

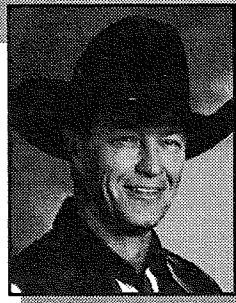
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- DTBA WINTER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION
- BHBC TROPHY AND CONFERENCE SPONSORS NEEDED
- DTBA MISSION STATEMENT

DAKOTA TERRITORY

BUFFALO ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1999



From the President

Fall has arrived and thank goodness it has been a nice one! It has allowed me to finish up some corral work that should have been done a month ago. I'm still on the heavy end of a 31' stick of oil field pipe! Whoever told me buffalo would be a lot less work forgot to mention that I just might have to double down in the work department before I got to that point. Now is not

the time to lose sight of the long-term goal. It will be well worth it in the end.

With the sale season about to get into full swing, there is a lot of interest as to what the female market will do. While it remains to be seen where the market will establish itself, I have enough confidence in the bison industry to know we are in great shape in the long run. Most of us in this industry are from agricultural backgrounds. I have yet to find a person that got into bison and now wants to get back into cattle, sheep, farming, or whatever else it was they were doing before they got into bison. The bison industry is the one bright spot in American agriculture today. More and more producers are discovering this every day. Think about all the advantages the bison has: less feed, less labor, weather doesn't bother them, no predator problems. The list goes on and on. Given what we know about this animal and as more producers discover this, just as I did in the beginning, this industry will survive and thrive for many years to come. I think we need to focus on the long term prospects of this business and remember why we were attracted to it in the first place.

In the five years I have been in business, I have never seen more strength in the meat market. This bodes very well for the future of the industry. There are some things happening here in the USA and in Canada in the meat marketing capacity that will successfully carry us forward into the new millennium and beyond with what we already know is the best heart-healthy red meat available.

The bison is a magnificent and noble animal. It is the most efficient and adaptable grazing animal in the world. Now is not the time to lose sight of the long-term goal. It will be well worth it in the end. See you at the upcoming bison events.

DTBA Mission Statement

Work was recently completed on the DTBA Mission Statement. The committee responsible for producing this important work consisted of Annette Smith, Chad Kremer, and Roy Liedtke. They came up with the following statements that will help to guide the DTBA into the future.

VISION

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

VALUES AND 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.

STANDING COMMITTEES

- Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale
- Conferences
- Nominating
- Marketing
- Education
- Research
- Regulatory and Legislative Affairs

GOALS

- Provide leadership and education opportunities for the membership.
- Provide or develop materials for the promotion of bison production, meat and by-products.
- Provide information exchange, market information and advertising opportunities through website and newsletter.
- Identify and sponsor most vital research needs and disseminate results in a coordinated effort with NBA and other associations.
- Coordinate a member team to monitor state legislative sessions and livestock regulatory boards for legislation or regulation relating to the bison industry.
- Educate the public on the benefits of bison.
- Foster good working relationships with the National Bison Association and other state and regional associations. Establish a liaison to attend National Bison Association board meetings.

Sale Results

Steve and Kim Sutton's Old West Buffalo Ranch - Oct. 30, 1999

Cows, mature, bred, 37 head sold, no weights available, prices ranged from \$3,300 to \$3,750 with an average of \$3,423.

Heifer calves, 57 head sold, no weights available, prices ranged from \$1,400 to \$1,550 with an average of \$1,488.

Bull calves, 81 head sold, no weights available, prices ranged from \$450 to \$625 with an average of \$536.

Badlands Circuit Finals Buffalo Sale - Oct. 23, 1999

Cows, mature, bred, 3 head sold, no weights available; prices ranged from \$2,500 to \$2,850 with an average of \$2,700.

Two year old bred heifers, 13 head sold, no weights available; prices ranged from \$2,000 to \$3,700 with an average of \$2,988.

Yearling heifers, 71 head sold, no weights available; prices ranged from \$1,450 to \$2,475 with an average of \$1,899.

