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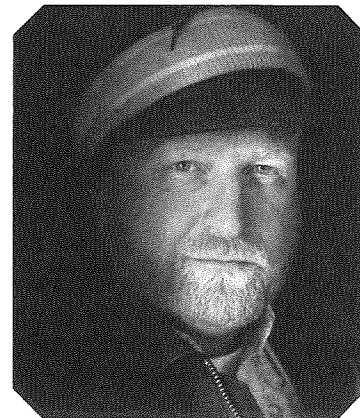
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**DTBA OFFICE**

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## Notes From The President - Moritz Espy

First off. Thank you everyone who made the Winter Conference a success, especially the Winter Conference Committee. I hope everyone made it home safe, and we appreciate the great turn out considering the weather conditions. Recently, the Show and Sale



Committee has been busy with the new Young Guns and Girlz Going Wild formats, scoring, and rules. Kevin Leier and Heartland Bison are going to do a wonderful job and I am looking forward to what next year brings us. So get entered up.

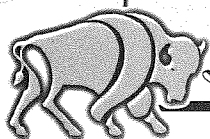
Karen, Patrick, Tammi, and myself are making headway on the Executive Director transition. Through coordinated meetings and open lines of communications, this should be a seamless process, but please be patient as we conduct the transition. The Scholarship Committee is getting off the ground with David Lutt and Liz Schroth taking the lead with help from Perry Handyside. The Membership Committee is taking shape with Kris Brown and myself leading and Greg Nott stating his interest in participating.

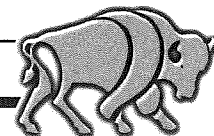
Please extend a hello to better get to know our new ED's. My call to action for anyone interested in serving on a committee or who can provide some input to help the DTBA better serve the membership remains open. My phone number is on the front page.

There are many changes coming. A shift to a video sale will open up options for different options with the Winter Conference. Keep an eye on our website as we post new information regarding changes being made and general membership updates.

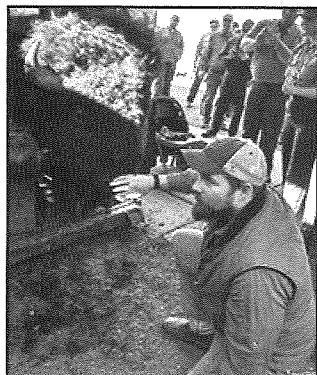
Also don't forget to support the Stormo family and the MNBA by signing up for their spring conference April 20-22 in Watertown, SD.

I will see you all there. Have a good spring.  
~ Moritz





# Executive Directors Report - Patrick Toomey & Tammi Cooley



So it begins.... This past conference marks the start of a new era of the DTBA and a passing of the torch from 2017 DTBA Pioneer Award and NBA Member of the Year, Karen Conley. Tammi and I will be taking on more responsibility and begin transferring the reins from Karen. There is still a lot to learn, so please be patient. That being said, Karen is not going away. As a new member of the

Show and Sale Committee we will still have her wealth of knowledge and previous experience to help us in the transition of the organization.

This is an exciting time for the DTBA. As we move forward Tammi and I look to increase engagement to the membership

through increased Committee involvement and input. We have already started this process with the Show and Sale Committee, and are excited to start the Scholarship and Membership Committees up and running. After a much needed break, the Winter Conference Committee will be ready to start planning 2019's Winter Conference with some new ideas and a new format to match the video sale.

Overall, the Executive Directors are excited to begin serving the membership and building relationships. These relationships



are the foundation of DTBA's success. Feel free to give us a call or shoot us an email about an idea or suggestion you have, or simply as an introduction. Look forward to working with you.

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 Discussing symptoms, treatment and prevention

**Grazing Mix Discussion**  
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**Farm Management Development**  
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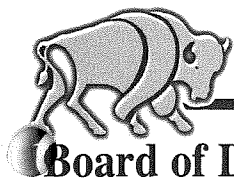
**Grain-Fed Finishing Protocol and Panel**  
 The How-To in Grain-fed finishing

**The Calving Book**  
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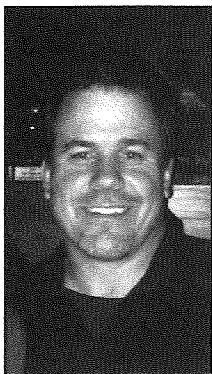
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## Board of Directors

### Vice President: Boyd Meyer



What an interesting year this has been for our Young Guns and Girlz Going Wild classes. We started off with 54 bulls and 32 heifers. The summer grass season went pretty well with gains being excellent on the bulls and very good on the heifers. We hit a speed bump in the middle of the feed test on the bulls that would have an effect on the sale.

The sale featured 21 bulls and 31 heifers. The good news on the bull sale was every bull sold as a breeding bull. The bad news is prices were not at an acceptable level. I thought the heifer sale went pretty well, but a few bottom end females brought the average down. On a high note our yard crew did a excellent job and all the animals were loaded without incident. Also I would like to thank our host ranchers Kevin Leir and Larry Carr for bringing a nice set of animals to town.

As we turn the page to this years event, your show and sale committee came up with some great changes for this years classes. The scoring will be different on both the bulls and the heifers. The bulls will be scored based on 20% incoming weight, 20% grass gain, 20% feed gain, 20% total gain, and 20% judging. The heifers will be scored similarly, based on 25% incoming weight, 25% grass gain, 25% 60-day, light feed test, and 25% judging. To clarify, the incoming weight will be done when they go to grass, not when they arrive. The largest incoming weight will score the highest. The top third of the bulls will go to auction, while the top 80% of the heifers will go to town.

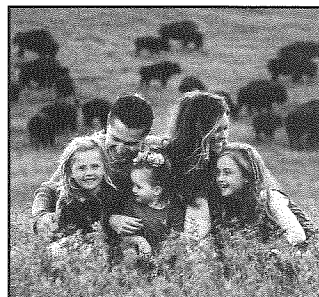
Another exciting change is we will sell all animals through a video auction. This auction will be on Saturday night at the hotel. Another change to the auction will be having the animals housed at the 777 Ranch during the conference, and not the Stock Show. The savings from not being at the Stock Show will help fund our North American Producer's Challenge, which includes prize money for the best producers, including a distribution of \$4000 for 1st place (Producer of the Year), \$2250 for 2nd place, and \$1250 for 3rd place. To be eligible for Producer of the Year you must enter both classes. Entry limits are 6 bulls and 3 heifers.

I personally am very excited about the 2018 contest. Kevin Leier and Heartland Bison in Rugby, ND will be hosting both classes this year, and I am sure he will do a great job. Kevin, thank you for hosting these classes, it is much appreciated.

### Treasurer: Kristopher Brown

I have been fascinated by our natural world and many species of animals for as long as I can remember. While growing up, I spent as much time as possible in the outdoors, learning and striving to further my knowledge on the interesting life of animals. After years of working for my fathers' construction company and successfully running a business called Vital

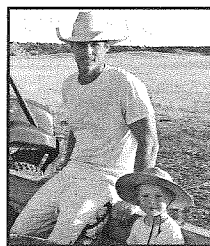
Exotics with my wife; breeding, raising and selling high end collector exotic reptiles, we longed for something different. Even though I wasn't raised in an agricultural setting, ranching, livestock and the way of life surrounding them has been a passion of mine for many years.



But Wisconsin is a farm state, not a ranch state right? I spent the next few years looking for a way to combine my affinity and passion for animals and ranching along with my desire to work outdoors into something that would allow my wife Roxy and to raise our 3 daughters in a better way. Fast-forward 4 years later, almost 700 head of amazing bison and here we are, after building Grand View Bison Ranch from the ground up out of an existing dairy and row crop farm. I am now grateful to have the opportunity to work with an incredibly fascinating animal species as a team alongside my wife, and integrating our daughters into the ranch life.

My passion for the bison species as well as the industry runs deep, and I was very honored when it was been brought to my attention by some very respected friends in the industry that I should run for a board of directors position for the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association. I am proud to be elected to the board! I take pride in my everyday adventures in the industry and am extremely motivated to help further the future of the industry. I will strive to educate the public, along with newcomers and continue to learn from and respect all the hard working individuals that have set the groundwork to allow my family and I to be a part of raising and earning a living from this wonderful animal.

### Colton Jones



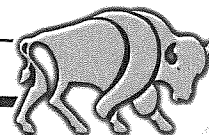
From an early age I became fascinated with nature. My brother, mom, dad and I lived on my grandparent's farm east of Lincoln NE about 30 miles. It was here that my grandpa laid the foundation for what would turn into a lifetime appreciation for all animals tame and wild.

He taught me the intricacies of gaining an animal's trust along with standing your ground when necessary. He taught me how everything in nature has a place including ourselves. He also taught me the obligations we have to wildlife and livestock because of our influence on them.

I learned that a clean kill is the only type of kill and that animal husbandry is of the utmost importance because it's the animals that support our livelihood.

