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## Board Holds Planning Retreat

After a successful Winter Conference and Sale, the DTBA's new Board of Directors decided to jump right back into the arena and begin blazing the trail for 2016. Led by our new President, Marielle Hewitt, the board gathered on February 27 and 28 at the Alex Johnson Hotel in Rapid City. All board members were present and all came with a good understanding of the rising challenges presented by a dynamic buffalo industry. Thanks to the generosity of the 777 Ranch, Mimi Hillenbrand and Moritz Espy, our meetings were held at Prairie Edge, a spectacular western setting and the perfect place to talk about buffalo.

The board didn't need to be reminded about a constantly changing buffalo industry and decided a twenty year bench mark was as good a time as any to revisit the vision and mission of the DTBA. As the board firms up issues discussed at the retreat, we will be diligent in passing that information on to the membership. All decisions required by the DTBA membership will be voted on during next year's membership meeting. Some of the highlights of board discussions were:

- **Bylaws** - Updating the bylaws, vision and mission statements of the DTBA.
- **Conservation** - Define the role of conservation in our mission as an association.
- **Committees** - Revisit association committees and their functions.
- **Bookkeeping** - Update practices and effective delivery of information to our membership.
- **Communication** - Revisit calendar of events, newsletters, email blasts, important deadlines and identify the information that is of most importance to our members.
- **Marketing & Promotion** - Identify the most effective, efficient ways to promote producers, the mission of the DTBA and to market our show and sale.
- **Volunteerism** - Acknowledgement and recognition.

But most importantly, for 2016, the board wants to know - how do we celebrate 20 years as the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association? We all look forward to a great celebration and a great conference next year! We have lots of ideas but more than anything, we want your ideas, your participation and we hope you will join us in planning this very special occasion! Could 2016 be the year of "the perfect storm" for the DTBA? That is, perfect weather, perfect conference and a perfect sale? Why not? Let's keep working and make it happen. We look forward to hearing from you and we are grateful for your support.

Good luck and have a great spring!

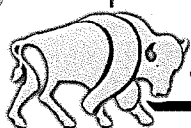
## Follow And Like Us On Facebook



The association now has our own page on the popular social networking site, Facebook. The board felt that it would be a beneficial place for the association to share our message and be a valuable tool to help keep our Facebook friends updated on current happenings. We are posting updates and photos for

both the Young Guns and Girlz Gone Wild classes and our upcoming conference and show and sale.

If you are not already on Facebook, considering joining. We'd love to have you stop by our page and like us! Your comments and feedback are also welcome and needed so we can make this an area that is beneficial for you to use.





## Notes From The President - Marielle Hewitt

Greetings from Wisconsin!

I have the pleasure of introducing myself as the new president of the DTBA. My name is Marielle Hewitt. I'm 25 years old and live in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. My family owns and operates Northstar Bison, a vertically integrated, grassfed meat business. My entire life has evolved around bison ranching, processing and meat sales. Having been in the business with my parents, Lee and Mary Graese, for 21 years has taught me many traits that I know will be valuable being at the helm for the next two years.

I would like to take this time to share with you my objectives for the upcoming years. My first and foremost objective is to make great improvements on communication. This comes at a few different levels.

**1. Board Members** - forming structure that promotes communication and clarity of vision and mission. Also creating committees and reaching out to membership.

**2. Members** - keeping them in touch with direction and vision of the DTBA. Improving our leadtime and planning of events. Encouraging interaction and participation in newly formed committees and volunteering at events that match our vision and mission as an association.

**3. General public** - being a part of the social media, television and newspapers in a positive light. Getting out the message of ranchers being active conservationists and sharing their proactive efforts to preserve this species and its habitat.

My other objective plays right into communication - staying

relevant and effective. Our goal this year is to not only have three hardcopy newsletters but also use email for the time sensitive information such as deadlines, event reminders, performance class updates, etc. Watch our Facebook page for more regular updates and photos of our performance classes on the host ranches as well as any other event happenings throughout the year.

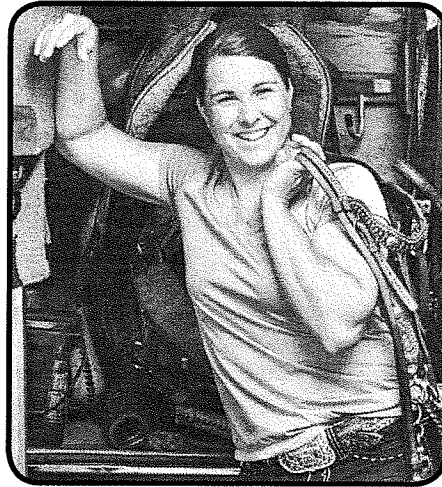
Effective communication goes both ways, so I ask you to please see that your correct mailing address and email address is on file or you will miss out!!! We also encourage any and all feedback regarding ideas and issues that concern you. A yellow comment card is included in your newsletter. Fill it out and return to the association. We received some during the recent Winter Conference and the board reviewed each one of them and we will continue to offer these comment cards throughout the year. Take advantage and be heard!

The board met on February 27 and 28 at Prairie Edge for a strategic planning retreat.

We had a very productive time revisiting our vision and mission and how we want to stay effective as an association. A review of our retreat can be found on the first page of this newsletter.

I want to thank you for instilling your confidence in both myself and the board as we move forward. We are very excited about what is to come and we hope you are as well!

Until next time,  
Marielle



### VISION

The vision of the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association is to perpetuate buffalo as the great North American native animal.

### MISSION

The mission of the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association is to promote buffalo and furnish a positive forum for creativity and camaraderie among a diverse membership.

### VALUES & GUIDING PRINCIPALS

To practice integrity and be ethical in all our dealings.  
To be visionary and proactive for the bison industry.  
To help our members be successful.

## New & Returning Members!

**Doug & Barb Cox**  
Windom, MN

**Bryon & Julie Foote • TenderBison Babe**  
Worthington, MN

**Kevin, Kelly & Steve Hintz**  
Hintz Buffalo Ranch • Hazen, ND

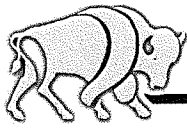
**Nathaniel & Jessica Preheim**  
Windstone Buffalo Company • Freeman, SD

**Jeffrey Merchant • Wild Idea Buffalo Company**  
Rapid City, SD

**Alvino Roybal • Farlee/Roybal Ranch**  
Eagle Butte, SD

**Jason & Sherri Stormo • Tatanka Hills**  
Lake Norden, SD

**Gale Stevens • Nebraska Buffalo Company**  
Hordville, NE



# Calendar Of Buffalo Events

**April 17-19:** Minnesota Buffalo Assn. 22nd Annual Educational Conference. Hosted by NorthStar Bison, Rice Lake, WI. (507) 454-2828 or info@mnbison.org.

