdon, ND; Antelope Creek Bison Ranch, Doug and Keith Candee, Dickinson, ND; Buckmier Farms, Robert and Dennette Buckmier, Maddock, ND; Flying Circle Ranch, Don Archibold, Lemmon, SD.

Yearling Bull:

First Place - Rocky Run Bison Ranch, Glenn and Mary Walz, New Rockford, ND.

Second Place - Sheyenne River Bison, David and Diana Lutt, Harvey, ND.

Third Place - Rossow Buffalo Ranch, Lloyd and Cliff Rossow, Flasher, ND.

Honorable Mention - Schander Buffalo Ranch, Greg and Linda Schander, Bowdon, ND; Gehl's Buffalo Hill Ranch, Mark and Kathy Gehl, Prescott, WI.

Two Year Old Bull:

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

Second Place - Buffalo Dance Bison, Casey Byrd, Presho, SD.

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

The overall Grand Champion Male was the first place yearling bull, consigned by Rocky Run Bison Ranch, Glenn and Mary Walz, New Rockford, ND.

The overall Reserve Grand Champion Male was the first place two year old bull, consigned by Antelope Creek Bison Ranch, Doug and Keith Candee, Dickinson, ND.

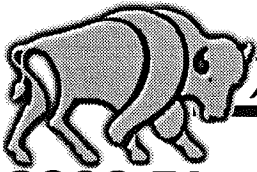
The overall Grand Champion Female was the first place two year old bred heifer, consigned by Woodring Buffalo, Jared Woodring, Athol, SD.

The overall Reserve Grand Champion Female was the second place two year old bred heifer, consigned by Johnson Bison Ranch, Floyd Johnson, Shadehill, SD.

Competing in their first BHBC, the Alarid family, Four R Bison, Cheyenne, WY, did very well this year. They were awarded The Rookie of the Year trophy and garnered enough awards to take home the Producer of the Year award as well. The Alarid's were surprised by their success, but took it all in stride, smiles a mile wide on their faces.

For the second year in a row, David and Diana Lutt, Sheyenne River Bison, found themselves in a tie for the Producer of the Year award. A tie, that is, right up until the Alarid's picked up the first place trophy in the pen of two yearling heifer class. While some producers might be discouraged to come so close two times over, David Lutt was elated. "It means that we're doing something right and we're doing it consistently," he says. "I'm pretty happy to keep coming in this close. Of course, it would be nice to win the award, but I certainly don't mind losing out by such a close margin. I'm trying very hard to keep our program at home consistent and this just shows that we are right on track."

The Producer of the Year award also went to Four R Bison, Ralph and Mary Alarid and Family, Cheyenne, WY.



2000 Black Hills Buffalo Classic Sale Results

One of the largest crowds ever to watch the Black Hills Buffalo Classic Sale was on hand the last Saturday in January as the sale got underway in the arena of the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City, SD. The Black Hills Buffalo Classic (BHBC) is the annual show and sale hosted by the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association (DTBA) and is held in conjunction with the Black Hills Stock Show every January.

Typically, there are numerous spectators that drop by to watch the bison go through the sale ring, but this year saw packed buyer's stands and the seats around the outside of the arena were full beyond the norm. As the popularity and interest in this animal and the industry increases, we will continue to see more and more spectators attending these events.

Nearly 200 head of bison went through the sale ring during the 2000 sale, called by Ron Bradeen and Jud Seaman of Bradeen Auctions, Custer, SD. The bidding was brisk, especially on the trophy animals and buyers were present from a number of regional states and Canada.

The first animal in the ring was the Grand Champion Male, a yearling bull consigned by Glenn and Mary Walz, Rocky Run Bison Ranch, New Rockford, ND. The bull was purchased by Hilda Thomas, Bar X Ranch, Powell, WY for \$9,000.

The top selling male at this year's sale was a two year old bull consigned by Casey Byrd, Buffalo Dance Bison, Presho, SD and was purchased for \$10,000 by Merle and Susan Maass, Colorado Bison Co., Mead, CO. The bull was a Silver Trophy winner in the two year old bull class.