I took these principles with me to Spearfish, South Dakota where I graduated with a Bachelor's in Biology and a minor in Business Management from Black Hills State University.

Throughout the course of college, I worked for Dan O'Brien.



My work with him began by building roughly 50 miles bison fence with his nephew. I enjoyed the experience, but it did make me realize a college degree might be an asset.

By the time I finished college, Dan had taught me the ins and outs of responsible land stewardship, low stress bison handling, ranch management, mobile harvest management, and sourcing skills. There was zero hesitation for acceptance when I was offered a management position for all of these areas from Wild Idea Buffalo Co.

Shortly after taking my position at Wild Idea, I married my best friend who also happen to be Dan's daughter. Throughout the course of 6 years, Jilian and I would have two beautiful boys: Lincoln, 3 years old and Barrett, 8 months old. We would also purchase our own ranch and bison. We have also grown our family's herd from 200 head to now 700 strong.

Wild Idea's group of producers also expanded from a few, to a dozen now. This would in turn require a larger mobile harvest unit which was acquired in 2015. The addition of the larger harvest unit extended the geographical range in which it unit could operate. Wild Idea's geographic range of producers went form exclusively South Dakota, to Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming as well. All the time, harvesting grass fed free range bison and supporting the conservation efforts of the producers who manage them.

Today, I continue my quest to search out new producer's that are looking for an alternative way to market their animals. It is this process that has allowed me to gain knowledge from some of the most respectable people in the bison industry, regardless as to whether they contribute to Wild Idea's sourcing or not. It has been one of the greatest learning experiences of my life, and I don't anticipate that ending.

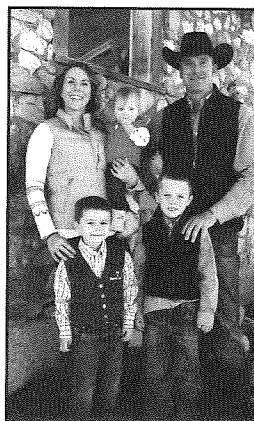
I feel very privileged to serve on the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association board of directors. I see it as an opportunity to continue to gain knowledge while providing a voice for our 180 dedicated members. I plan on utilizing my time as a board director to gain insight from all producer's big and small. I will use this insight to create balance and unity among the association as I believe the DTBA's biggest strength is its diverse member base.

I will use my knowledge in buffalo handling/management, sustainable land stewardship, and producer relations to provide guidance, insight, and troubleshooting for any who seek it. My goal is to increase member diversity, maintain balance within the DTBA, provide a voice for all of our member's operations big and small. And last but not least, provide guidance in perpetuating the buffalo as the great North American native animal by promoting animal welfare, sustainability, and conservation to preserve the species integrity.

**Liz Schroth**

I grew up in eastern SD on a beef and crop operation. After high school I attended SDSU where I received a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science. I've worked as a veterinary technician and also for an animal health supplier.

I entered into the bison industry when I met my husband,



Dave, who was managing 777 at the time. Once married we moved to Saskatchewan, Canada where we managed a bison operation. Dave was overall manager of bison herd and I managed the herd health. We didn't stay long as we missed "home". We moved back to SD briefly and from there came to Cheyenne, WY where we still reside. My husband is manager at Cold Creek Buffalo/Polaris Feeding, and I stay home with our three young kids, Quinton 6 yrs old, Landon 4 yrs old, and Cora just turned 1. We have our

own bison herd we operate as Strategy Bison. We bought our first cows 6 years ago and have slowly built our herd from there. We focus on quality performance animals. I enjoy having our own operation that our kids can be part of and take pride in.

I'm excited to be serving on the board of directors for DTBA. I think the bison industry has great potential. I want everyone to have all the tools they need to be successful. I think the association can be a great resource to producers. I want members to turn to it as a sanctuary to learn topics affecting the bison industry, current events, and tools of success in their own operation. The relationships built within the association can only help strengthen the industry. I admire the willingness of each producer to help one another. I hope my education and experience in animal health can help educate producers on herd health and the importance of such management.

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## Conference Updates

### National Bison Association 2018 Winter Conference

The National Bison Association held their annual Winter Conference in Denver, CO January 17-21. The bison event of the year is always a great place to get together with fellow producers, rekindle old friendships, and learn ways to better out ranches and operations. There is also a lot of work being conducted by other bison organizations this week, including The Nature Conservancy and Turner Enterprises annual meetings. Additional, InterTribal Buffalo Council and other partners are present, providing an opportunity to make connections and build bridges.

Wednesday January 17th, Patrick met with the NBA Conservation Committee. This committee was created several years ago to confront the notion that bison producers are not stewards of the land and are destroying their rangelands. Discussions centered on their draft Conservation Management Plan. This Plan is an inclusive, producer driven, voluntary outline for achieving an NBA Conservation Herd Status for marketing and promotional purposes. Ultimately the committee wanted to ensure that bison producers enrolled in the program were objectively looking at their land and resources and critically thinking of ways to improve their operations. After the meeting Donald Beard of Caprock Canyon State Park (TX), Ken Klemm of The Buffalo Guys, LLC (KS), and Mimi Hillenbrand of the 777 Ranch (SD) invited Patrick to join the Conservation Committee.

Thursday, January 18th, began with meeting the NBA's Science and Research Committee. This committee was established roughly 18 months ago and has since been searching for non-governmental funding sources and willing partners in bison research. In a collaborative effort, ITBC handed over their *Bison Diseases Field Guide* to the Science and Research Committee to update, annotate, and add to after the International Bison Conference in Big, Sky. Dr. Murray Woodbury (University of Saskatchewan) and Dr. Dave Hunter (Turner Enterprises) stated that the second edition of the disease manual should be finished by late spring/early summer. After this, most of the discussion centered around the possible research potential and how difficult it is without a dedicated program at a research university. Dr. Bill Gibbons of South Dakota State University (SDSU) was introduced and discussed the commitment of SDSU to bison production and research within South Dakota, specifically, and the industry as a whole. He mentioned the partnership being formed between SDSU and Sinte Gleska University, Rosebud's Tribal College, to establish a research station dedicated to bison research on the Rosebud Reservation. Microsoft's Mark Freeman was in attendance and was asked to approach the powers that be at Microsoft Corp. for potentially helping with creating an endowed position at SDSU specifically for bison research. This would allow the NBA, via SDSU and Sinte Gleska, to pursue more funding. The last hour or so of the meeting centered on upcoming NIFA awards, which are slated at \$10 million per award, to establish long-term research programs at universities and research groups. The possibilities surrounding this type of funding within the bison realm are endless, including extension and outreach services. At the end of the meeting, Phil Baird of Sinte Gleska was appointed to the committee to represent Tribal research interests.

The State and Regional Committee meeting was a good experience for Patrick Toomey to meet with our sister organizations across the country. After updates, Committee Chair, Jud Seaman, posed a proposition about a State and Regional retreat in September. After some discussion, and input, succession planning was decided to be the topic of choice. Time and location of this retreat is still to be determined.

This Conference is always jam packed with information. Mark Freeman with Microsoft, presented on the possibilities of fusing agriculture and technology in the bison industry. Panels regarding new and old producers, Bison 1 Million, and Mycoplasma provided unique perspectives for attendees to mull over. Finishing and Conservation planning were also discussed through Turner Enterprises' presentations. Overall, there was a wealth of information to take home and apply to our operations.

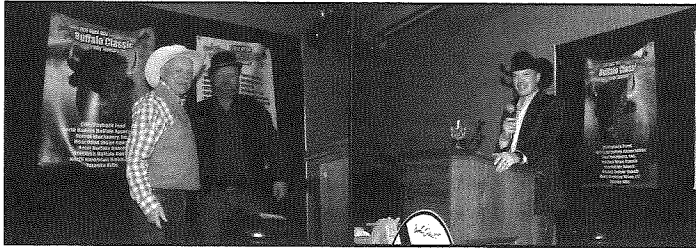
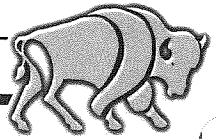


Recognition for two DTBA members must be issued as well. DTBA Vice President, Boyd Meyer, was elected Director at Large of the NBA's Board of Directors. Karen Conley was then recognized as the 2017 NBA Member of the Year. Congratulations to each of them!

### DTBA 2018 Winter Conference

And just like that the Winter Conference came and went. It always seems like Conference season is so far away, until it passes us by so quickly. Reconnecting with old friends, learning new information, and getting updates on industry happenings are the things I always look forward to each and every year.