**April 24 - 25:** Rocky Mountain Buffalo Assn. Peak to Peak Spring Conference. Ft. Collins, CO. www.buffaloranchers.com.

**June 1 - 3:** National Bison Assn. Summer Conference. Fort Worth, Texas. www.bisoncentral.com for updates and information.

**June 5 - 6:** Montana Bison Assn. Summer Ranch Tour. Choteau, Montana area ranches. www.montanabison.org or (406) 392-5321.

**June 24 - 26:** International Symposium on Bison Health, Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. www.bison-health.ca for information.

**September 24 - 26:** Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival. Custer State Park, SD. (605) 255-4515 or http://gfp.sd.gov/state-parks/directory/custer/

**November 21:** 50th Annual Custer State Park Fall Classic Bison Auction. Buffalo corrals, Custer State Park. (605) 255-4515 or http://gfp.sd.gov/state-parks/directory/custer/

**November 21:** 1st Annual 777 Ranch Buffalo Production Auction. To be held in Rapid City, SD in the evening. www.bradeenauction.com for updates and information.

**November 28:** Minnesota Buffalo Assn. Annual Legends of the Fall Show and Sale. Central Livestock Sale Barn, Albany, MN. (507) 454-2828 or www.mnbison.org.

**November 29:** Prairie Sky Ranch Annual Production Auction. Prairie Sky Guest and Game Ranch, Veblen, SD. www.bradeenauction.com for updates and information.

**December 1:** Brownotter Buffalo Ranch Annual Production Auction. Mobridge Livestock Auction, Mobridge, SD. www.bradeenauction.com for updates and information.

**January 8 - 9, 2016:** North Dakota Buffalo Assn. Annual Meeting and Buffalo Auction. Napoleon, ND. www.ndbuffalo.com or (701) 340-6282.

**January 20 - 22:** National Bison Assn. Winter Conference, Denver, CO. (303) 292-2833 or www.bisoncentral.com.

**January 23:** National Bison Assn. Gold Trophy Show and Sale. National Western Livestock Auction Center, Denver, CO. (303) 292-2833 or www.bisoncentral.com.

**February 5 - 6:** Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Winter Conference. Best Western Ramkota Hotel, Rapid City, SD. (605) 519-1326 or info@dakotabuffalo.com.

**February 7:** Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale, Central States Fairgrounds, Rapid City, SD. (605) 519-1326 or info@dakotabuffalo.com.

# Thanks To All Our Volunteers!

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any organization. Without our volunteers, DTBA would be, at best, paddling the boat in little circles instead of heading for the shore!

When an organization hosts a large event, or events, it takes manpower and time to get everything done and make it look effortless. We'd like to recognize and thank the following folks who helped out at our recent Winter Conference and Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale.

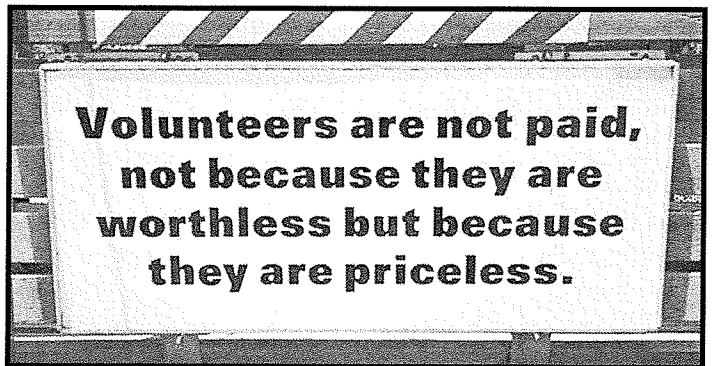
*Chad Kremer; Zane Holcomb; Bob Penn; Larry Carr; Moritz Espy; Justin Selke; Cody Smith; Clyde Gorsuch; Chance Gorsuch; Wayne Moser; Sandy Limpert; Brodie Limpert; Martin Waage and Chris Waage.*

*Darla Loewen; Lynnette Sather; Rod Sather; Roy Liedtke; Mary Graese; Jud Seaman; Jeff Storm; Ron Bradeen; Lindi Lauren; Bruce Anderson; Mike Faith; Marielle Hewitt; Perry Handyside; Wendy Hutchinson; Boyd Meyer; Bob Dineen; Dan O'Brien; Jill O'Brien; John Cammack; Scott Peterson; Todd Goetz; Kelly Hardy; Peter Cook; Kevin Leier; Suzi Kremer; Evie Woodall; Don Bybee; Susan Ricci (and her mom!) and Don Woerner.*

We had an amazing number of kids help move items for our fun auction and a big thank you to all of them for their help! It's so refreshing to see the next generation of DTBA members already volunteering.

If by chance you were a volunteer and your name was missed, please contact the office and let Karen know. We'd like to thank you and make sure you get recognized!

**Each one of you is greatly appreciated, no matter how big or small the deed. THANK YOU!**



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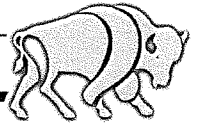
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## Thanks to the Sponsors for the 2015 Black Hills Buffalo Classic & Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Winter Conference

**Classic Producer of the Year Award:** DTBA; Bradeen Auctions, Ron Bradeen & Jud Seaman; Western Buffalo Company, Bruce & Martha Anderson; Mosquito Park Enterprises, Rod & Lynnette Sather; Rocky Mountain Natural Meats, Bob & Laurie Dineen; Scranton Equity Feeds, Marlene Teske & Kelly Schumacher; 777 Ranch, Mimi Hillenbrand & Moritz Espy

### **First Place Trophy Sponsors:**

**Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge:** Cold Creek Buffalo Company, Boyd & Allison Meyer  
**Girlz Gone Wild Two Year Old Bred Heifer Challenge:** Northstar Bison, The Graese & Hewitt Families  
**Cutting Edge Carcass Contest Bull:** Longreach Buffalo Company, Kelly Hardy, Wendy Hutchinson & Roy Liedtke  
**Cutting Edge Carcass Contest Heifer:** Holcomb Buffalo Ranch, Zane Holcomb

### **Second Place Trophy Sponsors:**

**Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge:** Diesel Machinery, Inc., Mark Barry  
**Girlz Gone Wild Two Year Old Bred Heifer Challenge:** Dakota RV, Donna Maloney  
**Cutting Edge Carcass Contest Bull:** North Dakota Buffalo Association  
**Cutting Edge Carcass Contest Heifer:** North Dakota Buffalo Association

