



August 2014

The Buffalo Rancher

Official Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association

Important Dates:

PLAN TO ATTEND!

September 26-27, 2014
RMBA Fall Workshop -
Blue Valley Ranch (see
pg. 11-13)

January 21-24, 2015
GTSS and NBA Winter
Conference

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Kremmling, CO

Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association
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RMBA Peak to Peak Spring Conference

Different Format leads to Great Success

By Patty Smith

The spring meeting had a different format this year which was more similar to those in the years prior to the Peak to Peak Show and Sale.

With the decision not to hold a show and sale this year, plans were



made to have an educational format while incorporating the social atmosphere for members to meet and greet and share in the fellowship that comes with a gathering of buffalo enthusiasts.

Friday late afternoon found the board setting up the meeting room with the display booth and banner and then they got down to business with a short board meeting. Several



members also attended the board meeting. That flowed right into the gener-



Continued on page 3

RMBA 2014 Elections

by Patty Smith, Nominating Chair

This was one of those boring, quick elections. The nominating committee nominated:

Larry Higgins - President
Debbie Thieman - Vice President
Tudi Arneil - Secretary/Treasurer
For 2 yr.. Board positions:
Tom Stelmach
John Graves

There were no nominations from the floor and they were all elected by acclamation.

Outgoing board members were Brent Ginther and Tom Sowle. They were thanked and honored later at the dinner. Tom Sowle has served for several terms and as a gift(?), he will be given back the hat that was "forcibly donated" at a fun auction when he was producer of the year. Boyd Meyer purchased the hat and he will see that Tom receives it back in good condition!



*2013 - 2014
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Directors*

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719/763-2439*

VICE PRESIDENT

*Debbie Thieman
Prairie Ridge Buffalo
719/775-8742*

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303/921-5632*

DIRECTOR 13/14

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970/587-2001*

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*Boyd Meyer
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970/396-2249*

DIRECTOR 14/15

*John Graves
Ralphie's Riders
303/887-9677*

DIRECTOR 14/15

*Tom Stelmach
Peak to Peak Ranch
303/774-0562*

*RMBA Official Web Site:
buffaloranchers.com*

**All RMBA meeting minutes
and financials are available from
Secretary-Treasurer Tudi Arneil**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Where does the time go? It has been four months since RMBA's Peak to Peak Conference, 2014 is half over, and calving season is coming to a close. Speaking of calving, we had an oddity two weeks ago, one of our cows gave birth to a little, and I mean little, gray colored calf, a first for us, and the little tripper is as healthy as the rest. I'm wondering if it will keep its color.

Again, weather is on the forefront, especially where agriculture is involved. In eastern Colorado, I-70 seems to divide the moisture, to the south, drier, while to the north wetter, with some unsettled storms. We have seen hail from pea size to tennis ball size, and winds that are unreal. We are north of I-70 and the pastures are in great shape, however 400 acres of our wheat has been hailed out. But in general, I believe conditions are pretty good so far. Keep praying for rain. Looking back: The Peak to Peak Conference, it was a huge success. We had three interesting topics and four great speakers, plus food, fun & fellowship. Read all about it the newsletter. Again thanks to all who helped to put on this event.

Looking forward: The buffalo business is steady to stronger, with no apparent hiccups in the near future, and I am still receiving many inquiries from interested parties about getting into the business. The two significant issues I hear most are

finding land and finances. The advice I give is to be open to move where the land is available, and

to check with a local Farm Service Agency, (FSA), about loans available. Since the passing of the new Farm Bill there are some programs that may help. Also there is a livestock assistant program available for those who were affected with drought, loss of feed, and or death loss. See flier in newsletter. I would encourage you all to check this out with your local FSA.

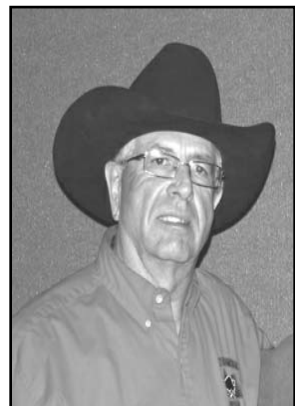
Plans are coming together for the Fall Workshop which will be hosted by Blue Valley Ranch in Kremmling on September 27th. See enclosed information and hope to see everyone there!