This year marked the end of Brodie Limpert's and Perry Handyside's terms on the Board of Directors. We would like to offer our thanks for your service and look forward to working with each of you for advice and experience. Cody Kloekel also decided to step down from the Board due to personal reasons, and not feeling like he could commit his best to the Association. We thank Cody for his year of service and look forward to when he can serve us again. This left DTBA with three Board seats which were filled by Colton Jones (SD), Kris Brown (SD), and Liz Schroth (WY). After a board call, Liz pulled the short straw and will fulfill the rest of Cody's two years. I also wanted to mention the fourth candidate that was not elected to the Board, Greg Nott (CO). Despite not being elected to the Board, Greg will still be an important part of the new DTBA Membership Committee.

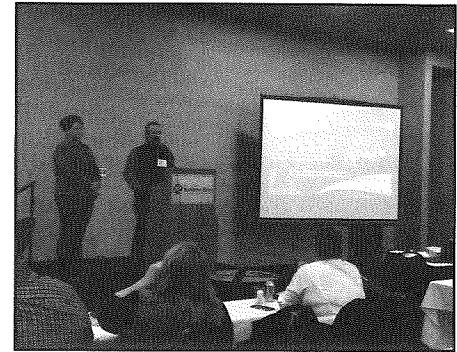


Perry Handyside (left) and Brody Limpert complete their two terms on the Board of Directors. Photos courtesy of David Sinclair and Karen Conley.

Speaking of Committees, there are two new ones for 2018! Perry Handyside laid out the framework and ideas about both, the Scholarship Committee and Membership Committee. The Scholarship Committee is being established to help DTBA give back to the future generations and establish sustainable bison producers for the future. The Membership Committee is organized to help promote DTBA outside of the Winter Conference and Shaw and Sale, by engaging membership and helping with outreach throughout the year. Perry and Greg have each agreed to be on the Scholarship and Membership Committees, respectively, and Board members have been assigned to each. If you are interested in joining either of these new committees please feel free to contact either Patrick or Moritz for more information.

After business was conducted, the learning began. A panel centered on engineering success within our industry was conducted and included various prominent producers and processors within DTBA including Bob Dineen, Bruce Anderson, Marielle Hewitt, Boyd Meyer, and Moritz Espy. Kevin Leier outlined the monetary differences between good and great breeding stock and how breaking down the information using various analyzes can help producers earn more. Chad Kremer provided a heartfelt and informative overview of the Legion Lake Fire and how it affected both Custer State Park and his private operation, including the decision making process for culling affected animals. Dr. Dustin

Oedekoven, South Dakota's State Veterinarian, also came by to provide and update of disease happenings in South Dakota, with an emphasis on Mycoplasma. The biggest takeaway from this was that until there is better tracking and reporting on the disease, there is not much that can be done in regards to research. Overall, the information provided at the conference was very educational and everyone left learning something new.



Chad Kremer updating the membership on the fire and how he managed his animals during the event. Photo courtesy of David Sinclair and Karen Conley.

Of course we couldn't end without mentioning the happenings of the banquet and awards. At the DTBA fun auction, we raised over \$10,000 for the organization, and \$31,000 for the Legion Lake Fire. Some highlights include a beautiful painting of the Custer State Park roundup with Chad Kremer (at least someone with a conspicuously similar moustache...) in the forefront, being purchased, and then gifted to the Kremers, a large hat that was auctioned off for \$500... With Jud Seaman auctioneering under the influence of helium and proceeds going to the new Scholarship Committee, and finally an amazingly poor taxidermy of prairie dogs and buffalo was sold to Karen Conley, who then immediately gave it to incoming Executive Director, Patrick Toomey. In addition to all of this, a crime was solved... kind of. Ron Bradeen managed to find his missing eagle after it was auctioned off. Finally, outgoing Executive Director Karen Conley was the recipient of the 2018 Pioneer Award for all her hard work in getting the DTBA off the ground and building it to where it stands now. Congratulations to Karen, and thank you to everyone who participated in the auction. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Check out DTBA on social media!



YouTube



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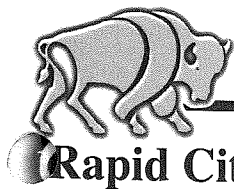


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# Rapid City in Agriculture

This year will be a busy one for farmers and ranchers in Rapid City and the West River of South Dakota. Besides the annual management of our ranches, having to put up with too little, or too much, rain, and trying our best to stay up on the business, the Grassfed Exchange and the Governor's Agricultural Summit are coming to Rapid City.

### The Grassfed Exchange -

June 20-22 at the Ramkota

From <https://grassfedexchange.com/>:



## THE GRASSFED EXCHANGE

"The Grassfed Exchange Conference is a gathering of regenerative ranchers, dairymen, and sustainable food supporters from across the world who come together to network and exchange ideas. We desire to help producers and consumers grow in the knowledge of the grassfed industry."

This conference will be held at the Ramkota in Rapid City, SD on Thursday June 21 and Friday June 22. Included on the agenda are SDSU president, Barry Dunn, and DTBA's own, Dan O'Brien of Wild Idea Buffalo Company. Breakout sessions include Bison: "Monarch of the Prairie- A Bison Resurgence", Grassfed Genetics- "The Extraordinary Power of Genetics", and Grazing Management- "Grazing Is Your Profit Center", among others. Site tours for the 777 Ranch and Wild Idea are also available.

### Governor's Ag Conference.

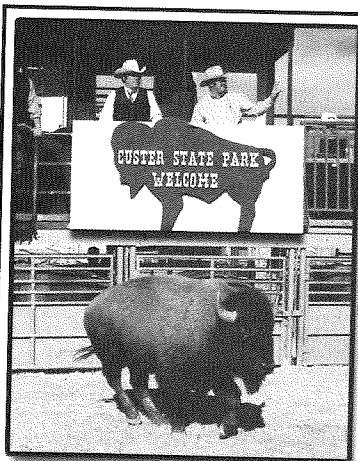


The Governor's Agricultural Summit brings together leaders in business, finance, education, government and production agriculture to demonstrate agriculture's comparative advantages and

discuss ways to harness the industry's potential for economic development.

This year's Governor's Agricultural Summit will be held: July 11-12, 2018 in Rapid City, SD.

Currently there is no agenda posted about this event. However previous agendas have included farm and ranch tours, production and extension panels, and have provided innovative information regarding agriculture in South Dakota.



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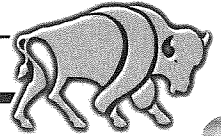
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# Market Updates

By Jim Matheson  
Assistant Director, NBA

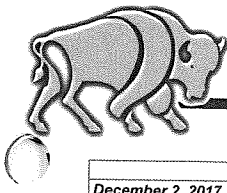
We've seen this year's live auction sale prices dip a bit as consignments have increased at most every bison auction this season. We've been hearing from marketers about the decline in market ready animals, particularly females, being brought to them over the last 12 months and most think this is due to herd expansion, which I

agree with. As a result, more live animals are in the marketplace and as a result, prices have dropped, but very little. Attached are this year's sale results, which despite the dip, shows very strong live animal pricing in today's ag economy.

\*\*All information compiled, organized, and provided by the National Bison Association\*\*