### **Third Place Trophy Sponsors:**

**Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge:** Sheyenne River Bison, David & Diana Lutt  
**Girlz Gone Wild Two Year Old Bred Heifer Challenge:** Buffalo Gold - Herd Wear, Cecil Miskin  
**Cutting Edge Carcass Contest Bull:** Western Buffalo Company, Bruce & Martha Anderson  
**Cutting Edge Carcass Contest Heifer:** Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, Sandy & Jacki Limpert

### **Fourth Place Trophy Sponsors:**

**Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge:** Wind Creek Ranch, Wayne Moser & Cynthia Peske  
**Girlz Gone Wild Two Year Old Bred Heifer Challenge:** Bakken Bison Ranch, Rod Bakken

### **Fifth Place Trophy Sponsors:**

**Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge:** Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, Sandy & Jacki Limpert  
**Girlz Gone Wild Two Year Old Bred Heifer Challenge:** Buffalo Gold - Herd Wear, Cecil Miskin

- **The Friday night Social at Prairie Edge Trading Co. & Galleries in Rapid City was sponsored by:** Prairie Edge Trading Co. & Gallery, 777 Ranch and Western Buffalo Company.
- **A big thank you to** Bruce Anderson, Al Holzer and the entire staff at Western Buffalo Company **for their assistance in producing the Cutting Edge Carcass Contest.**
- **The meat sponsor for Jill O'Brien's cooking class was** Wild Idea Buffalo Company
- **The Saturday morning Continental Breakfast and Coffee Sponsor was** TenderBison
- **The Saturday afternoon Coffee Sponsor was** Custer State Park
- **The Saturday lunch sponsor was** 777 Ranch
- **Banquet Entertainment - Brent Morris & Acoustics was sponsored by** Larry Carr and Steve McFarland
- **Banquet Wine was sponsored by** Mosquito Park Enterprises, Rod & Lynnette Sather and Cammack Buffalo Ranch, John & Melanie Cammack
- **The Hospitality Room was sponsored by** Lots of DTBA members and Western Buffalo Company
- **Conference notepads are sponsored by** The Little Print Shop
- **Many Thanks to** Bradeen Auctions **for their sponsorship of coffee and snacks for the yard crew & guests.**
- **Thank you to** Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, Sandy & Jacki Limpert; Brodie & Samantha Limpert, **for hosting the 2015 & 2016 group of Young Guns bulls and their assistance with the 2015 Girlz Gone Wild heifers.**
- **Thank you to** Ben and Michelle Fox **for hosting the 2015 Girlz Gone Wild heifers.**
- **Thank you to** Heartland Bison Ranch, Kevin & Anne Leier; Lee & Rebecca Leier, **for hosting the 2016 group of Girlz Gone Wild heifers.**

***Do you work with a veterinarian who would like to learn more about bison? DTBA is interested in sponsoring a veterinarian (in our region) to attend the conference and then share that information at our 2016 Winter Conference. If you know of a veterinarian that might be interested, please contact any board member or the office by April 15.***

## **THE FUTURE OF BISON HEALTH MANAGEMENT: Add your voice to the conversation**



## **FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON BISON HEALTH June 24-26, 2015 Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**



The organizing committee is pleased to announce the 1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Bison Health. This symposium will focus specifically on health and disease issues impacting the commercial

bison industry but will include important information on the health of public herds.

We have put together a dynamic group of speakers and a program that we believe will offer veterinarians and students, animal scientists, government officials, bison producers, and anyone else interested in bison health issues, the opportunity to discuss, debate and learn about the current and emerging health issues facing the bison industry.

Veterinary experts and scientists from across North America will give the benefit of their practice experience and present their latest research findings during the invited presentations.

Topics may include:

- Viral diseases (eg. BVD, MCF)
- Bacterial diseases (eg. Brucellosis, TB, anthrax)
- *Mycoplasma bovis* and respiratory disease
- Reproduction technology
- Nutrition, mineral programs
- Preventative programs (parasite control, vaccines)
- Therapeutics and rational treatment of bison disease

The symposium program is designed to:

- provide background history and context for modern bison farming and conservation
- inform participants about selected bison health issues and production management practices
- feature the latest research findings in bison disease research
- offer expert predictions on future bison health topics and directions for the bison industry.

The host city of Saskatoon offers natural beauty and recreational opportunities. Situated on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River, Saskatoon has an active arts community with many art galleries, boutique shopping, challenging golf courses, and good locally-owned restaurants serving fresh local cuisine. The conference will coincide with the Saskatchewan Jazz Festival which runs for 10 days, and attracts hundreds of world class artists and over 85,000 music fans.

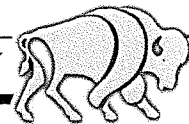
### **On-line Registration**

Register early at [www.bisonhealth.ca](http://www.bisonhealth.ca) to guarantee your seat at this important event, and you'll save \$50! A discounted rate is available for students.

*Discounted registration fee available until May 15, 2015.*

Questions? Email [conferencecoordinator@usask.ca](mailto:conferencecoordinator@usask.ca)

**This symposium specifically focuses on health issues that have the potential to *change the future of the bison industry.***



# DTBA Sets Industry Records at Live Animal Auction

Beautiful weather, lots of new and familiar faces and a record-setting auction set the tone for the 19th annual Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Winter Conference and Black Hills Buffalo Classic. Held in Rapid City, South Dakota, the conference saw a significant increase in attendance over the past few years as well as many new and returning members, reinforcing what industry experts have noted is a strong upward trend in the industry.

The weekend kicked off with Jill O'Brien, a talented chef and, along with her husband, Dan, owner of Wild Idea Buffalo Company, conducting a cooking class and wine tasting. It was a huge hit with rave reviews from everyone in attendance. Following Jill's class, the festivities moved to Prairie Edge Trading Company & Galleries for the Welcoming Reception, hosted by 777 Ranch.

The main conference day saw a variety of topics and speakers. National Bison Association (NBA) Executive Director, Dave Carter, updated the group on the latest NBA activities and Mike Faith, Vice President of the InterTribal Buffalo Council, addressed attendees on behalf of the group. Working together with common goals was the message shared by both of these groups.

Marielle Hewitt led a panel discussion on the value of performance-tested classes. Participants included Kevin Leier, Brodie Limpert and Peter Cook. Another panel discussion, led by Boyd Meyer, with panelists Bruce Anderson, Bob Dineen, Dan O'Brien, Sandy Limpert and John Cammack took a look at the industry from both the producer and processor viewpoints.