Heifer calves, 40 head sold, no weights available; prices ranged from \$850 to \$1,350 with an average of \$1,099.

Breeding bulls, mature, 21 head sold, no weights available; prices ranged from \$300 to \$925 with an average of \$577.

Yearling bulls, 10 head sold, no weights available; prices ranged from \$450 to \$575 with an average of \$525.

Bull calves, 12 head sold, no weights available; prices ranged from \$325 to \$400 with an average of \$367.

Ft. Niobrara-Valentine National Refuge Complex - Oct. 13, 1999

Cows, Open, 5-18 yrs; 7 head sold, weights ranged from 940 to 1,175 lbs.; prices ranged from \$550 to \$2,250 with an average of \$1,332.

Two year old heifers, Open; 5 head sold, weights ranged from 865 to 945 lbs.; prices ranged from \$1,900 to \$2,400 with an average of \$2,160.

Yearling heifers, 12 head sold, weights ranged from 515 to 640 lbs.; prices ranged from \$1,100 to \$1,750 with an average of \$1,567.

Heifer calves, 19 head sold, weights ranged from 165 to 390 lbs.; prices ranged from \$800 to \$1,850 with an average of \$1,376.

Breeding bulls, 6-17 yrs; 7 head sold, weights ranged from 1,620 to 1,920 lbs.; prices ranged from \$825 to \$1,500 with an average of \$1,207.

Two year old bulls, 4 head sold, weights ranged from 865 to 985 lbs.; prices ranged from \$875 to \$1,100 with an average of \$1,038.

Yearling bulls, 11 head sold, weights ranged from 560 to 660 lbs.; prices ranged from \$650 to \$875 with an average of \$800.

Bull calves, 16 head sold, weights ranged from 184 to 380 lbs.; prices ranged from \$325 to \$650 with an average of \$463.

**SEE MORE RESULTS
NEXT ISSUE!**



Black Hills Buffalo Classic Sponsors Needed

With the approach of the January 2000 Black Hills Buffalo Classic and Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Winter Conference, there are a variety of sponsorships that need to be taken care of.

The following is a listing of the 1999 BHBC Trophy Sponsors. If you are interested in sponsoring the same trophy again for the 2000 BHBC, you need to send a check, made out to the DTBA, for the appropriate amount and indicate which trophy you would like to sponsor and send it to: Dakota Territory Buffalo Association, PO Box 4104, Rapid City, SD 57709. Checks must be received by December 15, 1999 to ensure your sponsorship of a particular trophy. After the December 15 deadline, any sponsorships not spoken for at that time will be opened up for other interested DTBA members to sponsor. If you have any questions regarding your current sponsorship or to express an interest in sponsoring any available trophies, please contact Roy Liedtke at 307-682-6599 and he will fill you in on all the details.

The cost to sponsor trophies is: Classic Producer award, \$2,000; Grand Champion Bull and Heifer, \$300 each; Reserve Champion Bull and Heifer, \$250 each. The cost for the class trophies is Gold, \$300; Silver, \$200; Bronze, \$100.

1999 BHBC SPONSORS

Classic Producers Award:

Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, Sandy and Jacki Limpert

Grand Champion Bull:

Thunder Canyon Buffalo, Greg and Sherry Smeenk

Reserve Champion Bull:

Lone Mountain Bison, Russell and Kathy Fox

Grand Champion Heifer:

Sparling Bison Ranch, Jason and Robert Sparling

Reserve Champion Heifer:

Heim Buffalo Ranch, Evie and Chad Heim

Buyer Scrolls:

Trails End River Bison, Larry and Dixie Byrd

GOLD TROPHY SPONSORS:

Bull Calf: Monte and Nancy Allen

Yearling Bull: Tatanka Hills

Two Year Old Bull: Roy Liedtke

Heifer Calf: Scott Peterson

Yearling Heifer: Nebraska Buffalo Company/Gale Stevens

Two Year Old Bred Heifer: Steve Hein

Pen of Three Heifer Calves: Jim Butler

Pen of Two Yearling Heifers: Mosquito Park

SILVER TROPHY SPONSORS:

Bull Calf: Flying H Ranch/Curt and Macie Hepper

Yearling Bull: Ralph and Mary Mahoney

Two Year Old Bull: Mosquito Park

Heifer Calf: Doug and Sandy Stukel

Yearling Heifer: Antelope Creek Bison Ranch

Two Year Old Bred Heifer: Mosquito Park

Pen of Three Heifer Calves: Tedd and Carmen Thompson

Pen of Two Yearling Heifers: North Dakota Buffalo Association

BRONZE TROPHY SPONSORS:

Bull Calf: Linn Enterprises

Yearling Bull: Ralph and Mary Mahoney

Two Year Old Bull: Keith and Judi Wood

Heifer Calf: Dean and Judy Schwanke

Yearling Heifer: William Melius

Two Year Old Bred Heifer: Antelope Creek Bison Ranch

Pen of Three Heifer Calves: Big Horn Buffalo/Bill Bales

Pen of Two Yearling Heifers: North Dakota Buffalo Association

High Volume Seller:

Bradeen Auctions, Ron Bradeen and Jud Seaman

High Volume Buyer:

Bradeen Auctions, Ron Bradeen and Jud Seaman

Blake's Trailer Sales of Rapid City, SD has been donating the use of Featherlite Trailer for one year to the BHBC Producer of the Year.

The afternoon coffee break is being sponsored by Scranton Equity Exchange.

We are still in need of sponsors for the morning coffee break, the Thursday night registration social (hors d'oeuvres), and a sponsor for the 2000 Black Hills Stock Show Foundation Stockman's Club membership, available for \$250.

New Producer Seminar

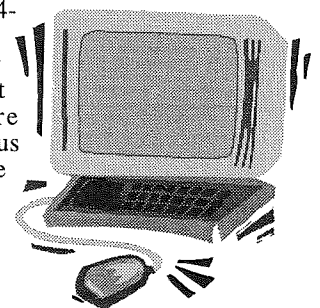
The Dakota Territory Buffalo Association will be hosting a New Producer Seminar in Gillette, WY on Tuesday, December 7, 1999. The seminar will be held in Energy Hall in the Cam-Plex facility. A noon meal will be served with the seminar getting underway at 1 p.m. Speakers will touch on a variety of topics, including getting started in the bison business, financing your operation, feeding and general care of the animals and an overview of the bison industry with information on the North American Bison Cooperative (NABC) and the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association (DTBA). Speakers will include DTBA President and bison producer, Greg Smeenk, NABC Board Member and bison producer, Sandy Limpert and the president of First National Bank in Rapid City, SD, Marvin Mutchler. A special guest speaker will be John Flocchini of Gillette, WY. John operates the Durham Ranch near Gillette and he will be speaking on the marketing aspects of the bison industry. There is no pre-registration or fees for this event and everyone is welcome to attend. For more information on the seminar or the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association, contact the association at 605-343-2889.

Website Corrections

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

In the last DTBA website update, the contact information for site coordinator, Stan Swanson, was incorrect. The correct address is: Stan Swanson, 1566 Redbird Rd., Lusk, WY 82225. You may also call him at (307) 334-3142.

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



Dakota Territory Buffalo Association
 2000 Black Hills Buffalo Classic
 Show and Sale, Jan. 27-29, 2000
 Black Hills Stock Show, Rapid City, SD

ENTRY FORM

(Please use a separate entry for each owner. Names and addresses will be printed as completed below.)

Ranch: _____

Owner: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

ENTRY FEES: Show and Sale Bison - \$50/head. Pen of three - \$100/entry. Pen of two - \$100/entry.

ENTRY DEADLINE: Entries must be postmarked October 15th or later. Entries postmarked prior to October 15th will not be accepted. Entry deadline is November 15th, one entry per consignor per class. After November 15th, two entry per consignor will be allowed if a class is not full until a deadline of Dec. 1, 1999.

