



# BISON LINK

December 2005

*The Official Newsletter of the Canadian Bison Association*

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*The Bison Link is published for the:*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Mark Silzer

The past year for the bison industry was one of progress on many fronts. Although the Board of Directors was required to make tough decisions about the CBA's operations, we continue to strengthen the ability of your association to serve you better and have a greater influence on national policy issues.

This progress, although facilitated by the board, its committees and CBA staff, could not have been made if it was not for the support of the membership and industry stakeholders. Last year, the CBA was committed to changing the declining membership trend. Declining to 785 members in 2004 from a high of 1357 in 2001, membership exceeded 800 in 2005. We must work to continue to provide value to membership to ensure that this rebuilding trend continues.

On the policy front, for the bison industry there were highs and lows. The CBA was able to increase its profile amongst our policy makers. In November of 2004, we had an opportunity to meet with the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food to outline bison industry issues. We again had the opportunity to bring a number of bison industry issues before the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance in January in Saskatoon and again to the Liberal Caucus in August in Regina. Although these are small steps, it is important for policy makers to understand that there is a growing bison industry in Canada and North America.

Although the September 2004 government announcement to reposition Canada's livestock industry provided some assistance, the bison industry was excluded from set-aside assistance provided to other sectors. The CBA, in working with regional associations and other ruminant groups was able to influence the government to consider programs more specifically for our industry. This resulted in the \$68 per qualifying bison being announced in March 2005. Furthermore, as a result of a repositioning strategy put forward by the association in the fall of 2004, the industry will see in excess of five hundred thousand dollars of federal funding invested in market development

over the next two years. A major issue that the industry also had to address was the potential listing of bison as a Threatened Species under *The Species At Risk Act*. Such a listing would have been devastating for the industry. With the support of regional associations, members, provincial governments, and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, we were able to provide valuable information to decision makers that prevented the listing of plains bison as a Threatened Species. More work is required on this issue.

On the BSE front, the rule published by the USDA in January 2005, created some optimism for the industry with the hopes of being able to ship both meat products as well as live animals into the U.S. market. This optimism was short-lived with the R-CALF injunction. However after the July Appeals Court ruling allowing the U.S. Department of Agriculture to proceed with the opening of the border, live bison began to move to U.S. slaughter plants and to feedlots a few weeks later. Recent developments continue to indicate further easing of border restrictions in the foreseeable future.

Marketing continues to be critical for the bison industry. The CBA continues to collect a \$4.00 marketing fee with \$2.00 being made available to regional associations for marketing initiatives. Continued industry support has allowed the CBA to obtain funding to develop marketing materials for farm direct marketers. In addition, this support has assisted the CBA in obtaining funding to support international market development opportunities. With this funding the CBA has developed a plan to construct a new website and prepare promotional materials in French and German to support those markets. Also the CBA has been able to meet with marketers to ensure that there is a common understanding of market developments and industry programs.

In addition the CBA partnered with four bison marketers – Canadian Prairie Bison, Carmen

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Creek Gourmet Meats, Grande Prairie Bison, and Rangeland Bison - to set up a kiosk at the Canadian Export Centre in Vancouver. This centre is expected to receive thousands of visitors and trade delegations annually. With the 2010 Winter Olympics coming to the Vancouver area, there was support to get in on the ground floor of this initiative. International visitors have already expressed interest in bison products through this venue.

With feedback from producers and marketers and research completed by the Lacombe Research Centre, changes have been recommended to the government to adjust the parameters of the present grading system. Once approved, the number of heifers and bulls eligible for the "A" grade should increase, resulting in greater returns to producers without compromising the quality of A grade product. I want to express the CBA's appreciation to the Diversified Livestock Fund of Alberta and the Diversified Livestock Branch of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development the support of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Bouvry Exports, and to the Lacombe Research Centre for supporting this project.

Communication continues to be a priority not only with our members and industry stakeholders but also policy makers. It is absolutely essential that policy makers at the federal and provincial level be made aware of bison industry issues and priorities. We continue to focus on Smoke Signals, Bison Link and e-letters as the major tools for communication with membership. In an attempt to further enhance communication a new website for the CBA will be launched in March of 2006.

The many activities and initiatives would not have been possible if it was not for the committed Board of Directors. Over the past year Board members donated about 80 days to the industry plus shared expenses to attend meetings. I would like to thank retiring directors

Ron White who held responsibilities of Treasurer, Adele Rhymy who chaired the Fibre Committee, Gary Fakeley who chaired the On Farm Food Safety Advisory Committee and Eric Hauenstein who was a major contributor to the Marketing Committee for their commitment and dedication to the industry. The progress of the CBA must, in part, be attributed to their leadership. I would also like to make special mention of Tom Stewart who represented our interest as a CCIA and CLIA Board member.