Assistant State Veterinarian, Dr. Mendel Miller gave a presen-

tation on current health issues within the state and region. Following his presentation, Dan O'Brien, author and owner of Wild Idea Buffalo Company in Rapid City, SD, took the stage to share the story of Wild Idea and how it came about. He also spent time discussing the company's mobile processing unit and the field harvesting techniques. The day ended with Perry Handyside leading a member input session. As the association approaches its 20th anniversary, preparations are being made to plot the future of the DTBA and set it on a course for success.

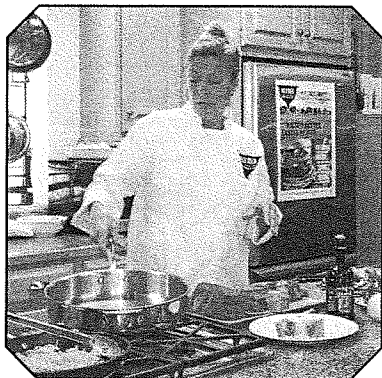
New officers were elected and include: President, Marielle Hewitt, NorthStar Bison, Rice Lake, WI; Vice-President, Brodie Limpert, Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, Buffalo, SD; Secretary/Treasurer, Moritz Espy, 777 Ranch, Hermosa, SD; and board members Wendy Hutchinson, Longreach Buffalo Company, Weston, WY; Boyd Meyer, Cold Creek Buffalo Company, Windsor, CO and Perry Handyside, Buffalo Roam Resources, LLC, Ft. Collins, CO.

At the evening banquet, winners of the performance tested and carcass classes were announced, including Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, Sandy and Jacki Limpert, Buffalo, SD, taking first place in both the Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge and the Girlz Gone Wild Two Year Old Bred Heifer Challenge. This marks the first time a ranch has won both classes in the same year. With 28 head of bulls in the Young Guns challenge and 36 heifers in the Girlz Gone Wild challenge, the Limperts made a big splash by having their animals take top awards, not to mention picking up several other placings in both classes. Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch was also named the 2015 Producer of the Year, accumulating more points in the performance tested and carcass contests than any other consignor.

Other winners in the Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge included: Second place: Cammack Buffalo Ranch, John and Melanie Cammack, Lane Cammack and Mike Cammack, Union

Center, SD; Third Place: Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch; Fourth Place: Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch; Fifth Place: Cold Creek Buffalo Company, Boyd & Allison Meyer, Windsor, CO.

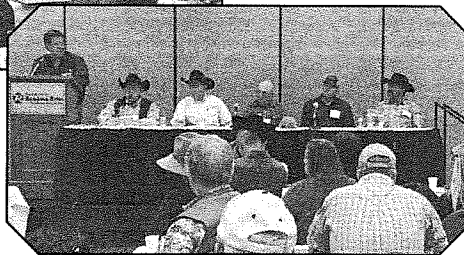
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*Jill O'Brien creating a delectable dish during the cooking class.*



*Above: Marielle Graese leads the discussion during the performance tested panel.*



*At right: Moderator Boyd Meyer takes questions during the marketing panel.*




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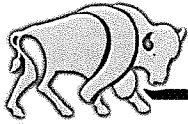

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# DTBA Sets Industry Records at Live Animal Auction

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Other winners in the Girlz Gone Wild Two Year Old Bred Heifer Challenge included: Second place: Sheyenne River Bison, David and Diana Lauth, Harvey, ND; Third Place: Sheyenne River Bison; Fourth Place: Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch; Fifth Place: Sheyenne River Bison.

This year saw the largest carcass contest in the association's history, with 16 bulls and 6 heifers entered. In the Cutting Edge Carcass Contest heifer class, 777 Ranch, Mimi Hillenbrand, owner, Moritz Espy, manager, Hermosa, SD, took first place. Second place went to Quarter Circle Y, Monty and Tammy Hepper, Mobridge, SD and third place went to Blue Valley Ranch, Josh Richert, mgr., Kremmling, CO.

In the Cutting Edge Carcass Contest bull class, Quarter Circle Y took the first place trophy, with Cold Creek Buffalo Company picking up second and third place in the class.

The Black Hills Buffalo Classic Auction was the final event of the weekend. With just 61 head of animals set for the auction ring, bidding was very competitive. Ron Bradeen and Jud Seaman, Bradeen Auctions, Custer, SD, teamed up to sell 34 head of Girlz Gone Wild two year old bred heifers and 27 head of Young Guns yearling bulls. The average on the Girlz Gone Wild was \$5,043 and the average on the Young Guns bulls was a record setting \$9,039. The high selling heifer was consigned by Cold Creek Buffalo Company and was purchased by Kevin Kraft, Crazy K Bison, Beulah, ND, for \$10,000. The high selling bull was also from Cold Creek Buffalo Company and sold to

Scott Peterson, Jumpoff Buffalo Ranch, Buffalo, SD for \$14,000. That was the second highest selling yearling bull in the history of the association, with the all-time high being \$16,500 in 2011. The heifer was the fourth highest selling two year old bred heifer in the association's history, with the previous records coming in 1998 at \$11,500; 1999 at \$11,250 and 2002 at \$10,250.

The average price on the Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge was the highest average on yearling buffalo bulls sold at auction in the country this sale season. The Black Hills Buffalo Classic also saw the season high price for a yearling bull sold at auction with the high selling bull bringing \$14,000.

The average price on the Girlz Gone Wild Two Year Old Bred Heifer Challenge was the second highest average on two year old bred heifers sold at auction in the country this sale season. Bringing \$10,000, the high selling two year old bred heifer at the Black Hills Buffalo Classic matched the season high price set just two weeks prior.

**The 20th anniversary event will be February 5 - 7, 2016 in Rapid City, SD.**

### BREAKING NEWS!

The Winter Conference Committee has already secured an internationally renowned speaker for our 20th Anniversary celebration in February of 2016. You won't want to miss this one!

*"Progress is impossible without change - and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."* ~ George Bernard Shaw

To everyone that contributed to my fundraiser for my European adventure (a choir trip), thank you so much!!! The weekend of the DTBA Winter Conference was an enormous success.

*God Bless, Hannah Kremer*



Hannah Kremer, second from left, sings with Brent Morris and the Acoustics during the Winter Conference banquet. A beautiful coffee table bison book was sold during our Fun Auction to help Hannah raise funds for her choir trip to Europe this summer. The book was generously donated back several times and each time the proceeds went to Hannah. There was also a small auction held during the Welcoming Reception at Prairie Edge on Friday night. We hope you have a great trip, Hannah, and thank you for singing for us!



## Join the NBA Today & Discover The Bison Advantage!

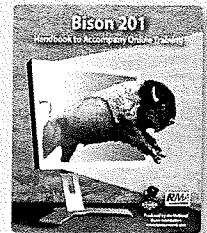
Join now and receive three must have learning tools for bison producers. The *Bison Producers' Handbook*, *Bison DVD* and the *Bison 201 Handbook*.