The Board will be getting together soon to plan next year's Peak to Peak Conference and Meeting. We have had some input on topics and speakers, but if any of you have some ideas on what you would like to learn more about, please let us know.

I trust you all will have a great rest of the summer and hope to see you in Kremmling in September.

God Bless.

Larry Higgins



2014 - 2015 RMBA Board of Directors

Pictured left to right: Tudi Arneil, Debbie Thieman, Boyd Meyer, Larry Higgins, John Graves and Tom Stelmach. (Dave Hayes is not pictured).



Peak to Peak Conference, *cont.. from pg 1*

al meeting which included election of new board members and officers and discussions of what members wanted from the association.



While the room was transformed from meeting room to banquet room, we adjourned to the bar area of the Embassy Suites for a social hour where we were treated to cheese trays and buffalo appetizers.

Socializing continued as we moved into the banquet room and set out the fun auction items. It was a great banquet featuring buffalo prime rib - I know there were other items on the menu - but it was the prime rib that was the star!



The fun auction followed the banquet - see separate article. As usual after the scheduled activities, there was more visiting that went on in the bar!



Saturday morning after the Embassy Suites good breakfast, we were back in the meeting room for the educational portion of the meeting. The morning presenters were Rachel Murphy speaking on pasture and range management and Dr. Frank Krell speaking on dung beetles and bison.



Lunch was a taco bar and then back to the meeting room. Dave Carter gave an update on the activities of the NBA and then veterinarians, Randy Shibroun and Doug Ford brought us up to date on Mycoplasma in bison (see related articles on all the presentations offered at this conference in this newsletter).

The entire conference was deemed a success by those attending and unless members indicate they want something different, this format will be followed in the future.

2014 Fun Auction

Patty Smith, Chairman

We had a lot of fun with a minimum of fun auction donations this year. First of all, thanks to Jud Seaman for coming from Rapid City to call our auction (and for bringing Pam with him). He always is able to increase those bids and helped us bring \$4,205 for our only fund raiser of the year! Jud also bought something - we do appreciate him!

Diane Ward and I had fun spending Laurie Dineen's money since she and Bob weren't able to be there. Thanks Laurie for supporting us even though you weren't there!

Donations ranged from homemade items (thanks Lee Ann Trynoski for the blankets!), small batch bourbon made in Ft. Collins, the usual wall-hangings, jewelry, t-shirts, stuffed buffalo, RMBA gloves, buffalo hats to 2 frozen whole rib-eyes donated by RMBA that we didn't need for the banquet.

It was truly a "FUN" auction!

**More Photos from RMBA
Conference
complements of Patty Smith**



**Thanks to all who helped organize and to all that were able to attend.
Presentations from featured speakers at the conference are printed in the following pages.**



Rangeland Ecology and Grazing Management

by Rachel Murph, NRCS State Rangeland Management Specialist

The words grazing management immediately bring to mind, livestock, fences, water development, and as managers, we can all hope for more grass than we can dream of, clean water, healthy soil, diverse plants and happy livestock! But there is more to grazing management than structural practices and rotating livestock. So where does it all start? It starts with an understanding of rangeland ecology. Understanding that grazing management is not the management of livestock - but the management of natural resources so that we can use livestock to harvest energy and grow an agricultural commodity.

It all starts with becoming grass ranchers - growing green grass first.

A plant needs the following to grow:

- Water - in the form of precipitation
- Air - in the form of CO₂
- The right temperature for growing condition
- Energy
- Raw materials in the form of minerals

All of these things are beyond our control to manage - we can't control when or how it rains and we can't control how much CO₂ is in the air, or what temperature it is outside. But luckily we can assist the plants in how they plant use these resources to grow. We can help a plant increase roots and root area, increase leaf production, and have increased vigor for protection, allowing it to provide a microclimate of protection. And most importantly we can control how much of the plant remains and recovers by managing how much leave we harvest with the grazing animal.