1. Entry fee includes pen and feed. (Animals may be penned together in their respective classes.)
2. Entry fee is non-refundable.
3. Animals will be accommodated from noon until dark on Jan. 26 and from daylight to noon on Jan. 27. Judging will be on Jan. 27 and 28 and the sale will be on Saturday, Jan. 29 at 1 p.m.
4. Special Show ear tags will be sent for each animal entered and must be applied in the left ear.

CLASSES

- Bull Calves ('99)
- Yearling Bulls ('98)
- Two Year Old Bulls ('97)
- Pen of Two Yearling Heifers ('98)
- Heifer Calves ('99)
- Yearling Heifers ('98)
- Two Year Old Bred Heifers ('97)
- Pen of Three Heifer Calves ('99)

Show ID #	Class (enter each animal)	Sex	Birth Year	NABR ID #	Show & Sale \$50	Pen \$100

Total \$ _____ \$ _____

Mail entries and fees to Sale Chairman Steve Sutton, P.O. Box 313, Onida, SD 57564. Phone 605-258-2863.
 Make fees payable to: Dakota Territory Buffalo Association.

I have read the terms and conditions included with this form and agree to abide by them.

_____ / _____
 Signature required Date



2000 Black Hills Buffalo Classic Terms & Conditions

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

1. Negative Tuberculosis test (caudal fold) on all animals. Test must have been done within 25 days of sale date.
2. Negative Brucellosis test on all animals. Test must have been done within 25 days of sale date.
3. Negative Anaplasmosis test on all animals. Test must have been done within 25 days of sale date.
4. Negative Blue Tongue test on all animals. Test must have been done within 25 days of sale date.
5. ALL females MUST be calfood vaccinated for Brucellosis. Show tag numbers, metal tag numbers and BV tattoo numbers must correctly coincide on the Health Certificate.
6. ALL animals must be treated with INJECTABLE ivermec. IMPORTANT: Animals coming from south of the southern Wyoming-Nebraska-Iowa borders must be injected within 10 days of the show date. Animals coming from north of these southern borders must be injected within 25 days of the show date.
7. ALL yearling and two-year-old bulls MUST be semen checked and certified fertile. IMPORTANT: Yearling buffalo bulls mature later than beef bulls and are often harder to test. In comparison, a two year old buffalo bull is like testing a one year old beef bull. Make sure your veterinarian knows this!
8. All two year old heifers must be certified at least 90 days pregnant.
9. All yearling heifers must be certified OPEN. IMPORTANT: This is a new rule this year. Our feeling is that the buyers are paying a lot of money for these buffalo and we want these females to fit into their program.
10. Three copies must be furnished with the original health certificate. Separate health certificates are required for each animal. Pens of three can be on one certificate with three copies.
11. Animals WILL NOT be unloaded if the health certificates do not meet ALL of the above requirements. NO EXCEPTIONS. Pregnancy test, semen test, ivermec and mouthing must be written across the bottom of each health certificate with the date and signature of your veterinarian. Keep your test paperwork with you in case it may be needed.

HORNS

Dehorned animals accepted are yearling and two year old heifers ONLY. All others must have either two good horns or broken horns which have fully healed. We will work with you in case of a broken horn while at the show. Severe bleeders cannot enter the sale ring.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, November 18, 1999:

Milliron Bison Company sale, Buffalo Gap, SD. Contact Kevin Casey at 605-355-9453 or 605-484-1303.

Friday, November 19, 1999:

Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Board Meeting, Custer, SD. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. at the Wrangler Restaurant in downtown Custer, SD. Call the association at 605-343-2889 for more details.

Saturday, November 20, 1999:

Custer State Park Fall Classic, Live Public Auction, Custer State Park Buffalo Corrals. Call the Custer State Park office at 605-255-4515 for information.

Monday, November 29, 1999:

The Montana Bison Association Buffalo Auction, Billings Metra Arena, Billings, MT. Contact George Siemian at 406-666-2207.