The top selling female was also purchased by the Maass's for \$8,500. The animal was a yearling heifer consigned by Larry and Dixie Byrd, Trails End River Bison, Presho, SD.

The total sale on 182 head of bison was \$381,525. Sale results are as follows:

Two Year Old Bulls: 6 head sold, average price of \$5,516 per head.

Yearling Bulls: 19 head sold, average price of \$3,317

per head.

Bull Calves: 19 head sold, average price of \$1,349 per head.

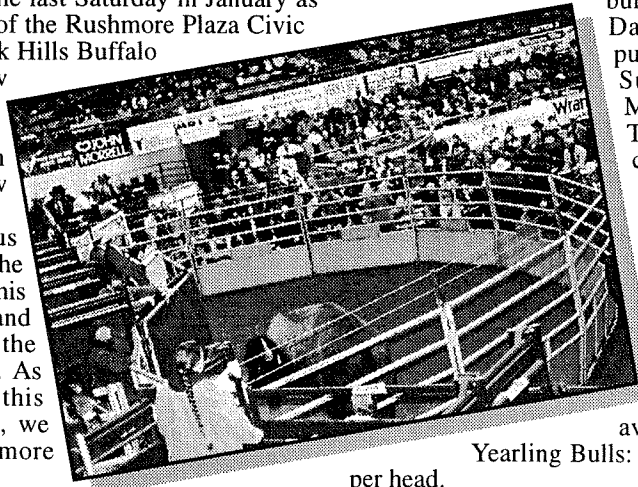
Two Year Old Bred Heifers: 15 head sold, average price of \$3,967 per head.

Yearling Heifers: 20 head sold, average price of \$2,560 per head.

Pen of Two Yearling Heifers: 13 pens sold, average price of \$4,185 per pen.

Heifer Calves: 20 head sold, average price of \$1,475 per head.

Pen of Three Heifer Calves: 19 pens sold, average price of \$3,430 per pen.



Four R Bison Named DTBA Producer/Rookie Of The Year

It hasn't taken long for the Ralph and Mary Alarid family to find out that they really enjoy the bison industry. What Ralph says started out to be a hobby has since turned into a family business and not only that, but they are doing the job right.

At the recent Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale in Rapid City, SD, hosted by the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association, the Alarid family, working under the name Four R Bison, took home more than a few trophies. With entries in six classes, three of those animals were presented with awards. Four R Bison won the first place trophy for their pen of two yearling heifers, a second place trophy for their yearling heifer and a third place trophy for their bull calf.

They also had entries in the two year old bull class, the pen of three heifers and a heifer calf.

So, where does the Four R Bison ranch call home? Southeast of Cheyenne, WY is where the Alarid family lives. Ralph and Mary, along with sons Kenneth and Ralph Jr. and daughter Diana, have been in the bison business since 1994. "We got our first animals, four heifer calves, from Ron Thiel's Iron Mountain Bison near Cheyenne," Ralph explains. "I've been in the construction business for many years, but was always fascinated with the buffalo. We decided to do it as a hobby, but it has grown into the family business and we are

really happy to be able to do that."

The foundations of the Four R herd consist not only of Iron Mountain stock, but many of the animals are from Custer State Park as well. "We try and get out and buy the best animals that we can," says Ralph. "We are hitting all the sales and trying to pick up trophy animals and other

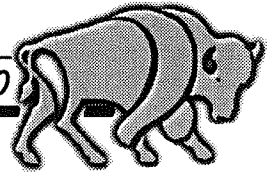
good stock for our herd." Currently, the ranch runs about 80 head of bison, concentrating on breeding stock. "We're after the good bloodlines. If we are going to do this right, we need to be selective about our animals," says Ralph.

"There's such good potential in the bison industry right now," notes Ralph. "It's a good time to be buying animals and building a herd." Not only did Four R Bison show at the BHBC, they also took animals to the National Bison Association's Gold Trophy Show and Sale. "Down in Denver, we got an Honorable Mention

on our yearling heifer, so between these two shows, our first ones, we are very pleased with the results we are seeing."