Let's call our ranch "The Leaf Factory"...for our ranch to stay in business we need to prioritize maintaining the health of our plants and the ecosystem that they require. To grow more plants it becomes imperative that we maintain three functional attributes of a healthy rangeland system. Biotic

integrity, hydrologic cycle, and soil site stability functional attributes are three ecological processes that integrate and work together to provide rangeland health. When your rangeland is supporting characteristic plant functional communities, increased plant diversity, has optimum capacity to limit soil loss has good capacity to capture, store and release rainfall, run-on and snowmelt, then our ranch can function at the highest levels.

Besides hay - it is pretty hard to make money on green grass alone, so into our factory we bring the ungulate! By using livestock as a tool, we can harvest green grass (energy) and turn in to commodity for human use. But we can also use the grazing animal as a tool for ecological restoration. By adjusting the amount of the plant removed, when we remove the plant, the number of times we remove the plant, and how long we allow the plant to recover after defoliation we can favor different plant and animal species, as well as improving the biotic integrity, hydrologic cycle and soil site stability.

Remember, we grow green grass first. That plant, believe me does not want to be grazed, and there are consequences to the individual plant from grazing. these consequences can include decreased vegetation, increased weeds, increased plant vigor and mortality which can lead to increased bare ground, soil loss, loss of wildlife habitat.

But native vegetation evolved with grazing animals as well as other types of disturbance; all grazing is not created equal. Instead of thinking about how long you are going to graze, start to think about when you are going to allow the plant to recover. Based on land specific goals and objectives you can figure out when you will want to allow plant recover to achieve your desired plant and ecosystem condition.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service is a USDA Agency which was founded during the dust bowl, to work



with the landowner and managers to promote conservation of your natural resources through natural resource planning. We are here to help you identify where your resources and understand the current condition of your resources, help you establish resource oriented goals and create a conservation plan. Within this conservation plan, we can help brainstorm ideas with you on how to use the grazing animal to meet your resource goals, and keep your "leaf factory" pumping out green grass growth. We can also help you look at structural practices that may be needed to facilitate management as well as accelerated vegetation practices that might be needed to aid resource improvement. Once you have decided on practices that will become a part of your conservation plan. NRCS provides some financial assistance programs to help you implement your conservation plan.

Our website www.nrcs.usda.gov offers information about both technical information and the financial programs. It can also help you find your local field office. NRCS has offices in every state and in almost every county.

Please feel free to call or email me with concerns, questions or need for assistance.

Rachel.murph@co.usda.gov
720-544-2866



Dung Beetles Win Fans

by: Tudi Arneill

When do topics usually not discussed in polite company become a learning session for ranchers? When scarab beetle expert Dr. Frank Krell starts talking about dung beetles. Currently the curator of entomology at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Krell is in the midst of a 10 year study on how the reintroduction of a native animal, bison, to the prairie ecosystem will affect the dung beetle populations. He is working on the Plains Conservation Center - West Bijou site south of Strasburg.

Krell presented information on the economic value of dung beetles (\$140

million/year). By eliminating dung, the beetles reduce the amount of forage that is fouled and reduce parasite & pest fly populations. By tunneling and burying the dung, nitrogen in the soil is increased.

By collecting, identifying and preserving the beetles from buckets and buckets of dung, Krell hopes to find population trends for the 85 species of dung beetles found in Colorado

When the bison were nearly eliminated, the dung beetles had to adapt to new sources of dung. Cattle make a poor substitute, especially cattle medicated to prevent worms, etc. Their dung can be toxic to the beetles and their larvae. European dung beetles, introduced with the cattle, compete with the native beetles, creating more challenges. It is hoped that the bison

dung will provide the native beetles with the resources they need to thrive and keep the rangelands healthy and thriving.

Many folks left the session with new admiration for the lowly dung beetle.



Dung beetles are funny creatures to watch. Here, the larger female beetle pushes the dung ball while the male rides it.

Courtesy Whitney Cranshaw/Colorado State University

Mycoplasma Bovis

by: Ray Thieman

During our Peak to Peak Conference and Meeting held on April 11-12 we were fortunate to have two speakers that are on the front line of the battle against Mycoplasma Bovis. These speakers were Dr. Randy Shirbroun from Merial Industries and Dr. Doug Ford from Beaver Valley Veterinary at Brush, Colorado.