The Insider's Guide to Bison Handling & Management DVD (a \$49.95 value, FREE)



Bison Producers' Handbook (a \$40 value, FREE)



Bison 201 Handbook and Interactive Online Training (a \$100 value, FREE)

Membership details available at [www.BisonCentral.com](http://www.BisonCentral.com) or give us a call at 303-292-2833



At left: Winners of the Girlz Gone Wild Two Year Old Bred Heifer Challenge, along with trophy sponsors. From left to right: Brett and Marielle Hewitt, Northstar Bison, first place sponsors; Sandy and Jacki Limpert, Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, first place winners; Roy Liedtke, in for third place sponsor Cecil Miskin, Buffalo Gold-Herd Wear; Tom Maloney, in for second place sponsor Dakota R.V.; David Lautt, Sheyenne River Bison, second, third and fifth place winner; Samantha and Brodie Limpert, Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, fourth place winner and Rod Bakken, Bakken Bison Ranch, fifth place sponsor.

At right: Winners of the Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge, along with trophy sponsors. From left to right: Boyd Meyer, Cold Creek Buffalo Company, first place sponsor; Jacki and Sandy Limpert, Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, first place winner; John Cammack, Cammack Buffalo Ranch, second place winner; Mark Barry, Diesel Machinery, Inc., second place sponsor; David Lautt, Sheyenne River Bison, third place sponsor; Samantha and Brodie Limpert, Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, third and fourth place winner; Wayne Moser, Wind Creek Ranch, fourth place sponsor and Dave Schroth, Cold Creek Buffalo Company, fifth place winner. Fifth place sponsor was Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch.

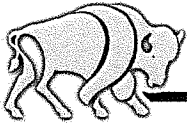


At left, winners of the Cutting Edge Carcass Class Bulls, along with trophy sponsors. From left to right in back row: Roy Liedtke, Chris Percifield, Kelly Hardy and Wendy Hutchinson, Longreach Buffalo Company, first place sponsor; in front, Monty and Tammy Hepper, Quarter Circle Y, first place winner; Evie Woodall, North Dakota Buffalo Association, second place sponsor; Dave Schroth and Boyd Meyer, Cold Creek Buffalo Company, second and third place winner and Hoyt, Martha and Bruce Anderson, Western Buffalo Company, third place sponsor.

At right, winners of the Cutting Edge Carcass Class Heifers, along with trophy sponsors. From left to right, Zane Holcomb, Holcomb Buffalo Ranch, first place sponsor; Tori and Moritz Espy, 777 Ranch, first place winner; Evie Woodall, North Dakota Buffalo Association, second place sponsor; Tammy Hepper, Quarter Circle Y, second place winner; Josh Richert, Blue Valley Ranch, third place winner and Samantha and Brodie Limpert, Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, third place sponsor.







# Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Black Hills Buffalo Classic



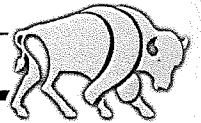
# 2015 Producer of the Year



*Sandy & Jacki Limpert • Brodie & Samantha Limpert*

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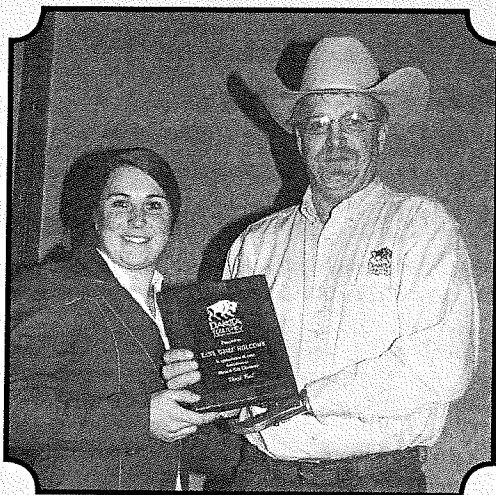
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The 2015 Black Hills Buffalo Classic Producer of the Year was Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch. Pictured above are the sponsors and winners. From left to right: Rod and Lynnette Sather, Mosquito Park Enterprises, sponsor; Sandy and Jacki Limpert, Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch; Cara and Moritz Espy, 777 Ranch, sponsors; Samantha and Brodie Limpert, Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch; Ron Bradeen and Lindi Lauren, Bradeen Auctions, sponsor; Bruce, Hoyt and Martha Anderson, Western Buffalo Company, sponsor and Kelly Schumacher, Scranton Equity Feeds, sponsor. Not pictured were sponsors Bob & Laurie Dineen, Rocky Mountain Natural Meats, Jud Seaman, Bradeen Auctions and Marlene Tesky, Scranton Equity Feeds.

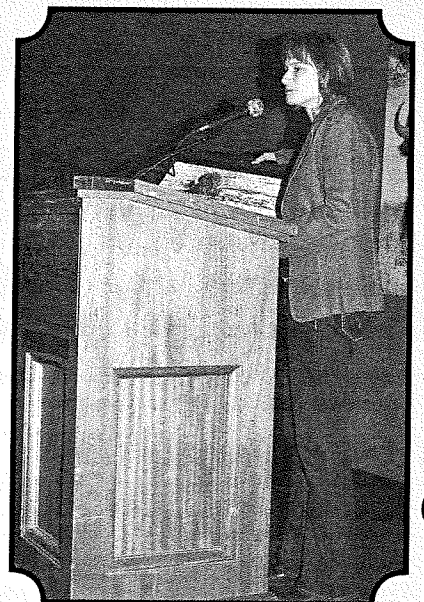


Marking the first time a consignor has won first place in both the Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge and the Girlz Gone Wild Two Year Old Bred Heifer Challenge in the same year, Sandy and Jacki Limpert, Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, accept a cash incentive award and a "crown" for their achievement from sponsors Larry Carr, Rafter K Bar and Steve McFarland, Horse Creek Bison.



At left, new DTBA President, Marielle Hewitt, presents Zane Holcomb with a plaque in appreciation of his years of service as the Show and Sale Chairman. "Grizz" as he is fondly called, has spent most of his time during the conferences out in the pens with judges and yard crews taking care of the buffalo and getting things ready for auction day. Thank you, Grizz, for all your efforts!

At right, outgoing President, Wendy Hutchinson, makes remarks after receiving her gift, a Kathy Sigle print titled "Heads Up". The print was one Wendy had wanted but also carried significant meaning for her time at the helm of the association. Many changes came about the past couple of years and Wendy was able to guide us and keep our head above water. Thank you, Wendy!