EAR TAGS

Show tags, metal vaccine/tag and registration button are the only tags accepted to be in the buffalo's ear. Consignors will be responsible for applying the show tags in the LEFT ear. This must be done before the animals will be allowed to unload. Any animal that shows up with an extra tag will be charged \$50 to take the tag out.

ENTRY LIMITS AND DEADLINES

Twenty (20) head for all classes except two year old bulls. Twelve (12) two year old bulls will be allowed. One (1) head per consignor per class until November 15. If a class is not filled by this date, you will be allowed two (2) head per consignor per class until December 1. Waiting list will apply based on the earliest postal dates. Limits per consignor will be enforced. Limits per class are flexible depending upon overall entries.

CLASSIC PRODUCER AWARD

(Determined on a point system)

Points for Gold, Silver and Bronze awards will be given on a 3-2-1 basis. A Grand Champion will earn one extra point. A Reserve Champion will earn one-half point. In the case of a tie, the producer winning trophies in the most classes will prevail. Example: two silvers and one bronze will beat one gold and one silver, etc. If still tied, a Grand and then Reserve will prevail. In the case of two consignments, only one can be awarded points for the Classic Producer Award.

LIABILITY

1. The consignor assumes all responsibilities in regards to, but not limited to, the above terms and conditions of this show and sale. The DTBA acts only as agents and will assume NO responsibility in the event of injury or death to any animal or for any discrepancy between buyers and consignors.
2. The Judges and/or Show and Sale Committee reserve the right to disqualify and remove any animal from the Show and Sale if the animals appears to be of an undesirable quality or of the wrong age. A chute will also be on hand. the Committee's decisions will be final.

NOTE: The sifting committee will have no tolerance for animals that are undesirable. Any undesirable animals will be loaded back on to the consignor's trailer. It will be the responsibility of the consignor to provide feed and care for his/her animal.

Tuesday, December 7, 1999:

DTBA New Producer Seminar, Cam-Plex Energy Hall, Gillette, WY. Lunch will be served at noon with the seminar beginning at 1 p.m. MST. Call the DTBA at 605-343-2889 for details.

Saturday, December 11, 1999:

North Dakota Buffalo Association Annual Fall Auction, KIST Livestock, Mandan, ND. Contact Sale Chairman, Greg Maddock at 701-438-2503 for more details.

Monday, December 13, 1999:

Big Sky Ranch Buffalo Sale, Rugby, ND. Call Duane or Doug Woodall at 701-728-6505 for details.

Saturday, December 18, 1999:

Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch Performance Tested Yearling Bull Sale, at the ranch, Buffalo, SD. Contact Sandy or Jacki Limpert at 605-866-4846 for details.



2000 DTBA Winter Conference

Plans are well underway for the DTBA Winter Conference, held in conjunction with the BHBC Show and Sale in Rapid City, SD. The conference dates are Thursday, January 27, 2000 through Saturday, January 29, 2000.

THE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

All Events Will Be Held at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn

Thursday, January 27, 2000

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Registration and Welcoming Party with cash bar.

Friday, January 28, 2000

8:00 a.m. - Breakfast.

9:00 a.m. - DTBA Business Meeting begins with call to order and introductions.

9:30 a.m. - Guest Speaker

10:00 a.m. - Business Meeting

10:30 a.m. - Coffee break

10:45 a.m. - Guest Speaker

11:00 a.m. - Guest Speaker

12:00 noon - Buffalo Burger luncheon. Sit down and be served!

1:15 p.m. - Feature Speaker

3:00 p.m. - Coffee break

3:15 p.m. - Election of new DTBA officers and conclusion of business meeting

5:30 p.m. - Cash bar

6:00 p.m. - Prime Rib dinner

7:00 p.m. - BHBC Awards presented

8:00 p.m. - Fun Auction

Saturday, January 29, 2000

7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. - Breakfast buffet

9:00 a.m. - Judge's comments

11:00 a.m. - BHBC sale gets underway, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Arena.