For their Rookie of the Year and Producer of the Year honors, the Alarid family received a Tony Chytka bronze for each award. As Producers of the Year, you'll also see them driving around with a Featherlite Trailer full of bison. The use of the trailer for one year is donated each year by Blake's Trailer Sales and Repair of Rapid City, SD.





Winter Conference Recap

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 Dakota Territory Buffalo Association's annual Winter Conference. The conference is held in conjunction with the Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale and the Black Hills Stock Show.

The association kicked off the activities with a reception and registration at Prairie Edge Trading Company and Galleries in downtown Rapid City. It was wall to wall people as members came in to register, snack and browse through the store.

On Friday, testifying their commitment to the association, members turned out in large numbers for the opening of the conference. President Greg Smeenk offered some remarks and following his presentation, Ron Cody, the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for South Dakota, got up and shared his thoughts with the membership.

Cody made a point to let the bison producers in the room know that the state is behind their efforts to reestablish bison in their native region. "We have great expectations for the industry," he noted. "We are here to aide, support and assist your industry. It is not a niche or a hobby, but an agri-industry and we are here to lend our assistance in any way we can." Cody was speaking on behalf of SD Secretary of Agriculture, Darrell Crucea, who was unable to attend the meeting.

Following Cody, the South Dakota State Veterinarian, Sam Holland, gave a report and update on some of the diseases facing the bison industry. In his remarks, Holland noted that ethics and integrity are vital to this growing industry. He also spoke on the Yellowstone issue, gave an update on Brucellosis and the Triple U and then launched into an explanation of testing bison for TB. He encouraged producers that are interested in having the TB test dropped for bison, to get serious about the issue and gather all the facts and come prepared to lay the facts and figures before they request that the testing be dropped.

Holland also got into a discussion regarding meat inspection and how important it is to the emerging bison meat industry. The group also thanked Holland for his watchdog efforts regarding legislation that would adversely affect the bison producers.

The afternoon session featured guest speaker, Dr. Marlowe Gobel, who owns Medicine Lodge Ranch in Dubois, Idaho. He specializes in ACL reconstruction and meniscal allograft transplants and his expertise in this area has made him a much in demand keynote speaker. In his presentation, "Bison Musculoskeletal Form and Function" Gobel used human models to explain the muscles and various cuts of meat on bison. Gobel took the audience through a first hand look at how conformation affects performance and what bison producers should be looking for in their animals to maximize their breeding practices.

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; Greg Smeenk, the current president was up for re-election; Jud Seaman had served his two terms as had Dixie Byrd. A handful of candidates were offered for election by the membership and when the votes were tallied, Greg Smeenk was re-elected to the board and two new board members were announced: Scott Peterson and Roy Liedtke. Following a short board meeting, new officers for 2000 are: President, Greg Smeenk, Newell, SD; Vice-President, Chad Heim, Rockham, SD; Secretary/Treasurer, Roy Liedtke, Gillette, WY; and Directors, Scott Peterson, Belle Fourche, SD; Annette Smith, Newcastle, WY and Chad Kremer, Vivian, SD.

During the meetings and presentations on Friday, the Black Hills Buffalo Classic judges were looking over the animals entered in the 2000 show and making their selections. The awards were presented that evening.

Bob Bradeen: DTBA Pioneer Award Winner



The Dakota Territory Buffalo Association made the decision last year to step forward and honor some of the pioneers in the bison industry. In a region blessed with an abundance of bison and visionaries, it is no easy task to select one individual deserving of this award. The person selected to receive the award this year is most deserving and his work with the bison industry is widely known