# Live Animal Market Is Evolving and Changing: It's A Wild Ride!

By Chad Kremer, BHBC Show & Sale Co-Chair

Whewww!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bulls averaged \$9,039 and Girlz Gone Wild Two Year Old Bred Heifers averaged \$5,043. Who would have thought? The quality of the bison entered into the challenges each year just continues to improve. When the DTBA set out on this mission of organizing a bull challenge, I don't know if we ever imagined how successful it might become.

The basic premise of the challenge was to assemble a group of bulls from different producers, which would then go to a host ranch for an entire year. Data would be collected, initially weights and gains, and now that along with ultrasound data on ribeye measurement, scrotal measurement and confirmation judging. This would take out the differences in feeding programs and hopefully give a true snapshot of how that individual animal would perform in a real working situation. We now are moving towards placing more emphasis on just the actual data collected and providing the statistics to allow the potential buyer to make their selections with that information. All the entries will be conformationally correct and structurally sound. This will take personal judging opinions out of the mix. We continue to fine tune these two challenge classes, with input from the consignors, the buyers and the host ranches.

Our thanks to the Limpert family at Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch in Buffalo, SD for stepping up to host the Young Guns bulls for their fourth year and to the Leier family at Heartland Bison Ranch in Rugby, ND for hosting the Girlz Gone Wild for the first time this year. We could not do these programs without the host ranches and their commitment and dedication is greatly appreciated.

Can you believe this past sale season? Now that it's winding down and I've had time to reflect, this stronger market certainly surprised most of us. I know that a week after the Custer State Park (CSP) annual auction this past November, I had a conversation with a longtime acquaintance in the business and he commented that he was receiving calls from folks in the business asking why such high prices and who was buying? A month or so later the CSP auction looked more reasonably priced! I suspected prior to the auction that the market was going to be a little stronger, but certainly nowhere near where it ended up at the end of the day.

I know in my DAY job as Herd Manager for Custer State Park, I receive many calls year round and especially just prior to the sale season, inquiring as to what the live sale prices are going to be this year. Many of these calls are from potential new producers as well as long time producers that may not be "active" in the industry. In visiting with folks in the past few months, I've reflected on who and where the calls have come from the last two years. It may be a surprise to some just how much diversity there is in the people expressing an interest in

the bison business.

There are the people with the typical farm and ranch background, but then we also have a large, and in my opinion, growing number of potential producers that are coming from an even greater diversity. I've had inquiries and spent a considerable amount of time visiting with those people, both on the phone and in person, as they are interested in visiting face to face here at the park. I've had 30-somethings from major metropolitan cities, with no large animal experience all the way to wise second, and maybe even third, career successes that are searching for a more relaxing way to spend their time. Not looking particularly for the easy lifestyle, but one that is more fulfilling at the end of the day while enjoying the sunset.

One item that I've noticed that many of these folks have had in common is the commitment and interest in researching the existing buffalo business and ways or methods of doing business. They are after a successful financial model, one that - if I might say - is not always to their liking. It's also made me realize that they might not understand that many successful "ag" background producers have invested the "sweat" equity to make their operations successful. Many who went through the market swing in the last 20 years have experienced that equity. They made it through the market collapse in 2002 and they did whatever was necessary to ride out the storm. Those factors are not always clear when on the outside looking in, as in the case of these folks exploring their options.

It's encouraging to see the renewed interest in our chosen business. I believe that these potential new producers are going to be a dynamic part of the bison business in years to come. They will bring new ideas and processes that are "outside the box" from traditional practices. I believe it will be a long trail for change and some will weather the highs and lows and succeed.

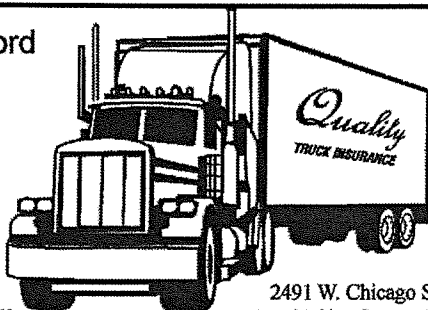
So, what can we anticipate in the market in the coming years? My opinion is the meat industry is in a period of change. With the high beef prices consumers are seeing now, it could upset that industry substantially in the next several years. We all know that there are the cycles and predicting when that cycle has peaked and will trend downward again is the question. The beef industry may be in line for a major shake up. Physics dictate that items accelerate as they go down!

The buffalo industry has been through a severe shake up and we've weathered through it and built it back to where we are today. We are in great times right now. My challenge to each of you is to establish a plan for your operation and weigh the options available. Exciting times are ahead for us. There is new interest in this glorious animal. Let's continue to share our experience and move ahead within this competitive meat industry. Our shining day is yet to come!

Linda Bickford



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## Wyoming Changes Official ID

From the Casper Journal

The Wyoming Livestock Board is moving away from the use of the Wyoming green tag as official identification for cattle due to federal official identification requirements.

The Wyoming green tag program began in 2000 to provide a mechanism for cattle producers to identify sexually intact female cattle prior to change of ownership if they had lost their Brucellosis vaccination tag or other official identification.

March 11 is the last day Wyoming issued "green" tags may be applied to cattle or bison for use as "official ID" for interstate movement and disease testing. USDA rules mandate that official ear tag identification devices applied after March 11 must be imprinted with an official shield which the green tags do not have.

Wyoming green tags applied on or before March 11 will be recognized by USDA as "official," and cattle already identified with a Wyoming green tag do not have to have an additional tag applied.

Wyoming green tags applied after March 11 will no longer be considered as "official" and will not qualify livestock for interstate movement or disease testing.

Wyoming green tags may continue to be used on (Brucellosis) non-vaccinated feeder heifers in WY Approved feedlots and heifers leaving the DSA prior to Brucellosis calfhood vaccination.

The Wyoming Livestock Board will continue to honor producer requests for official bovine identification by issuing silver identification tags directly to producers upon request.

Wyoming accredited veterinarians may still acquire silver cattle identification tags (and taggers) from the Cheyenne USDA APHIS VS office.

For more information, call 307-777-7515.

## Vore Buffalo Jump Seeks Donations

The Vore Buffalo Jump Foundation Board is requesting your help. During the 2014 tourist season, income from admissions covered the labor costs of the VBJ's summer interpretive staff, but not much more. The VBJ Foundation Board decided in 2013 to risk taking a loan from Sundance State Bank to pay for the water well and our beautiful tipi-style exhibit building. The loan needs to be paid off at an expected rate of \$20,000 per year. The other major monetary issue facing us is that we learned from our liability insurance carrier that the Site will not be allowed to open with insurance coverage next spring unless a steel guard rail and a hand rail are installed to prevent visitors from falling over the rim into the sinkhole.