Both Dr. Shirbroun and Dr. Ford have been working with Dr. Hunter of Turner Enterprises and other local ranchers in developing an effective vaccine against this disease. It was stated that there are many difficulties in developing a vaccine because of the cell wall structure and the multiple strains of M. Bovis. Most commercial vaccines have had limited success and so Dr. Hunter and others have had an autogenous vaccine made with good results. An autogenous vaccine is one that is made from tissue of live animals from a specific farm. The isolated strains that are causing the infection are then targeted.

They recommended an initial vaccination with a follow-up booster in 3 to 4 weeks then an annual booster. Other producers have found that they are getting good results with a third shot when in a feed lot situation or one with a higher stress level. Most agreed that M. Bovis can act as a primary infection often brought on with increased stress. This disease is wide spread in herds both in the US and Canada and they recommend isolation of new animals coming into an operation until the vaccination period is over.

M. Bovis can be exhibited in three forms. Mastitis which is rarer in buffalo is found more in dairy herds. Arthritic infections are found in the joints and cause lameness in one or more legs. Infection will reach the level where the animal is unable to put any pressure on one or more of the infected limbs. Lastly, respiratory where you will find typical signs of a respiratory infection including shortness of breath, whizzing, nasal discharge, etc. It is possible to see a combination of symptoms or only one exhibited in a specific animal.

All agreed that treatment was limit-



ed or ineffective and the infection just has to move through the herd. Some have had reasonable success with Draxon, but this is an expensive drug. In treatment you are often treating secondary infections, so other antibiotics can have some value. It also appears that you can have some success by removing infected animals from the herd then moving the herd to a new pasture. Infections were noted in both feed lot situations and on open pasture. Morbidity (infected animals) can be well over 50% and mortality can reach levels of 25 to 50%.

It was agreed by the group that our best hope in controlling this disease is by an effective vaccination program as well as an effective management program designed to protect and prevent an outbreak.



Social Media in the Buffalo Industry

By John Graves



Even if you are a social media hold-out, you cannot deny that these days it seems like everyone is glued to their phone or computer. The reason: social media, and the younger the age, the more time they seem to spend on it.

So what are they doing on social media? People want to show off their life stories and experiences. They will go to Yelp to view/add restaurant reviews, post pictures of what they are doing on Instagram, send silly pictures to their friends via Snap Chat, go to Google Plus to get business reviews and store information, and they will visit Facebook to see what their friends, favorite companies, TV shows, and celebrities are up to. Most importantly for you, a business owner, they visit all of these places to find out information on your business, see what others think of it, know when upcoming events are, and talk about their experiences dealing with your business.

It is a whole new language, but do not worry. You do not have to Insta-Yelp-Snap-Gram to get started with social media. Facebook is business-friendly, cost-effective, and a good first step into social media.

Facebook is a great way to share your personal thoughts, feelings, and life stories with family and friends. It is an easy way to distribute those vacation photos to your extended family and connect with people you do not always have time to call. So have you thought about sharing what is happening on your buffalo ranch or buffalo

business with everyone on Facebook? Facebook gives you free promotional opportunity to create a "Page," separate from your personal profile, for your ranch or business, allowing anyone interested to connect with your company.

Having a business Facebook "Page" is not only a way to advertise for your ranch or business, but it allows your consumers to interact with you, and you with them. You can post pictures and information about your product and people can comment, ask questions, or publicly "like" things you post. Your customer interactions are viewable by anyone who comes to your Facebook page, giving you the opportunity to receive unsolicited, genuine "testimonials" for your product.

People will visit your Facebook page because they want to know the backstory of where their food came from.



Find us on Facebook

Consumers want to know that your ranch is the main meat supplier of that great Bar and Grill down the street that they eat at once a week. They want to see that you have a real working ranch where the buffalo are out enjoying the pastures. Consumers want to support their neighbors, the local ranchers. Knowing more about you and your company makes them feel better about spending money on your product.

There is an entertainment factor too. They enjoy seeing pictures of all the new calves walking around for the first time and playing with other calves. They are intrigued by the classic cowboy pictures of all the ranch hands. But above all, the consumers want as much information about the product they will be consuming as possible.