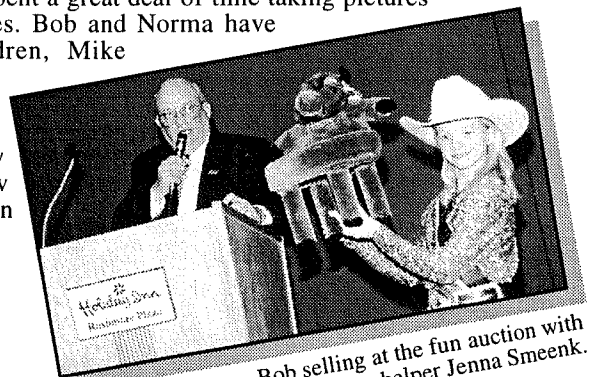
and respected. He has spent his lifetime developing a business related to the bison and that business is now being carried on through another generation and is probably successful beyond any ideas he might have had. We congratulate Bob Bradeen of Custer, South Dakota on being selected as the recipient of the DTBA Pioneer Award for the year 2000.

Bradeen Real Estate and Auctions of Custer, South Dakota was founded back in 1923 by Bob's father, Bert. As a young boy, Bob grew up learning the auctioneering trade from his father. Bob was never formally trained to be an auctioneer, it was just a talent he added to his repertoire through hours of practice and dedication. Bob then took this self-taught skill and later used it to make a living for himself and his family.

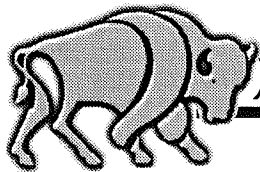
Being a native of the area where perhaps the world's most famous buffalo auction takes place, Custer State Park, Bob was a natural choice to call the annual Custer State Park Buffalo Auction and he was hired on to conduct his first sale there in 1976. Since that first sale, Bob has sold several thousand head of bison at public auctions and has eagerly given advice to new producers on selecting good stock.

Never realizing the influence he had on the industry, Bob was truly a pioneer in paving the way for public bison auctions. Today, Bradeen Real Estate and Auctions conducts over 100 auctions annually, 25 of which are buffalo auctions. The buffalo auctions take place all across the country, from Spokane, Washington to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Bob's son, Ron, is the driving force behind the buffalo auctions now, but Bob is sure to attend any buffalo outing he can, enjoying the companionship of his friends and the majesty of the great buffalo.

In addition to Bob's work auctioneering for buffalo auctions, his wife, Norma, was instrumental in the family business as well. She spent many hours clerking, cashiering and closing out auctions. She also enjoyed documenting the buffalo auctions on film and spent a great deal of time taking pictures of the sales. Bob and Norma have four children, Mike and Ron of Custer, and Steve and Nancy who now reside in California.



Bob selling at the fun auction with helper Jenna Smeenk.



Thanks To This Year's Sponsors

Classic Producers Award: Dakota Territory Buffalo Association
 Rookie of the Year: Pat Hall
 Grand Champion Bull: Thunder Canyon Buffalo Ranch, Greg and Sherry Smeenck
 Reserve Champion Bull: Lone Mountain Bison, Russell and Kathy Fox
 Grand Champion Heifer: Sparling Bison Ranch, Jason and Robert Sparling
 Reserve Champion Heifer: Heim Buffalo Ranch, Evie and Chad Heim
 Buyer Scrolls: Trails End River Bison, Larry and Dixie Byrd

Gold Trophy Sponsors:

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 Yearling Bull: Tatanka Hills
 Two Year Old Bull: Roy Liedtke
 Heifer Calf: Scott Peterson
 Yearling Heifer: Nebraska Buffalo Company/Gale Stevens
 Pen of Two Yearling Heifers: Mosquito Park
 Two Year Old Bred Heifer: Steve Hein
 Pen of Three Heifer Calves: Randy & Milissa Linz

Silver Trophy Sponsors:

Bull Calf: Flying H Ranch/Curt and Macie Hepper
 Yearling Bull: Ralph and Mary Mahoney
 Two Year Old Bull: Mosquito Park
 Heifer Calf: Doug and Sandy Stukel
 Yearling Heifer: Antelope Creek Bison Ranch
 Two Year Old Bred Heifer: Mosquito Park
 Pen of Three Heifer Calves: Tedd and Carmen Thompson
 Pen of Two Yearling Heifers: North Dakota Buffalo Association