USDA Monthly Bison Report Summary												
Monthly January 2018 vs. December 2017 and vs. Previous Five Years (All Prices Cwt.)												
	Head Processed	Jan. 2018		Dec. 2017		Jan. 2017		Difference		Difference		Percent Change
		Weighted Avg.	Weighted Avg.	Weighted Avg.	Weighted Avg.	1-18 vs. 12-17	1-18 vs. 1-17	Jan. 2016	Jan. 2015	Jan. 14	Jan. 13	
								Weighted Ave.	Weighted Ave.	Weighted Ave.	Weighted Ave.	Jan. 2013 - Jan. 2
<b>WHOLESALE PRICES</b>												
Young Bulls	1,655	\$ 483.98	\$ 481.16	\$ 485.96	\$ 2.82	\$ (1.98)	\$ 431.20	\$ 409.17	\$ 387.22	\$ 388.29		125%
Young Heifers	1,051	\$ 470.59	\$ 471.95	\$ 452.06	\$ (1.36)	\$ 18.53	\$ 415.72	\$ 396.14	\$ 371.42	\$ 375.04		125%
Aged Bulls	25	\$ 434.80	\$ 419.47	\$ 410.89	\$ 15.33	\$ 23.91	\$ 363.40	\$ 325.85	\$ 297.55	\$ 281.52		154%
Aged Cows	368	\$ 416.01	\$ 413.30	\$ 405.38	\$ 2.71	\$ 10.63	\$ 353.30	\$ 298.78	\$ 271.73	\$ 268.40		155%
Ribeye, Lip-On Fresh	27,033	\$ 1,520.78	\$ 1,377.94	\$ 1,477.49	\$ 142.84	\$ 43.29	\$ 1,309.66	\$ 1,417.31	\$ 1,347.83	\$ 1,404.48		108%
Ribeye, Lip-On Frozen	1,200	\$ 1,515.00	\$ 1,510.00	\$ 1,338.56	\$ 5.00	\$ 176.44	\$ 1,105.00	\$ 1,141.34	\$ 1,290.47	\$ 1,217.16		124%
Chuckroll Fresh	59,634	\$ 695.74	\$ 123.24	\$ 696.29	\$ 572.50	\$ (0.55)	\$ 643.44	\$ 598.41	\$ 569.28	\$ 579.74		120%
Chuckroll Frozen	4,696	\$ 849.44	\$ 853.50	\$ 859.72	\$ (4.06)	\$ (10.28)	\$ 743.39	\$ 648.83	\$ 609.53	\$ 632.03		134%
Top Round Fresh	4,920	\$ 785.00	\$ 774.88	\$ 759.00	\$ 10.12	\$ 26.00	\$ 635.21	\$ 635.00	\$ 566.83	\$ 578.68		136%
Top Round Frozen	4,127	\$ 854.51	\$ 833.24	\$ 844.14	\$ 21.27	\$ 10.37	\$ 774.85	\$ 668.18	\$ 618.33	\$ 661.87		129%
Peeled Knuckle Fresh	1,435	\$ 777.64	\$ 774.21	\$ 761.96	\$ 3.43	\$ 15.68	\$ 700.00	\$ 650.79	\$ 607.35	\$ 628.96		124%
Peeled Knuckle Frozen	3,222	\$ 858.70	\$ 822.17	\$ 727.40	\$ 36.53	\$ 131.30	\$ 793.26	\$ 660.95	\$ 618.46	\$ 605.00		142%
Flats, Outside Round Fresh	1,257	\$ 826.00	\$ 776.03	\$ 772.27	\$ 49.97	\$ 53.73	\$ 702.36	\$ 694.40	\$ 597.25	\$ 659.71		125%
Flats, Outside Round Frozen	650	\$ 870.00	\$ 842.00	\$ 797.82	\$ 28.00	\$ 72.18	\$ 769.70	\$ 681.36	\$ 620.88	\$ 620.00		140%
Eye of Round Fresh	1,036	\$ 816.91	\$ 769.06	\$ 788.99	\$ 47.85	\$ 27.92	\$ 678.05	\$ 658.00	\$ 592.00	\$ 659.17		124%
Eye of Round Frozen	894	\$ 915.76	\$ -	\$ 832.85	\$ 915.76	\$ 82.91	\$ 771.32	\$ 721.29	\$ 624.49	\$ -		
Strip Loin Fresh	17,759	\$ 1,278.37	\$ 1,208.43	\$ 1,346.27	\$ 69.94	\$ (67.90)	\$ 1,209.59	\$ 1,350.70	\$ 1,257.31	\$ 1,341.80		95%
Strip Loin Frozen	627	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 1,040.24	\$ -	\$ 234.76	\$ 885.00	\$ 938.86	\$ 820.62	\$ 832.32		153%
Top Sirloin Fresh	4,363	\$ 843.31	\$ 736.04	\$ 847.42	\$ 107.27	\$ (4.11)	\$ 751.35	\$ 808.71	\$ 774.49	\$ 767.52		110%
Top Sirloin Frozen	-	\$ -	\$ 908.01	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 768.06	\$ 655.50	\$ 792.55		0%
Tenderloin Fresh	16,389	\$ 2,145.55	\$ 2,012.33	\$ 2,136.62	\$ 133.22	\$ 8.93	\$ 2,084.37	\$ 2,114.45	\$ 2,019.44	\$ 2,153.74		100%
Tenderloin Frozen	3,581	\$ 1,782.66	\$ 1,550.34	\$ 1,631.34	\$ 232.32	\$ 151.32	\$ 1,537.47	\$ 1,722.81	\$ 2,023.71	\$ 2,042.37		87%
Hearts	5,581	\$ 327.95	\$ 232.14	\$ 329.90	\$ 95.81	\$ (1.95)	\$ 190.71	\$ 173.70	\$ -	\$ -		
Liver	15,116	\$ 289.20	\$ 213.04	\$ 196.16	\$ 76.16	\$ 93.04	\$ 128.44	\$ 141.21	\$ -	\$ -		
Tongues	419	\$ 497.17	\$ 351.62	\$ 378.27	\$ 145.55	\$ 118.90	\$ 386.71	\$ 282.56	\$ -	\$ -		
Bison Trimmings 90% Fresh	16,443	\$ 724.42	\$ 706.39	\$ 774.32	\$ 18.03	\$ (49.90)	\$ 645.38	\$ 598.07	\$ 543.19	\$ 542.41		134%
Bison Trimmings 90% Frozen	12,337	\$ 770.00	\$ 780.00	\$ 776.16	\$ (10.00)	\$ (6.16)	\$ 685.00	\$ 585.00	\$ 534.53	\$ 532.83		145%
Bison Trim 85% Frozen	5,994	\$ 724.00	\$ 711.00	\$ 782.00	\$ 13.00	\$ (58.00)	\$ 661.32	\$ 550.00	\$ 519.98	\$ 488.52		148%
Ground 90% Bulk, Fresh	57,086	\$ 652.00	\$ 754.31	\$ 627.00	\$ (102.31)	\$ 25.00	\$ 598.00	\$ 581.26	\$ 595.05	\$ 571.74		114%
Ground 90% Bulk, Frozen	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 721.30	\$ 692.22	\$ 664.32	\$ 685.49		0%
Grnd 85% Bulk Fresh	-	\$ -	\$ 711.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Grnd 85% Bulk Frozen	102,353	\$ 761.44	\$ 744.44	\$ 764.76	\$ 17.00	\$ (3.32)	\$ 679.87	\$ 592.55	\$ 560.37	\$ 566.68		134%
Ground 90% Patties Frozen	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 745.00	\$ 725.00	\$ 725.00	\$ 735.00		0%
Grnd 85% Patties - Fresh	-	\$ -	\$ 782.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Grnd 85% Patties - Frozen	59,283	\$ 772.56	\$ 769.73	\$ 779.27	\$ 2.83	\$ (6.71)	\$ 690.76	\$ 601.21	\$ 559.21	\$ 569.92		136%
<b>CASE READY PRICES</b>												
Ground 90% Bulk Fresh	594,732	\$ 718.11	\$ 718.16	\$ 658.21	\$ (0.05)	\$ 59.90	\$ 655.57	\$ 639.35	\$ 610.00	\$ 619.00		116%
Case Rdy Grnd 85% Blk - Frozen	6,440	\$ 784.41	\$ 788.49	\$ 825.00	\$ (4.08)	\$ (40.59)	\$ 710.00	\$ 594.16	\$ 565.00	\$ 555.00		141%
Ground 90% Patties, Frozen	2,232	\$ 890.00	\$ 890.00	\$ 840.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 790.00	\$ 796.00	\$ 712.00	\$ 707.00		126%
Case Rdy 85% Patties Frozen	53,717	\$ 790.34	\$ 804.77	\$ 744.10	\$ (14.43)	\$ 46.24	\$ 690.56	\$ 618.11	\$ 575.00	\$ 540.00		146%
<b>CARCASS WEIGHTS</b>												
Young Bulls		658	676	607			622					
Young Heifers		577	545	527			549					
Aged Bulls		891	903	1,185			1,072					
Aged Cows		573	575	502			520					
Source: USDA AMS Grain and Livestock Market Reporting Service												





December 2, 2017 Western Bison Association Wild West Stampede - Utah							
Group	Animals Sold	High \$	Low \$	Average \$	2016 Average \$	Average Weight	Price/lb.
3 Yr. Bred Cows	8	\$4,500	\$3,300	\$3,925	\$3,300	983	\$3.99
Yearling Heifers	19	\$4,100	\$1,100	\$2,303	\$3,575	710	\$3.24
Yearling Bulls - Show	12	\$4,200	\$2,150	\$2,804	\$5,667	974	\$2.88
Heifer Calves - show	19	\$2,300	\$700	\$1,258	\$2,180	417	\$3.02
Heifers Calves - sale	7	\$1,200	\$650	\$971	\$1,707	379	\$2.56
Bull Calves - show	13	\$2,600	\$1,000	\$1,530	\$2,403	457	\$3.35
Bull Calves - Sale	22	\$1,200	\$500	\$1,063	\$1,913	343	\$3.10
2 Yr. Bred Heifers	18	\$6,800	\$1,500	\$3,547		1031	\$3.44
2 Yr. Bulls - Show	11	\$6,500	\$1,000	\$4,005		1329	\$3.01
2 Yr. Bulls - Sale	9	\$2,900	\$1,000	\$1,683		831	\$2.03
<b>Total Animals Sold</b>	<b>138</b>						