Whether they hear about you, see your business name in the grocery

store, or are looking for a company just like you, they go to these social media sites to find more information. So the next person on their smartphone in front of the meat counter may just be looking for you.

Just like your personal Facebook profile, a business page is free to create. The only thing you need, besides a computer, is a personal Facebook profile. This is required to make sure you are creating a legitimate page.

By creating a Facebook Page for your ranch or business, you can inform your customers of an upcoming farmers market that you will be at where you might have a sale, or be handing out samples. You can post those scenic pictures of your ranch and everyone hard at work. You can advertise, for free, prices of your products you might be selling on your website, or at the local grocery store. You can connect with that local Bar and Grill's

Facebook Page and explain how you provide locally-raised buffalo meat for them. Those connections give you and the restaurant, grocery store, farmers market, etc. more exposure on Facebook, and hopefully others will return the favor for your page as well.

The Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association has a Facebook Page, and we encourage all of our members and all other buffalo enthusiasts to "Like" our page by simply searching our name on Facebook. We also want to help support our member's Pages and we will help promote your ranch or business's Page on our Page as well. If you have any questions on setting up a Facebook Page, please contact John Graves at john.graves@colorado.edu or 303-887-9677.



Visit the RMBA Colorado State Fair Booth August 22 - September 1

By: Deb Thieman

Once again RMBA will be educating our young people about bison at the RMBA buffalo display booth at the Colorado State Fair from August 22 - September 1. The booth offers much information in addition to fun activities for all, such as testing their throwing abilities by tossing bean bag hay bales through holes in a wooden buffalo.

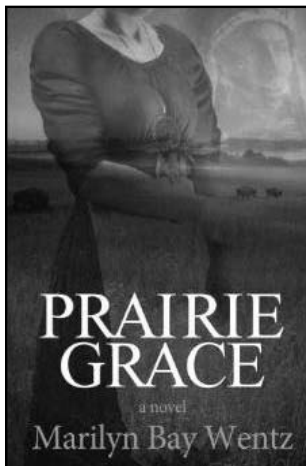


The Colorado Department of Agricultural sponsors this event and local FFA members help monitor the activities there. The booth will be located in the Ag Building where the theme always focuses on children learning about agricultural. We hope everyone can stop by and see our display!



Summer Reading

By: Deb Thieman



PRAIRIE GRACE by Marilyn Bay Wentz, will definitely be a book that you can't put down while reading this summer. Wentz writes a historical fiction depicting a time when the United States is entangled in the Civil War and the Colorado Territory is trying to dominate the Native American population. The book is a quick read, entertaining, filled with historical facts,

and weaves a love story between two young people from different cultures and religious backgrounds. Events and characters from the Indian Wars, the Sand Creek Massacre, and the early Denver political development are also well researched and included in the novel.

Marilyn was a finalist in the Colorado Humanities 2014 Book Awards for her book, PRAIRIE GRACE. We

all probably know Marilyn best as the editor of the Bison World publication. Wentz currently is working on a sequel to PRAIRIE GRACE and is also writing a book with her mother that will soon be publicized.

One can purchase PRAIRIE GRACE on Amazon or by visiting Marilyn's website at, www.marilynbaywentz.com.

Forage or Livestock Loss Assistance Available

by: Larry Higgins

To all RMBA members. You may not be aware of the financial assistance that the Farm Service Agency (FSA) has for all those who have suffered any lose of livestock and or forage. You may be eligible.

Depending on what State and County you live in, the assistance could be substantial. You may want to check with your local FSA office for more information. I believe sign up for these programs extend to the end of 2014.

For our members, this is well worth looking into. See page 10 for more information.

National Bison Association Updates

Bison Association Director Appointed to USDA Trade Advisory Committee

The appointment of the National Bison Association Executive Director Dave Carter to a U.S. Department of Agriculture trade advisory panel reflects the growing role of the bison business as a part of the overall agricultural economy, according to the association's president, Bruce Anderson of South Dakota.