There are many exciting speakers being lined up for the conference with time slots to be arranged depending upon their schedules. The judging of the animals for the BHBC will begin on Thursday, January 27 at 12:00 noon.

There is a block of rooms reserved at the host hotel, the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn. You are encouraged to make your room reservations NOW, as there are a limited number of rooms available. The demand for rooms at the hotel is high due to the Black Hills Stock Show being held at the same time as the DTBA events.

To make reservations, call 605-348-4000 and tell them you are with the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association and you will receive a discount on your room.

The next DTBA newsletter will contain detailed conference information and a registration packet. Please be sure and watch for it coming your way in December.

DTBA/MBA Host Seminar

The Montana Bison Association (MBA) and the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association (DTBA) recently co-hosted a New Producer Seminar in Miles City, MT. The meeting was well attended, with nearly 60 people taking time out to learn and share about the bison industry. Of those 60, only about one-third were current producers, proving that there is a lot of interest in this industry and the animal.

After registration, the MBA put on a super lunch, featuring bison burgers done just right. The program got underway right after lunch as DTBA President and operator of Thunder Canyon Ranch in Newell, SD, Greg Smeenk, jumped right in and told of his experiences in the bison industry. Smeenk also told the audience a little of the history of the bison and even touched on the work being done by the North American Bison Cooperative (NABC) in New Rockford, ND. He encouraged anyone interested to find out everything they can before purchasing animals.

The next speaker, Sandy Limpert of Slim Buttes Buffalo Ranch, Buffalo, SD, spoke about a variety of subjects, including the NABC, the industry overall, introducing new animals to a herd, and the one area that many consider to be his forte, feeding of bulls. Limpert went over his feeding program and showed the audience how he has developed a specialized feed that works very well for his animals. He also fielded a number of questions when his presentation was finished.

Adding a little humor to the afternoon, Marvin Mutchler, president of First Bank in Rapid City, SD, went over the steps involved in convincing your banker to loan you money for a bison operation. Mutchler has been working with area producers for a number of years and has shared his knowledge of the bison industry with others in the banking world in an effort to help pave the way for making funds easier to obtain for this new venture. Due to the nature of bankers and their need for stability, bison loans are not easy to come by, but Mutchler gave lots of tips and suggestions for helping to change your lender's mind.

George Siemion, who is on the MBA Board and operates White Buffalo Ranch out of Ft. Smith, MT, gave the final presentation of the day. Siemion related his personal experiences in getting established in the bison industry and gave some alternative ideas for new producers to think about. He also voiced strong regard for learning as much as you can from established producers.

This opportunity to learn from seasoned producers is just one of the many tools available for new producers. For information on either of these two associations, contact the DTBA at 605-343-2889 or the MBA at 406-666-2207 or 406-784-2131.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!! PLEASE READ!!

Membership Directory Info

In the upcoming Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Membership Directory for 2000, we will be updating all the membership listings, including addresses and phone numbers. If you have any changes, corrections or new information you would like to make to the current listing, please contact me as soon as possible. I will be updating this information as soon as possible, as it needs to be to the printer in the next week or so.

Please call, fax or e-mail any changes to: Karen Conley, 605-923-7755, fax 605-923-5154 or e-mail to: tgkc@gwtc.net.

We would like each listing to be as complete as possible, including the ranch name, your name, mailing address, phone number, fax number if applicable and an e-mail address if you have one.

SEND NEWSLETTER INFORMATION TO:

Karen Conley

15290 225th St. • Box Elder, SD 57719

phone: 605-923-7755 fax: 605-923-5154

e-mail: tgkc@gwtc.net



Area Chamber Members Tour Thunder Canyon Ranch

This past September, Thunder Canyon Buffalo, Newell, SD, hosted members of some local area Chambers of Commerce. The guests were treated to a noon meal of bison burgers and then a tour of the herd at Thunder Canyon Bison.