December 2, 2017 - Kansas Buffalo Association Fall Sale - Kansas							
Group	Animals Sold	High \$	Low \$	Average \$	2016 Average \$	Average Weight	Price/lb.
Bull Calves	175	\$3,100	\$900	\$1,910	\$1,962	374	\$5.13
Heifer Calves	117	\$2,000	\$800	\$1,565	\$1,574	359	\$4.42
Yearling Bulls	34	\$2,900	\$800	\$2,349	\$2,418	668	\$3.59
Yearling Heifers	28	\$3,000	\$1,200	\$2,036	\$2,235	573	\$3.55
2YBulls	9	\$3,200	\$2,300	\$2,755	\$3,113	822	\$3.42
2YBred Heifers	31	\$4,600	\$2,300	\$3,366		851	\$3.78
2YOpen Heifers	8	\$3,500	\$1,800	\$2,443	\$2,513	699	\$3.49
Bred Cows	60	\$3,900	\$1,700	\$2,564	\$3,028	944	\$2.39
Open Cows	32	\$2,500	\$1,600	\$2,124	\$2,442	953	\$2.42
Pairs	1	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$2,300		1283	
<b>Total Animals Sold</b>	<b>495</b>						

**Sale Notes:**

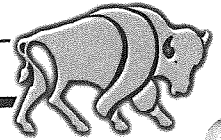
Bull Calves were steady with the midrange weight of 375 to 450 bringing \$5.00 to \$5.20 per lbs.  
 Bull calves in the heavy range that were odd or last years fall calves or didn't fit the class were sporadic at \$4.00 to \$5.60. Price per lbs slid and were steady from \$4.00 to \$4.50 as the calves got larger. Breeding potential, larger bull calves pushed \$6.00. Fly weight calves brought as high as \$6.20.  
 The majority of the heifer calves were in the \$4.30 to \$4.60 range. Light weights ranged from \$4.70 to \$4.90. A few heavy weights were in the lower \$4's with fly weights hitting as high as \$7.00.  
 Yearling heifers were fairly steady at \$3.50.  
 Yearling bulls were sporadic but so was the class.  
 The 2 yr Bull market was largely untested with only 8 head in the class.  
 The 2 year Bred class was fairly steady in the \$3500 range for solid heifers. The bottom of the class brought the average down a bit, and the better heifers were \$3800 to \$4600.  
 The same pattern held true for the bred cows. As the quality dropped and the age rose the price was reflective.  
 There were 42 buyers present with a good number of new producers bidding on all classes.  
 It was a great sale and we are ever so grateful for the long time consignors and for the long time buyers. It was especially exciting to see all the newcomers. Merry christmans to all.

December 6, 2017 - Missouri Bison Association Fall Sale - Missouri							
Group	Animals Sold	High \$	Low \$	Average \$	2016 Average \$	Average Weight	Price/lb.
Bull Calves	21	\$2,100	\$1,150	\$1,768	\$1,887	366	\$4.83
Heifer Calves	22	\$1,825	\$875	\$1,509	\$1,605	362	\$4.17
Yearling Bulls	15	\$2,700	\$1,850	\$2,290	\$2,418	660	\$3.47
Yearling Heifers	11	\$2,500	\$1,800	\$2,023	\$2,284	677	\$2.99
2YBulls	3	\$2,825	\$2,250	\$2,592	\$2,983	950	\$2.73
2Y Heifers	4	\$3,500	\$1,700	\$2,888	\$2,573	793	\$3.64
Mature Cows	3	\$2,200	\$1,650	\$2,000	\$2,570	923	\$2.17
Mature Bulls	4	\$2,900	\$1,900	\$2,550	\$3,771	1008	\$2.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>						

December 15, 2017 - North Dakota Buffalo Assn. Annual Sale - ND							
Class	Animals	High \$	Low \$	Average \$	2016 Average \$	Average Weight	Price/lb.
Heavy Cut Heifer Calves	33	\$1,800	\$1,650	\$1,708	NA	435	\$3.93
Light Cut Heifer Calves	15	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$1,400	NA	356	\$3.93
Heavy Cut Bull Calves	70	\$2,050	\$1,950	\$2,000	NA	436	\$4.59
Light Cut Bull Calves	17	\$1,850	\$1,650	\$1,750	NA	357	\$4.90
Yearling Heifers	18	\$3,000	\$1,850	\$2,425	NA	753	\$3.22
Yearling Bulls	14	\$2,550	\$2,000	\$2,275	NA	690	\$3.30
2 Year Old Bulls	3	\$3,500	\$2,850	\$3,175	NA	1321	\$2.40
2 Year Old Bred Heifers	60	\$4,450	\$3,543	\$3,997	NA	929	\$4.30
Mature Bred Cows	9	\$3,900	\$2,600	\$3,250	NA	1055	\$3.08
<b>Total Animals Sold</b>	<b>239</b>						

January 6, 2018 - Turner Ranches Prairie Performance Bison Auction - Rapid City, SD							
Class	Animals Sold	High \$	Low \$	Average \$	2017 Average	Average Weight	Price/lb.
Yearling Heifers	45	\$4,200	\$3,400	\$3,700	N/A	704	\$5.26
Two Year Old Heifers, Bred	50	\$8,250	\$5,500	\$5,830	N/A	975	\$5.98
Yearling Yellowstone Genetic Bulls	5	\$18,000	\$11,000	\$12,800	N/A	638	\$20.06
Two Year Old Yellowstone Genetic Bulls	5	\$22,000	\$14,000	\$16,800	N/A	968	\$17.36
Three Year Old Yellowstone Genetic Bulls	5	\$19,000	\$15,000	\$17,500	N/A	1180	\$14.83
<b>Total Animals Sold</b>	<b>110</b>						

January 20, 2018 - NBA Gold Trophy Show & Sale - CO							
Group	Animals Sold	High \$	Low \$	Average \$	2017 Average \$	Average Weight	Price/lb.
Heifer Calves	11	\$4,750	\$1,800	\$2,268	\$2,500	519	\$4.37
Pen of 5 Heifer Calves	5 Pens	\$12,500	\$8,000	\$9,650	NA	459	\$4.20
Bull Calves	15	\$3,300	\$2,100	\$2,400	\$3,209	568	\$4.23
Yearling Heifers	10	\$4,900	\$3,000	\$3,850	\$4,331	902	\$4.27
Yearling Bulls	23	\$10,000	\$2,600	\$5,959	\$9,940	1139	\$5.23
Ranch Ready Pen of 5 Yearling Heifers	6 Pens	\$25,000	\$17,000	\$19,125	\$3,783	869	\$4.40
2 Yr Old Bred Heifers	9	\$7,000	\$3,900	\$4,783	\$7,750	1068	\$4.48
2 Yr Old Bulls	13	\$27,500	\$3,600	\$11,046	\$9,344	1607	\$6.87
Bull Carcass Class	11	\$6.30	\$5.00	\$5.77	\$6.18/lb.	666	\$5.77
Heifer Carcass Class	7	\$6.20	\$5.40	\$5.78	\$6.04/lb.	511	\$5.78
<b>Total</b>	<b>136</b>						



Producer of the Year - Live - Intermountain Bison Producer of the Year - Market - Diamond Tail Ranch Rookie of the Year - Live - Torch River Bison Grand Champion Male - Silver Creek Bison Grand Champion Female - Medicine Wheel Ranch Reserve Grand Champion Male - Torch River Bison Reserve Grand Champion Female - Trails End River Bison							
<b>February 4, 2018 - DTBA Black Hills Buffalo Classic - SD</b>							
<b>Class</b>	<b>Animals Sold</b>	<b>High \$</b>	<b>Low \$</b>	<b>Average \$</b>	<b>2017 Average \$</b>	<b>Average Weight</b>	<b>Price/lb.</b>
<b>Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show</b>							
Giriz Gone Wild Two Year Old Bred Heifer	31	\$5,000	\$2,100	\$2,976	N/A	744	\$4.00
Young Guns Yearling Bull	21	\$8,500	\$2,900	\$4,183	\$7,543	1,051	\$3.98
<b>Total Head Sold</b>	<b>52</b>						

## Karen Conley

As I wrap up the post conference clean up and work through the process of turning over the reins of the DTBA to Patrick and Tammi and the new board, I have had some time to reflect on the many changes taking place recently. Change is not always easy, but it presents many opportunities!

I would like to thank each and every member for allowing me to work with and for you for the past 17+ years. It has been an experience I will never forget. So many of you have become more than a name...you are family. I am truly blessed.

Thank you for the kind remarks and words of encouragement over the years. We have had good time, bad times and plenty of challenges as well as successes. I have had the pleasure of working with many of you as members, board and committee participants, host ranches and auction customers. I will miss that interaction,

but I plan to enjoy participating as a member and volunteering as needed. I look forward to being able to spend time visiting and enjoying the gatherings!

Being presented with the Pioneer Award at this past conference was truly a surprise and very humbling, to say the least. To even be considered to be included in such a group is far beyond anything I ever expected. As I look at the beautiful bronze on my desk, it means the world to me. That will hold a very special place in my heart.