"Even though the bison business is a small part of the livestock industry, we need to be a part of any agreement that opens new markets to American agricultural products," Anderson said. "We are pleased that Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is including our voice at the table in this advisory panel."

Carter was one of three individuals appointed by Vilsack last week to the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade (ATAC) in Animals and Animal Products. The other individuals include Shelly McKee of the USA Poultry and Export Federation and Stephen Sothmann of the U.S. Hides, Skins and Leather Association. Vilsack appointed 16 other individuals to other trade panels that will advise the USDA and the U.S. Trade Representative in ongoing trade negotiations.

In making the appointments, Vilsack said, "The agricultural trade advisory committees provide great insight into trade issues for the United States. Hearing from such a wide variety of agricultural experts

helps us formulate our trade strategy and keep American exports growing to record numbers. Agricultural trade plays a vital role in the health of our economy, and the new members of the committees will bring welcome new perspectives."

Carter said that the inclusion of the bison industry on the advisory panel comes at a key time for producers and marketers because the ongoing free trade discussions with the European Union and the potential talks with Asian trading partners will all have an economic impact on the bison business.

"Secretary Vilsack and Trade Representative (Michael) Froman have both pledged to work to eliminate the tariff that is hampering the growth of bison meat exports to Europe. Including us on the ATAC demonstrates a commitment to that pledge," Carter said. "In addition, we hope that negotiators will work to reopen markets in Japan and South Korea for our bison exports."

Throlson American Bison Foundation Scholarship Accepting 2014 Applications

"The Throlson American Bison Foundation Scholarship program has been established to recognize, encourage and promote leadership among future bison industry professionals," said Dave Carter, executive director of the NBA.

The scholarship program will offer a total of \$5,000 in scholarships for outstanding students who are currently enrolled in a recognized livestock, animal science, veterinary,

RMBA Classified

BUFFALO GAL YARNS

Jill Klawonn at High Point Bison has four different buffalo yarns available. We offer fine hand-knit garments or you can create a one of a kind piece.
hpbison@ncolcomm.com or call 970-895-3303.

TRANSPORTATION

Dan Martin will haul your buffalo. No distance too far. Call: 970/824-9207.

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All ads must be pre-paid.
Contact Laurie Dineen to place your ad today!
laurie@greatrangebison.com

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agriculture, or human nutrition program in the United States or Canada.

Eligible students include juniors and seniors in undergraduate programs attending school full-time, as well as graduate students. Applications are available for download at the NBA's website, www.bisoncentral.com, or just click here.

Applications must be completed and mailed to the NBA no later than Oct. 1, 2014. Recipient announcements will be made no later than Nov. 5, 2014. For more information, contact the NBA office at (303) 292-2833, or jim@bisoncentral.com.





ATTENTION LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS



Signup for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Disaster Assistance programs began:

April 15, 2014

Have you suffered grazing losses or feed losses?

Have you suffered excessive livestock death losses?

Have you incurred costs for transporting water?

Have you incurred costs for cattle tick fever?

If you answered, "yes" to any of these questions, you may be eligible for federal assistance through FSA's Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) or Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

Producers should record all pertinent information regarding livestock losses due to eligible adverse weather or loss condition, including:

- Documentation of the number, kind, type, and weight range of livestock that have died, supplemented if possible by photographs or video records of ownership and losses
 - Dates of death supported by birth recordings or purchase receipts
 - Documentation from Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Natural Resources, or other sources to substantiate eligible death loss due to attacks by animals or avian predators
 - Costs of transporting livestock feed to eligible livestock, such as receipts for equipment rental fees for hay lifts and snow removal
 - Feed purchase receipts if feed supplies or grazing pastures are destroyed
 - Documentation that livestock were removed from grazing pastures due to an eligible adverse weather or loss condition
 - Crop records, including seed and fertilizer purchases, planting and production records
 - The number of gallons of water transported to livestock due to water shortages
 - The number of livestock treated for cattle tick fever.
-

Visit FSA online at www.fsa.usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**RMBA Fall Workshop
September 27, 2014
Hosted by: Blue Valley Ranch, Kremmling, CO**