The ranch is located northeast of Newell, and is operated by Greg and Sherry Smeenck and their children, Trisha, Jenna and Jed. Greg is our current association president. A number of members were on hand to help answer questions and inform the visitors about bison and the bison industry.

The Chamber members came from around the area, including Newell, Deadwood, Spearfish, Sturgis, Belle Fourche and Rapid City. Immediately following lunch, several guest speakers gave brief presentations on the bison industry. Greg Smeenck told about his involvement with bison and about the history of Thunder Canyon Ranch. He also gave an overview of the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association and how it has progressed into one of the leading regional bison associations.

Another speaker and proponent of the bison industry, Marvin Mutchler, gave some information on the industry from his point of view. Marvin is the president of First National Bank in Rapid City and has worked with a number of bison producers in our area. The South Dakota Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Ron Cody, informed the crowd about his thoughts on the industry. He was very supportive and sees the bison industry as coming into its own in the near future, as well as being something for all of us to be proud of.

Several other state dignitaries had been invited to the tour, but due to other prior commitments, were unable to attend. United States Senator, Tom Daschle, did send his local representative, Lon Stroschien, and he presented the Smeenck's with a letter from Daschle addressed to them. The text of that letter is reproduced below. To have recognition on the local level from a United States Senator shows just how much of a force the growing bison industry is becoming.

After the presentations, the pickups and flatbeds were loaded and headed out to the pasture to view the animals. The bison were most cooperative, standing still and watching the people watching them. They were located near a local landmark, the Deer's Ears and it made for a beautiful backdrop. For nearly an hour, the visitors were able to ask questions and watch these majestic animals as they went about their favorite pastimes, grazing, rolling and soaking up the warm, fall sun.

The purpose of these tours is to help people understand and recognize about the bison industry. Although it's considered a small, niche industry, it is growing and becoming widely recognized. Through this type of education and information, the industry will continue to grow. The importance of this tour was

brought home when you consider the number of area producers that gave up their time to be at the ranch to help with the tour. That shows just how strongly they feel it is to educate the general public about bison.

After the tour, participants enjoyed bison hors d'oeuvres and cookies to tide them over on the way home. Hopefully, they all went home with a little more understanding and appreciation of this new generation of livestock.

The text from Senator Tom Daschle's letter is as follows:

Dear Friends,

I regret that I cannot be with you today as you meet to promote a promising new industry in South Dakota, but I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all well. I want to thank Greg and Sherry Smeenck for inviting me to this event, and I

recognize and applaud everyone in attendance for your willingness to explore new and non-traditional business enterprises. We have a proud agricultural heritage in South Dakota, and we must dedicate ourselves to preserving this for future generations.

As you all know, there are many challenges facing agriculture today. Now more than ever, agricultural producers need to explore new and innovative ways to create financial opportunity for those living in rural South Dakota and surrounding states.

To create better financial opportunities for rural South Dakota, we need to look for ways to expand. We must expand along the supply chain to include more processing in the state. This will help producers retain more profit by creating additional value for the consumer. In addition, we need to look for ways to expand our traditional markets by looking not only at new markets, but also at new products.

The Great Plains have been home to the buffalo for many generations. The buffalo have witnessed many transformations of the landscape, suffered near extinction, and yet they remain an impressive and enduring symbol of our land and our people. Your efforts to create new financial opportunities through the marketing of buffalo serves as a good example for other agricultural producers in South Dakota. I applaud you for these efforts.

I am committed to seeing profitability and stability restored to agriculture in South Dakota, and I thank all of you for your hard work to make this a reality. I appreciate the benefit of your expertise and dedication to agriculture, and I encourage you to keep in touch. Your insights are invaluable to me and my staff, and I look forward to working with you. Thank you again.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,
Tom Daschle
United States Senate



Greg's Field "Trip"!

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

PRESORT
STANDARD
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DAKOTA
TERRITORY
BUFFALO ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Ranch Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Fax (____) _____

E-mail _____

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

\$25