To enable us to pay for the tipi and the rail, we are jumping into our first ever capital campaign. We are off to an excellent start. We are fortunate to have received partial funding for the rail through a grant of \$5,640 from the Wyoming Cultural Trust and through donations from several of the VBJF Board members and long-time supporters.

The non-profit VBJF desperately needs your support. Your contributions are tax deductible. Individual donors of more than \$100 and corporate donors of more than \$250 will be acknowledged on a plaque that will be mounted on the new rail. We are very much hoping to exceed the amount needed for the rail with this fund drive. All funds in excess of the rail costs will be put toward the tipi loan.

The Vore Site is a treasure. Please help us ensure that we can continue to host visitors interested in Plains Indians history for years to come.

You may donate through our web site (<http://www.vorebuffalojump.org/content/capital-campaign/>) or send to Vore Buffalo Jump Foundation at PO Box 369, Sundance, WY 82729. Please include your name and address. Thanks!

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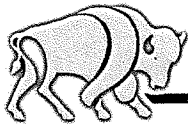
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# South Dakota Tops Nation In Bison Sales - And That's Nothing New

*Editor's Note: This article first appeared in the Mitchell (SD) Daily Republic. A nice nod to South Dakota and our leading role in the industry. Ralph and Mary Mahoney are charter members of the DTBA and great supporters of anything buffalo and we wanted to share this story with all our members.*

**By Caitlynn Peetz, Forum News Service**

South Dakota is becoming known as the state that consistently proves itself as a vital contributor to the economy in a big way: raising and producing bison.

South Dakota is the leading producer of bison in the United States — and that's nothing new. Since bison inventory began in 2002, South Dakota has always been tops in producing the mammoth creatures. It currently produces 20.7 percent of the country's total bison at 33,637 head, according to the most updated statistics from the United States Department of Agriculture. These numbers are down from the last two censuses in 2007 and 2002, as the average during those years was about 39,435 head.

Not surprisingly, North Dakota follows suit as the No. 2 producer in the nation. Nebraska, Colorado and Missouri round out the top five.

S.D. boasts 104 bison farms, 82 of which record meat sales, the most of any U.S. state besides Texas.

### Humble beginnings

Ralph Mahoney and his wife, Mary, of Fulton, are no stranger to the ranching scene as they founded Mahoney Buffalo and Cattle Ranch in 1963 with just three buffalo. That number ballooned to 400 to 500 head at one point, but as the Mahoney's have aged, that number has dropped and holds steady at 35.

It was love at first sight for the Mahoneys.

"I was reading a story about buffalo one evening and I knew of a fellow that had just started with buffalo out in White River ... I read that story about them buffalo and I thought, 'I've gotta have some.' So I got on the phone and called him and I bought three of them over the phone that night. I fell in love with them."

Over the years, the Mahoneys expanded. They bought more land and more bison.

It wasn't always easy — there were three major blows due to disease outbreaks or simply a lack in demand — but the good times were anything but uncommon.

"We butcher between 30 and 35 a year. Pheasant season is a big one for us, and there are two hunting camps that serve buffalo to their hunters, so they take a lot. Dakotafest is another good run. And The Depot (in Mitchell) has really been good to us," Mahoney said.

And by good, Mahoney means that The Depot buys around 200 pounds of bison meat from Mahoney Buffalo and Cattle Ranch every month.

### Bison or beef?

Along with being the reigning leader in bison production, S.D. checks in at No. 5 in beef cow production, behind Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Nebraska, begging the question: is bison or beef meat better?

The price of bison meat is about double the price of beef. There's a reason for that, though.

Along with taking a year longer for buffalo to be mature enough to be slaughtered, according to the National Bison Association, bison meat is the healthier alternative compared to beef. Per 100 grams of cooked lean meat, bison contains 2.42 grams of fat and 143 calories compared to beef's 9.28 grams of fat and 211 calories.

As for the taste difference, Mahoney says there really isn't one. "The only difference is, if you ate a 12-ounce beef steak and you were full, about 8 ounces of bison would make you full," he said.

Contrary to what some may think, raising bison and raising other cattle, such as cows, is a vastly different experience.

"You have to know them. Everything you know about cattle is completely different than buffalo. Our corral fences have to be a lot stronger and you have to know how to be able to handle them — they're still a wild animal. Have they gotten after me before? Yeah, I've been lucky though, staying away from serious injury."

### 'Starting to phase down'

Along with raising bison for consumption, the Mahoney's took their talents to breeding and showing their livestock.

The couple showed their bison at the National Western Stock Show in Denver for 21 straight years before the long, nearly nine-hour drive simply became too much.

The Mahoneys were also involved with creating the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association based out of Rapid City. The organization was formed to promote and educate the public about the buffalo industry.

Their good fortune isn't necessarily limited to success with bison, though. Through the years of hauling buffalo to different locations, the couple has created strong friendships across the country and into Canada.

The Mahoneys have found an abundance of success making bison farming their living rather than just a hobby. But as for the future of the ranch, Mahoney said with his and his wife's aging and lack of outside help, they're going to continue to downsize.

"We're starting to phase down. I'll keep farming as long as I can, but I guess there are times in life when you just have to slow down a little bit. Buffalo are a lot of work and it's gotten to the point where I can't do it how I want to, so I've started slowing down. I'm going to keep some buffalo. It's just a part of our lives. There have been ups and downs, but it has been interesting. We were blessed."

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Custer State Park Fall Classic - November 15, 2014

Class	Animals Sold	High \$	Low \$	Average \$	2013 Average	Average Weight	Price/lb.
Mature Cows, Bred	7	\$3,000.00	\$1,650.00	\$2,543.00	\$1,855.00	953	\$2.67
Mature Cows, Open	21	\$2,400.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,664.00	\$1,130.00	1023	\$1.63
Two Year Old Heifers, Bred	8	\$3,700.00	\$2,900.00	\$3,238.00	\$2,211.00	844	\$3.84
Two Year Old Heifers, Open	4	\$1,850.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,813.00	\$1,400.00	715	\$2.54
Yearling Heifers	36	\$2,250.00	\$1,450.00	\$1,801.00	\$1,198.00	606	\$2.97
Heifer Calves, Heavy Cut	30	\$1,400.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,264.00	\$1,119.00	346	\$3.60
Heifer Calves, Light Cut	20	\$1,150.00	\$1,025.00	\$1,095.00	\$1,341.00	300	\$3.65
Bull Calves, Heavy Cut	32	\$1,700.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,658.00	\$1,099.00	378	\$4.39
Bull Calves, Light Cut	29	\$1,500.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,446.00	\$895.00	317	\$4.56
Yearling Bulls	34	\$2,500.00	\$1,700.00	\$2,003.00	\$1,533.00	651	\$3.08
Two Year Old Grade Bulls	3	\$2,700.00	\$1,900.00	\$2,300.00	\$1,850.00	850	\$2.71
<b>Total Animals Sold</b>	<b>224</b>						