And lastly, I want to thank my husband, Todd Goetz. He is the one person that truly understands what DTBA has meant to me, how much went into it and what it all entailed. He was always there to lend a hand, offer an ear and help me out and for that I am very thankful. He runs a pretty good hospitality room, too!

~ Karen



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BRANCH MANAGER

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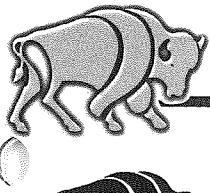
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**Sales Manager**



# MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Mail to: DTBA  
P.O. Box 4104  
Rapid City, SD 57709

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Web Site Address \_\_\_\_\_

2018 DTBA Membership Dues @ \$75 Each \_\_\_\_\_

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

I prefer to receive newsletters and communications via email.  I prefer to receive newsletters and communications via postal service.

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

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

I agree to allow the DTBA to publish this information in a Membership Directory and on their website.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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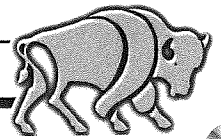
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## Sponsors for the 2018 Black Hills Buffalo Classic & Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Winter Conference

### *First Place Trophy Sponsors:*

Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge: *North American Bison, LLC*  
Girlz Going Wild Yearling Heifer Challenge: *Heartland Bison Ranch*

### *Second Place Trophy Sponsors:*

Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge: *Holcomb Buffalo Ranch*  
Girlz Going Wild Yearling Heifer Challenge: *North American Bison, LLC*

### *Third Place Trophy Sponsors:*

Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge: *Heim Buffalo Ranch*  
Girlz Going Wild Yearling Heifer Challenge: *Heim Buffalo Ranch*

### *Fourth Place Trophy Sponsors:*

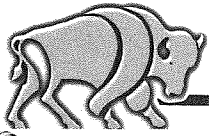
Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge: *Diesel Machinery, Inc.*  
Girlz Going Wild Yearling Heifer Challenge: *Sheyenne River Bison*

### *Fifth Place Trophy Sponsors:*

Young Guns Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge: *CHS/Payback Feed*  
Girlz Going Wild Yearling Heifer Challenge: *North Dakota Buffalo Association*  
Girlz Going Wild Yearling Heifer Challenge: *Tatanka Hills*

- **Conference Sponsors:** 777 Ranch; Blue Valley Ranch; Bradeen Auctions; CHS/Payback Feed; Eagle's Wing Ranch; Rafter K Bar; Scranton Equity Feed
- **The Friday night Social at Prairie Edge Trading Co. & Galleries in Rapid City is sponsored by:** Prairie Edge Trading Co. & Gallery, 777 Ranch and Western Buffalo Company
- **Coffee Break sponsors are:** Mosquito Park Enterprise, National Buffalo Foundation and Custer State Park
- **Banquet Entertainment - Brent Morris & The Western Acoustics is sponsored by** Larry Carr and Steve McFarland
- **Banquet Wine is sponsored by** Wild Idea Buffalo Company, Dan & Jill O'Brien; Colton & Jilian Jones
- **Banquet centerpieces and decor by** Melanie Cammack and her girls
- **The Hospitality Room is sponsored by** Lots of DTBA members and Western Buffalo Company
- **Many thanks to** Bradeen Auctions **for their sponsorship of coffee and snacks for the yard crew & guests.**
- **Much appreciation to our holding pen panel provider in the yards:** Larry Carr and Mosquito Park Enterprises
- **Thank you to** Rafter K Bar, Larry and Renee Carr, **for hosting the 2018 group of Young Guns bulls**
- **Thank you to** Heartland Bison Ranch, Kevin & Anne Leier; Lee & Rebecca Leier, **for hosting the 2018 group of Girlz Going Wild heifers**
- **Please take a moment to thank our yard crew at the auction on Sunday. They volunteer many hours for set-up, penning and make sure the animals are well cared for and handled safely.** Moritz Espy, Justin Selke, Cody Smith, Martin Waage, Chris Seivert, Larry Carr, Jud Seaman and Bob Penn.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS!**



## What is the DTBA's purpose?

Dr Stephen Covey's world renowned book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* outlines habits that effective and successful people use to create that success and effectiveness. One of these habits caught my eye when I first took this position as co-Executive Director of the DTBA. Habit Two: Begin with the End in Mind. Know where you want to go and build from where you are. Social media entrepreneur and marketing specialist, Gary Vaynerchuk, likes to call this reverse engineering your future.

Why did this idea get stuck in my mind after I accepted the position? Taking over for any position is difficult. Taking over for Karen Conley is astronomically difficult. (Is it me or does she just keep getting awards and making those shoes bigger and bigger?) In light of these difficulties, I decided to be proactive (Habit One for anyone interested) and find out for myself one question from the membership: What is the purpose of the DTBA?

Of course when tasked with a weighty question like that, I went to already established answers, mainly the mission statement:

*To promote buffalo and buffalo meat and furnish a positive forum for creativity and camaraderie among a diverse membership.*

This should have provided enough guidance, one would think, however, as you will soon discover, I enjoy twisting, winding roads in place of straightaways. So, during the Winter Conference, I walked around and randomly asked folks from various roles and history with the organization that very question. What is our purpose? I will keep everyone anonymous and simply state their role/history and paraphrase the main points in their answers.

**Former Director:** *Focus on the vision & mission statement. Be a professional association with a broad scope of the bison industry.*

**Inaugural Director:** *Provide a local, professional, on-the-ground network of bison producers.*

**NBA:** *To educate, inform, and support Dakota producers*

**New Member:** *Marketing, networking, professional ideas and different perspectives*

**Show & Sale Host Ranch:** *Educational outreach focusing on a production mindset.*

**Founding Member:** *Disseminate information for new and old members*

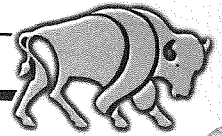
**New Director:** *to educate and unify the membership.*

Needles to say there are a lot of perspectives of what the organization's purpose is. One common thread is the dissemination and education of the membership and the fostering of a professional network for members. The good news is that this goes hand in hand with the mission statement. We are moving in conjunction with what the organization was designed to do, connect producers to help each other help ourselves.

The educational and outreach portion of purposes listed above is something that is near and dear to me. Working for Tribes and communicating scientific and policy information in layman's terms has been something that I am passionate about and look forward to helping our members. Finding funding and educational opportunities has also been a strength of mine, and I am excited to see what options are out there for the organization.

One thing that I pull from these results and comparing them to the mission statement is the need for consistent membership engagement. This comes in many forms: educational outreach opportunities, small get-togethers and ranch tours, teaming up with other associations we have close ties to, social media engagement and interactions, and many more. This is a daunting task, one that I am willing to take on moving forward.

But ultimately, this is *YOUR* organization. This engagement can only occur with response from the membership. I challenge everyone of you to think of a few ways you would like to see the DTBA engage its membership and to forward those ideas to me or the Board (or both!) and see if the organization can help move forward and become even better.



### Membership Committee: Call for action

With Conference and Sale season behind us, it's time to start thinking of all that fence we have to mend, grazing plans to adjust, and opportunities and challenges ahead. It is also time to consider something: What is there to do with the DTBA?

During the sale and conference DTBA is in full swing. Engaging members, providing speakers with industry insight, and showing off some of the best animals in the business. But then it stops. It ramps up for the next sale to be bigger and better, the next conference more intuitive and original. Conference. Sale. Plan Conference and Sale. Have Conference and Sale.

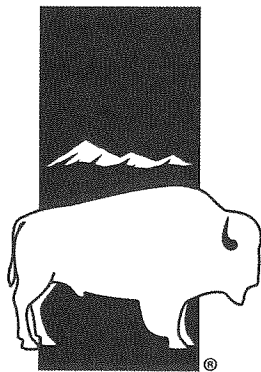
Overall this is a great, simple set up for the organization and one that has worked extremely well, or else I have a hunch we wouldn't be the largest state and regional organization in the industry. However, there could be so much more. Ranch tours and spotlights, ranching and agriculture training opportunities, community service events and outreach, resource dissemination and guidance.

The DTBA is built for its members, 200+ of the bison industry's finest. As Executive Director, I am here to facilitate the needs of all of those members. I know that not everyone can participate in the show and sale, or attend conference. I wish to engage those

members, the ones whose voice is lost in the auctioneer's yodel. I wish to establish a Membership Committee to help further the organization through better, year-round engagement of its members.

Our mission statement is "To promote buffalo and buffalo meat and furnish a positive forum for creativity and camaraderie among a diverse membership." The Winter Conference and Show and Sale really promote the bison industry and meat products we all require for our livelihoods. However, outside of Winter Conference and the NBA Conferences, where is the positive forum for creativity and camaraderie amongst our members? The Membership Committee would serve as that conduit through which members from any bison background can get their voices heard and be able to help the organization through fundraising, social engagement, ranch tours, and training opportunities. I look forward in establishing and working with this committee in the future and help push the DTBA to even further heights.