Photos courtesy of Blue Valley Ranch

**Make plans NOW to attend the 2014 RMBA Workshop hosted by
Blue Valley Ranch in Kremmling, Colorado on September 26-27**

The 25,000 acre Blue Valley Ranch has been home to Bison since 1996 when buffalo were reintroduced to the ranch which they have built to a manageable herd size currently of 130 cows, said Josh Richert who is the live-stock manager for the ranch. "The Bison have become iconic to the ranch's identity as well as an important part of its agricultural production program," he stated. However, Bison have been present in the Blue River Valley for far longer than cattle. A bison skull unearthed along the Blue River 15 years ago has been found, by the use of 'accelerator mass spectrometry analysis', to be around 175 years old, placing bison in Middle Park long before European settlement. The skull is currently on display in the ranch's office. If you want to see this, you have to attend!!!



Blue Valley Ranch's history is still clearly visible in the landscape, and it influences how the ranch operates today. Many Native American cultural sites have been identified on the ranch, and these areas are carefully protected in planning habitat work and range improvements. Arrowheads and shards are commonly found, and rock rings from teepees or wickiups are still visible in some areas. An old eagle-catch is even discernible on one of the high ridges overlooking the



Blue Valley Ranch

cont. from page 11

ranch, where young members of the tribe would hide and lie in wait to capture a landing eagle for some of its feathers.

The vision of Blue Valley Ranch is to recreate a pristine, natural landscape with corresponding ecological function to produce a landscape of high quality aesthetics, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat. The ranch is



a model for the integration of land, animal, financial and human resources for long-term sustainability, ecological stewardship, production and recreation. Bison are a perfect fit with the ranch's vision of land stewardship and maintaining its western heritage.



This is just a peek into the Blue Valley Ranch. To learn more on how Blue Valley Ranch manages their whole operation and see how they integrate bison into their long term plans, you need to come see it in person!

The RMBA is excited for this opportunity for its members to visit Blue Valley Ranch. We are hoping for a typical Colorado Indian Summer in the high country boasting temperatures in the mid 70's during the day, but cool in the evening and early mornings. Register early and make your plans now for this incredible RMBA buffalo workshop!

RMBA Fall Workshop Tentative Schedule

Friday, September 26

3:30 – 4:30 pm - RMBA board meeting .
Best Western Ptarmigan Inn
Hotel lobby

Social and Dinner at Red Mountain Grill
703 E Anemone Trail, Dillon, CO 80498
(970) 468-1010

5:00 - 6:00 pm - Social Hour – Cash bar
6:00 -7:30 pm - Bison Dinner

Saturday, September 27

9:30 - Arrive Blue Valley Ranch
6915 Colorado Hwy 9, Kremmling, CO 80459
(970) 724-3680

Allow 40 minutes +/- . From Hotel, take Hwy 6 which turns into Hwy 9 North towards Kremmling. Blue Valley Ranch is just past mile marker # 134 on the left side of road.

10:00 am - Tour of ranch facilities

12:30 – 2:00pm - Bison Burger Lunch
at the Ranch - burgers courtesy of Heart
Rock Bison, Larry & Jackie Higgins
Socialize
Depart for home

Lodging

Best Western Ptarmigan Inn
652 Lake Dillon Drive
Dillon, CO, 80435
Phone: 970/468-2341

Rate: 89.99 for a 2 Queen bed room
Complimentary breakfast included
RMBA rates apply until Sept. 12, 2014.



RMBA FALL WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM
Blue Valley Ranch, Kremmling, CO
September 26th & 27th 2014

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 12, 2014

Names

Ranch Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Registration Fee Enclosed:

_____ Adults @ \$45.00 each _____

_____ Children @ \$25 each _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

REGISTRATION DUE: September 12, 2014

Send to: Rocky Mountain Buffalo Association
303 S Broadway, Suite B522
Denver, CO 80209

Fall Workshop information Larry Higgins at 719/740 -1068 if you have questions.

LODGING:

Best Western Ptarmigan Inn

652 Lake Dillon Drive,

Dillon, CO, 80435, United States

Phone: 970/468-2341

Rate: \$89.99 for 2 Queen room, RMBA rates apply until Sept. 12, 2014. Complimentary breakfast included





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