Prairie Sky Guest and Game Ranch First Annual Buffalo Auction - November 30, 2014 - Veblen, SD

Class	Animals Sold	High \$	Low \$	Average \$	2013 Average	Average Weight	Price/lb.
Mature Cows, Open	5	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,175.00	1050	\$1.29
Heifer Calves, Heavy Cut	55	\$1,500.00	\$1,450.00	\$1,464.00	\$1,050.00	419	\$3.49
Heifer Calves, Light Cut	24	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$850.00	335	\$4.18
Bull Calves, Heavy Cut	54	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,390.00	444	\$4.39
Bull Calves, Light Cut	25	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,240.00	350	\$5.14
Mature Bulls	10	\$3,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$2,835.00	N/A	1500-2000	N/A
<b>Total Animals Sold</b>	<b>173</b>						

Brownotter Buffalo Ranch Auction - December 1, 2014 - Mobridge, SD

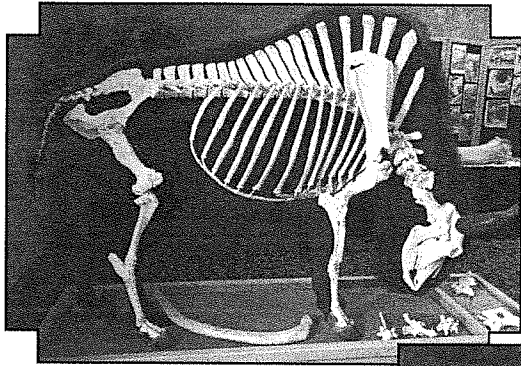
Class	Animals Sold	High \$	Low \$	Average \$	2013 Average	Average Weight	Price/lb.
Bull Calves, Heavy Cut	114	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	\$1,460.00	423	\$4.61
Bull Calves, Light Cut	16	\$1,650.00	\$1,550.00	\$1,613.00	\$1,160.00	322	\$5.01
Bull Calves, Flyweight	10	\$1,275.00	\$1,275.00	\$1,275.00	N/A	233	\$5.48
Heifer Calves, Heavy Cut	145	\$1,550.00	\$1,560.00	\$1,555.00	\$1,060.00	394	\$3.94
Heifer Calves, Light Cut	19	\$1,285.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,298.00	\$890.00	325	\$3.99
Heifer Calves, Flyweight	11	\$1,075.00	\$1,075.00	\$1,075.00	N/A	226	\$4.75
Heifer Calf - baby	1	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	N/A	135	\$3.70
Yearling Bulls	12	\$2,200.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,367.00	N/A	627	\$3.78
Yearling Bul, Light Cut	1	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$550.00	N/A	445	\$1.24
Yearling Heifers	13	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	N/A	522	\$3.16
Mature Cows, Open	20	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	N/A	944	\$1.48
<b>Total Animals Sold</b>	<b>362</b>						

January 24, 2015 NBA Gold Trophy Show & Sale - Denver, CO

Group	Animals Sold	High \$	Low \$	Average \$	2014 Average \$	Average Weight	Price/lb.
Heifer Calves	17	\$2,900	\$1,300	\$1,609	\$1,700	446	\$3.61
Bull Calves	17	\$10,800	\$1,100	\$2,365	\$1,750	498	\$4.75
Yearling Heifers	9	\$6,000	\$1,100	\$3,361	\$2,460	860	\$3.91
Yearling Bulls	13	\$8,250	\$1,600	\$5,417	\$5,129	1087	\$4.98
2 Yr Old Bred Heifers	13	\$10,000	\$3,500	\$5,159	\$3,517	1101	\$4.69
2 Yr Old Bulls	8	\$21,000	\$4,500	\$8,656	\$6,850	1633	\$5.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>						

Black Hills Buffalo Classic Sale - February 8, 2015 - Rapid City, SD

Class	Animals Sold	High \$	Low \$	Average \$	2014 Average \$	Average Weight	Price/lb.
Girlz Gone Wild Two Year Old Bred Heifers	34	\$10,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$5,043.00	\$3,986.00	1018	\$4.95
Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bulls	27	\$14,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$9,039.00	\$5,726.00	1229	\$7.35
<b>Total Animals Sold</b>	<b>61</b>						



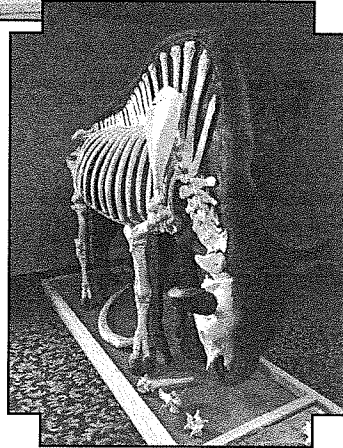
A man of many talents and always willing to lend a hand, Doc Woerner shows his student side! Doc attended Jill O'Brien's cooking class and got enlisted to help with some of the prep duties in the kitchen.

Many thanks to Lynnette Sather and Wendy Hutchinson for sharing their conference photos throughout this newsletter. We appreciate it!

This one-of-a-kind full bison mount was at our conference courtesy of Dr. Don "Doc" Woerner of Laurel, MT.

This was one of Doc's bulls and he decided to have it mounted to help educate people about the bison and its structure. With one side the skeleton and the other side done traditionally, it gives a unique perspective on the animal.

Thank you, Doc, for sharing this great learning tool with us!



### Members Needed For Committees

During the recent Board of Directors planning meeting, several new committees were formed or are being revamped. In order to make these committees effective, we need you, the members, to help serve on them!

The committees currently in place are the Show and Sale committee; Winter Conference committee and Communications and Marketing committee. These all play vital roles in moving our association forward and we can't do that without your help.

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please contact the office or any board member and let them know of your desire to serve the association in this role. We need your input, your ideas and your perspective to make these committees the best they can be.



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW MEMBER  
 RETURNING MEMBER



First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Ranch Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

2015 (if not yet paid. See label on this newsletter) DTBA Membership Dues @ \$50 Each \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive newsletters and communications via email.

I prefer to receive newsletters and communications via postal service.

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE DAKOTA TERRITORY BUFFALO ASSOCIATION or DTBA**

Mail to: DTBA, PO Box 4104, Rapid City, SD 57709-4104