*\*\*Anyone interested in joining the Membership Committee should contact Patrick Toomey or Moritz Espy for more information.\*\**



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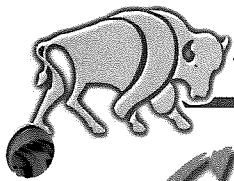
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# Girls Going Wild Yearling Heifer Challenge

Photos courtesy of Karen Conley.

1st Place Heifer sponsored by Heartland Bison Ranch:



Laughing Water Ranch: Lance and Tahma Kuck, Bassett, NE

4th Place Heifer sponsored by Sheyenne River Bison:



Cold Creek Buffalo Company:  
Boyd and Allison Meyer, Windsor, CO

2nd Place Heifer sponsored by North American Bison, LLC:



McFarland Ranch:  
Steve and Roxanne McFarland, Hettinger, ND

5th Place Heifer (tied) sponsored by North Dakota Buffalo Association & Tatanka Hills

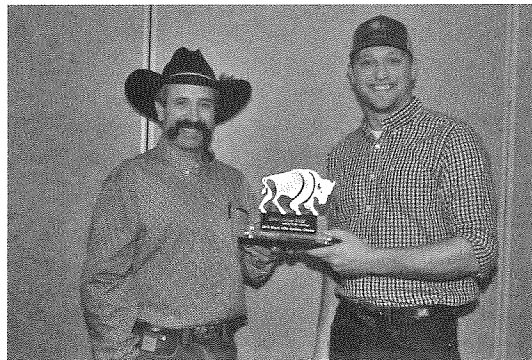


Kralicek Farms: Frank and Jolene Kralicek, Yankton, SD

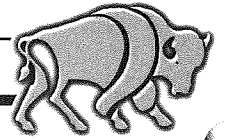
3rd Place Heifer sponsored by Heim Buffalo Company:



Tatanka Hills: Kevin and Joan Stormo, Lake Norden, SD



Custer State Park:  
Chad Kremer, Herd Manager, Custer State Park, SD



# Young Guns

## Yearling Breeding Bull Challenge

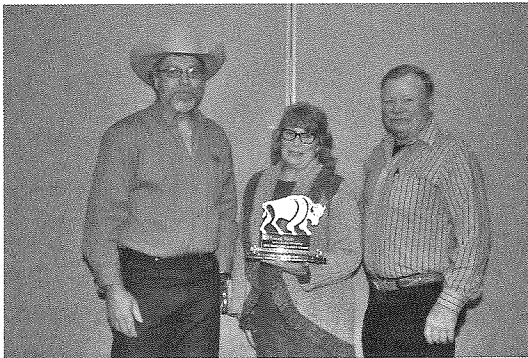
1st Place Bull sponsored by North American Bison, LLC:

*Photos courtesy of Karen Conley.*



KenMar Buffalo Ranch: Ryan Homelvig/Peter Cook, New Rockford, ND

2nd Place Bull sponsored by Holcomb Buffalo Ranch:



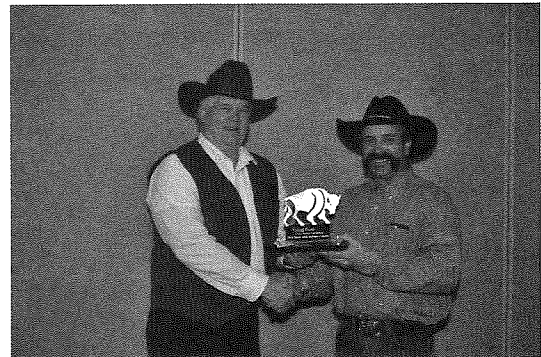
Rafter K Bar: Larry and Renee Carr, Prairie City, SD

3rd Place Bull sponsored by Heim Buffalo Ranch:



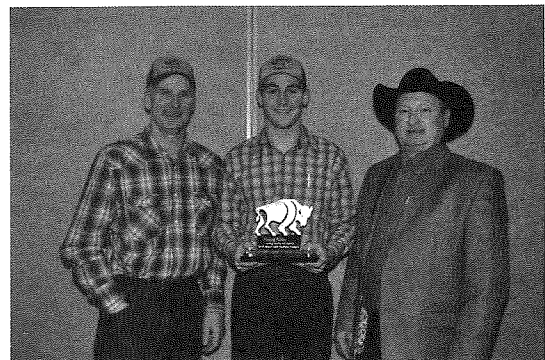
Kralicek Farms: Frank and Jolene Kralicek, Yankton, SD

4th Place Bull sponsored by Diesel Machinery, Inc.:



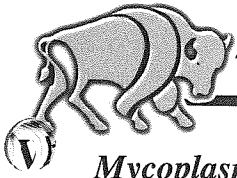
Custer State Park: Chad Kremer, Herd Manager, Custer State Park, SD

5th Place Bull sponsored by CHS/Payback Feed:



Skull Creek Bison: The Buchholz Family, Rhame, ND





## *Mycoplasma bovis* infection in Bison and the Importance of a Veterinary-Client Relationship

Dustin Oedekoven, DVM, DACVPM

*Mycoplasma bovis* is a bacterial pathogen causing severe pneumonia and arthritis in mature and young bison. What makes this single-cell germ such a formidable foe? For starters, illness can be spread by animals which appear to be healthy, it is difficult to diagnose, nearly impossible to treat, has a long incubation time, and there are no commercially available vaccines effective in preventing disease in bison. *Mycoplasma* lack a cell wall, which allows it to evade detection by the bison's immune system, and renders some antibiotics (including penicillin) useless. And while *M. bovis* is thought to be an opportunistic pathogen in cattle (that is, it accompanies other bacterial or viral infections), the bacteria appears to be a primary pathogen in bison – able to cause significant illness and death by itself.

*Mycoplasma* related disease should be suspected in herds experiencing unusually high mortality or illness in mature or young bison. Individual bison that are ill with mycoplasma may be lethargic, reluctant to move, and may isolate themselves from the herd. Coughing, difficulty breathing, and severe weight loss, often resulting in death or necessitating euthanasia, are common signs associated with *M. bovis*-related illness. However, none of these signs are specific to *Mycoplasma*, and may be caused other viral or bacterial pathogens as well. Getting an accurate diagnosis will assist bison producers in making cost effective management decisions for optimal herd health.

The diagnostic options available to the bison producer for *M. bovis* control are somewhat limited. Due to the nature of handling bison, the concerns for stress, injury, or death loss often outweigh any benefit of routine sampling of individual animals in the herd. Also, available serologic (blood) tests have not been specifically developed for *M. bovis* in bison and are of limited value at this time. Nasal swabs may be collected and tested by molecular means (Polymerase Chain Reaction, or PCR) or bacterial culture. However, *Mycoplasma* bacteria are often found in the lower respiratory tract, and as a result falsely negative test results may be reported if only the nasal passage is swabbed. Post-mortem (after death) necropsy allows for a valuable diagnostic opportunity to collect lung and joint fluid samples which may be tested at a veterinary diagnostic laboratory (VDL).

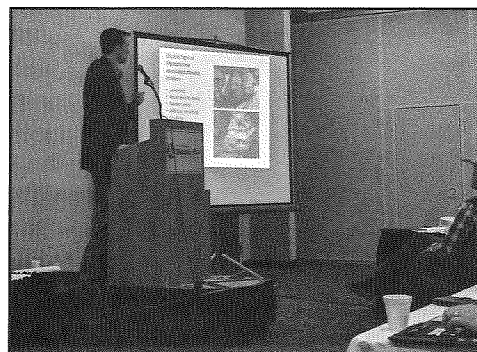
It is very important to work with a licensed veterinarian in the management of all herd health issues. Early consultation with a veterinarian will allow the veterinarian to observe any clinical signs associated with the disease, and will result in collection of the best samples from animals that have recently died, or ill animals which are

humanely euthanized for diagnostic purposes. Most VDL's require that samples be submitted only by licensed veterinarians so that diagnostic information can be communicated back to the client through that veterinarian.

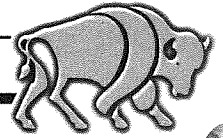
Information gained from the diagnostic lab may assist producers and veterinarians in determining changes to management protocols, such as vaccinations, deworming, herd additions, etc. In the case of *Mycoplasma*, specific strains can be sent to custom (autogenous) vaccine manufacturers for vaccine production which may protect other bison in the herd from disease. This process may take additional time and sample handling in the lab, so the veterinarian should make this request to the VDL when samples are submitted.

*Mycoplasma bovis* presents a special challenge in maintaining healthy bison herds, and especially herds that are not closed. It is important to work with a veterinarian in developing disease prevention strategies as well as diagnostic and disease control plans. Effective solutions to challenging animal health dilemmas result from solid relationships and good communication between producers, veterinarians, and veterinary diagnostic laboratories. Seek out a veterinarian with an interest in bison, invite them to your operation and take some time to explain your industry to them. Discuss and explain your herd health history, handling systems, marketing and production goals. A little time invested before an animal health event may lead to better disease prevention, and aid in containing the disease if and when an outbreak occurs.