Bronze Trophy Sponsors:

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 Two Year Old Bull: DesignWrite
 Heifer Calf: Dean and Judy Schwanke
 Yearling Heifer: William Melius
 Two Year Old Bred Heifer: Antelope Creek Bison Ranch
 Pen of Three Heifer Calves: Claude & Annette Smith
 Pen of Two Yearling Heifers: North Dakota Buffalo Association

High Volume Seller: Bradeen Auctions, Ron Bradeen and Jud Seaman

High Volume Buyer: Bradeen Auctions, Ron Bradeen and Jud Seaman

A big Thank You to: Blake's Trailer Sales and Repair of Rapid City, SD for donating the use of a Featherlite Trailer for one year to the Black Hills Buffalo Classic Producer of the Year and to Tony Chytka for his generosity on the DTBA trophies. Beverages and snacks for the DTBA Winter Conference were provided by Scranton Equity Exchange, Scranton, ND (morning) and Farm Credit Services, Belle Fourche, SD and 1st National Bank, Rapid City (afternoon). The buffalo ice sculpture for the banquet was sponsored by Farm Credit Services and 1st National Bank. The DTBA 2000 Membership in the Black Hills Stock Show Foundation was sponsored by Brad and Connie Beavers of Jefferson, SD. We gratefully acknowledge and truly appreciate your support of the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association.

A BIG Thank You!

Editor's Note: This thank you letter is in response to a donation made by the DTBA to the National Buffalo Museum for the sum of \$2,500 towards the purchase of a new computer system for the museum. The donation was presented to museum director, Donna Zimmerman, during the recent North Dakota Buffalo Assn. annual meeting.

February 21, 2000

Greg Smeenck, President
 Dakota Territory Buffalo Association
 HC 71, Box 33
 Newell, SD 57760

Dear Greg and DTBA Members:

On behalf of the North Dakota Buffalo Foundation (NDBF), I would like to thank you for your recent \$2,500 donation to assist the National Buffalo Museum with the purchase of a new computer system.

I truly enjoyed the opportunities I had this past weekend to visit with NDBA and DTBA members. In a way, many of the issues that your organizations are addressing today are the same types of issues the NDBF is faced with. In my travels to various bison industry events, I hear the same thing over and over. "How can we market our bison meat most effectively - how do we convince more people to eat bison?" And of course, there's the need to get more people involved in your organization, because there is power in numbers. For the NDBF, we are continuously looking for ways to market the Museum and the Herd; which naturally will increase visitations, membership and ultimately, our support base. Essentially, the bison industry provides a link between our organizations and the needs that we are both faced with. A link that can help us - help each other, such as the possibility of the Museum hosting your tour group in May.

I congratulate you on your many accomplishments as DTBA President and I thank you, once again, for your generous contribution. I have had the opportunity to get to know a number of individuals from your organization, as well as the NDBA, and I have to say that I have never met more visionary and enthusiastic people - people who have the initiative and the drive to accomplish great things. Remember, the National Buffalo Museum is here for you and bison industry organizations such as DTBA. If I can ever do anything to promote, assist or help you accomplish another "great thing" for the bison industry, please don't hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,
 Donna Zimmerman, Director
 National Buffalo Museum

Taste of Home Cooking Show

Always on the lookout to promote bison meat, the DTBA will be participating in some cooking shows this April. DTBA resident cooks, Sherry Smeenck of Newell, SD and Jacki Limpert of Buffalo, SD, will be participating in the Taste of Home Cooking Show as part of Country Woman Magazine.

On Thursday, April 6, they will be in Pierre at the Ramkota River Centre at the "Taste of Home Cooking School". This presentation is being sponsored by the Pierre Capitol Journal. On Tuesday, April 11, Sherry and Jacki will be in Spearfish at the Spearfish Convention Center. This presentation is being sponsored by Black Hills Pioneer and Weekly Prospector. Anyone may attend the events, but only a limited number of tickets for each venue will be sold. If you would like to attend the shows, contact the sponsors in each area for more information or to obtain tickets.

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