More information about *Mycoplasma bovis* in bison can be found at [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/emerging\\_issues/downloads/BISONMbovisEmergingDiseaseNotice\\_FINAL\\_103113.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emerging_issues/downloads/BISONMbovisEmergingDiseaseNotice_FINAL_103113.pdf)



Dr. Dustin Oedekoven, South Dakota's State Veterinarian updates the membership on *Mycoplasma* and TB across the State.



## Fort Laramie Treaty 150 Year Anniversary: Then and Now

In 1868, a conference of Native American Tribes and the US Government descended on Fort Laramie in the Wyoming Territory. The main issues were Native attacks on white settlers along the Oregon Trail. In order to stop these attacks, the US government conceded the Bozeman Trail and set aside land west of the Missouri River in the Dakota Territory to the Great Sioux Nation. In celebration, Sioux burned all the abandoned forts along the trail. The land that was set aside for the Sioux, included their sacred ground, the Black Hills of what is now South Dakota.

This peace treaty lasted only about 6 years. In 1874, gold was discovered in the Black Hills. This led to conflict and further subjugation of the Sioux tribes in what is now western South Dakota, including the fragmenting of the Great Sioux Nation into what is now four reservations: Standing Rock, Cheyenne River, Pine Ridge, and Rosebud Reservations.

In addition to forcing Tribal people on to even smaller reservations, the US Army, coupled with an increased need for bison leather for industrialization, bison tongue being an Eastern delicacy, and probably naivety to bovine diseases brought to this country by European cattle, helped with the decimation of the plains bison from the US Great Plains. This animal was not only the sacred animal for the Sioux, but for numerous Tribes from western Montana to Wisconsin, the Dakotas to New Mexico. By eliminating this animals, which was the life-blood for many Tribes, the US government essentially rendered these Tribes subservient to them for their survival.

The government almost succeeded in exterminating bison from the Great Plains. Theodore Roosevelt and William Hornaday helped save this species, which numbered between 30-60 million animals, from the brink by conserving the few hundred that were left. Most of the animals left were owned by ranchers. Michael Pablo and Charles Allard, Charles Goodnight, Frederick Dupree, and others all decided to save the species on their own, and then eventually with help from the government and organizations such as the Bronx Zoo and the American Bison Society. Various Tribes began reintroducing animals, from Salish and Kootenai in Montana to Taos Pueblo in New Mexico, efforts were being made to restore these culturally important animals back to their native landscape.

150 years after the Fort Laramie Treaty was signed, buffalo are back. There are now approximately 400,000 animals roaming North America, around 20,000 in Tribal ownership across the country. Organizations such as the InterTribal Buffalo Council work with Tribes to help bridge the gap between Tribes, producers, and conservation efforts, in restoring cultural and spiritual connection to bison and Tribal people. Organizations like ITBC, the DTBA, the NBA, and the Wildlife Conservation Society are vital to help producers, Tribes, and wildlife enthusiasts in restoring these great animals to their rightful place on the American landscape.



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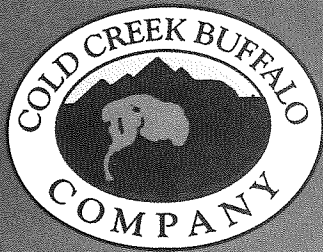
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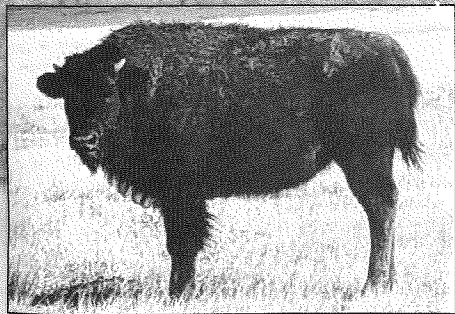
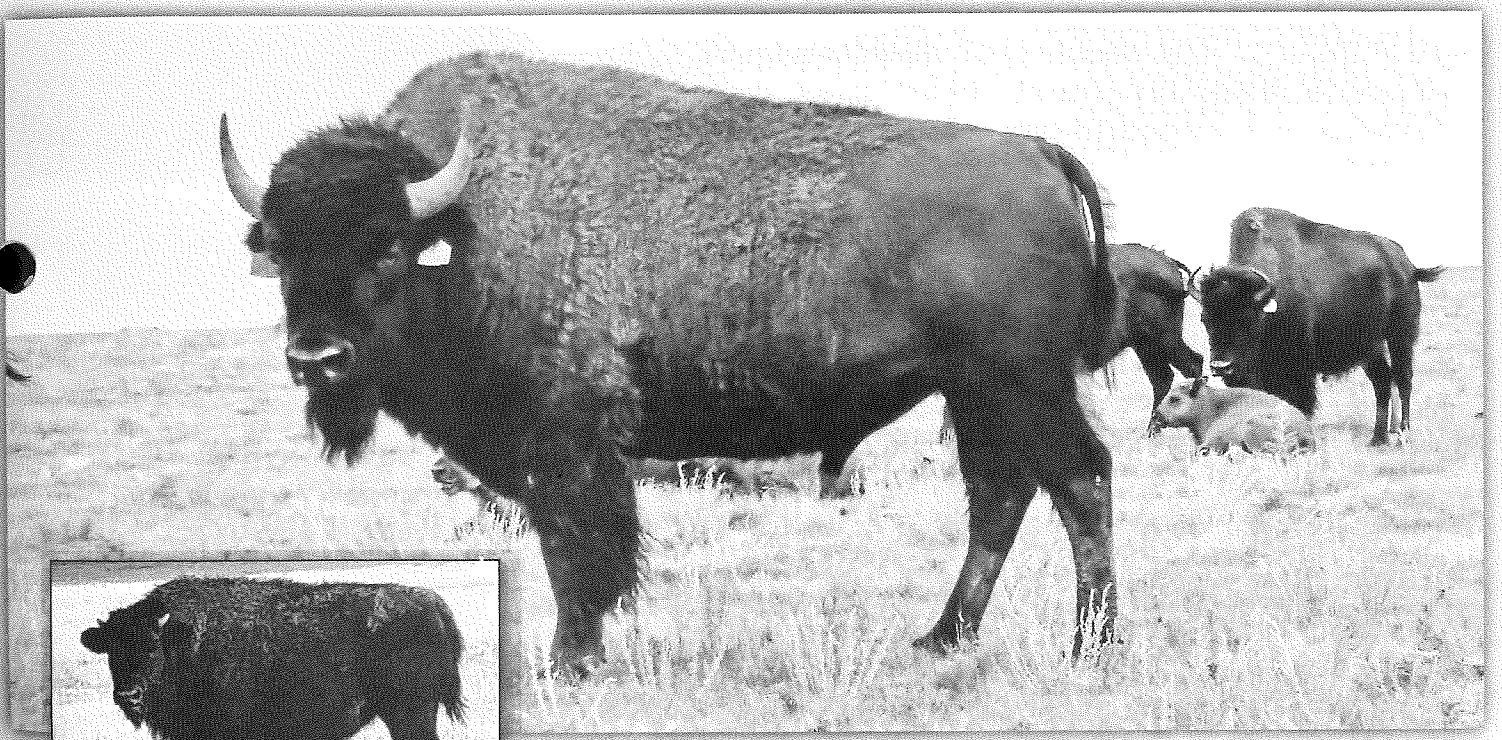
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## Calendar of Upcoming Buffalo Auctions, Events and Happenings

**March 29-31:** Manitoba Bison Association 20th Great Spirit Show and Sale. Brandon, Manitoba. [www.manitobabison.ca](http://www.manitobabison.ca)

**March 31st:** Northwest Bison Association Meeting. Enterprise, Oregon. <http://nwbisonassociation.com/bison-news.html>

**April 13-14:** Illinois Indiana Bison Association "Roam with the Herd". Bloomington, IN. [bwbison@hotmail.com](mailto:bwbison@hotmail.com)

**April 20 - 22:** Minnesota Buffalo Assn. Annual Spring Conference. Watertown, SD. Hosted by Kevin & Joan Stormo, Tatanka Hills. <http://mnbison.org/events/>

**June 7:** Western Bison Association, Spring Rendezvous. Taos, NM. [westernbison.com](http://westernbison.com)

**June 22:** Montana Bison Association Summer Meeting. Billings, MT. <https://www.montanabison.org/>

**June 21-22:** The Grassfed Exchange. Rapid City, SD. <https://grassfedexchange.com/>

**June 27 -29:** National Bison Association Summer Conference, Kansas City, KS. [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com)

**July 11-12:** South Dakota Governor's Agricultural Summit. Rapid City, SD. <http://sdda.sd.gov/office-of-the-secretary/ag-summit/default.aspx>