One of the most difficult decisions the Board was required to make was the elimination of the marketing position because of limited financial resources. Samantha McDonald made a major contribution to the industry through her work in branding the industry and the leadership she provided for the Canadian Agriculture and Food International Program. On behalf of the Board and the members, I want to express appreciation for her dedication and hard work.

I also want to express my appreciation to the regional associations' respective boards and staff for their assistance and support at the provincial level to industry stakeholders and marketers both in Canada and the U.S. as we continue to build on a spirit of cooperation that will benefit the entire industry, to the executive and staff of the National Bison Association as we work together to address cross border issues that serve to hinder the development of the North American bison industry and certainly last but not least, Tara and Terry for the work that they continue to do for the industry. I would like to conclude by again thanking the membership for their invaluable feedback and support as we continue to move the bison industry forward. Working together we continue to have an influence and make a difference.

In closing, on behalf of my family, I'd like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season and all the best in the new year.

## COMING SOON.....

### New Website for the Canadian Bison Industry

A new website is currently being developed for the Canadian Bison industry. The new website will have two home pages. When you first click on [www.canadianbison.ca](http://www.canadianbison.ca), you will be directed to the consumer homepage. This section will focus on why bison, where to buy, how to cook, featured articles and links etc. On the consumer home page there will be a "producer" button which will direct you to the second home page which is the primarily for bison producers. At this site we will have producer information and resources, about the CBA, news and events, classifieds, links etc. The new website will also have multiple materials available in German and French.

The new website: [www.canadianbison.ca](http://www.canadianbison.ca) will go live in March 2006.

## CBA OFFICE: A YEAR IN REVIEW

Although much of the past year continued to focus on the consequences of BSE, the Canadian Bison Association office continued to build on a number of initiatives that were in progress or were initiated in 2004. One unexpected event was the recommendation to place plains bison on the Threatened Species List. This required intensive planning and communication to insure that plains bison remained off the list.

A major priority continued to be that of communication with membership and industry. Through Smoke Signals, Bison Link and e-letters, and attendance at industry meetings we were able to continue to highlight bison industry issues, CBA plans, priorities and progress. Through e-letters and bison link we were able to provide producers with information on BSE developments and the requirements for moving bison into the U.S. Information was also provided to many producers on an individual basis.

In support of opening the border to live bison trade with the U.S. and in dealing with the Species at Risk issue, there were several written communications to government officials and politicians at the national and provincial levels. This communication is considered essential if the interests of the bison industry are to be reflected in national policy development.

We continued to provide information to members on significant events such as the federal budget, feed regulations, and animal health developments. In the future we will be more effective as funding was also obtained to replace the present CBA website. The new website will go live in March 2006 and will give the CBA another tool to communicate with producers and consumers throughout the world.

The CBA completed a tracking and tracing strategy, which is being built on the foundation of electronic (RFID) tags. The CBA began selling electronic tags in January 2005 and electronic tags will be the official approved bison tag available in September 2005. In addition the CBA office obtained funding to initiate work on a number of pilot projects in the fall of 2005. The results of these activities will assist in developing policies and procedures for the industry traceability strategy. As part of this strategy, the CBA continues to be involved in working with the Canadian Livestock identification agency which will be the source of all tracking and tracing information should an animal need to be traced for disease purposes.

Additional progress has been made with the On Farm Food Safety Program. In June 2005, Dr. Marshall Patterson, Ray Salmon, and Terry Kremeniuk appeared before a technical review committee and reviewed the Canadian Quality Bison Program, the bison industry's On Farm Food Safety Program. The review requires modifications to the HACCP model, the Reference Manual and the Producer Workbook. This work is in progress. In Early 2006, additional funding will be perused to implement the program.

Over the past year, a number of marketing projects were completed. Membership contributions and the Federal Government Canadian Agriculture and Food International (CAFI) Program funded these projects. The projects included:

- A reprint of the summer edition of Smoke Signals. This meat edition received excellent reception from the industry and consumers.
- The CBA attended the 2005 Natural Food Expo West for the second year in a row. Over the three days, over 2,200 bison samples were handed out and reinforced Canadian exports to the U.S.
- The food services manual has been translated into German and is available on CD.
- Translated and printed the Canadian Bison branded brochures for the French and German markets.
- Hosted meetings with industry – marketers, CFIA, the National Bison Association, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Through this funding the CBA website is being replaced, a promotional magazine has been developed in French and English, another trade show will be attended and further work will be done to reduce U.S. trade barriers. These projects have been developed with the leadership of the CBA National Marketing Committee. In addition funding has been provided for projects in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.

This year's convention proved to be a great success with increased registration of 25%. Keynote speaker Russ Miller, General Manager of Ted Turner's bison operations plus speakers on consumer trends, genetics, pasture management, nutrition, and marketing provided invaluable information for convention participants. A total of 39 bison sold at the sale. The top price paid was \$7,100 for a yearling bull.

Financially, the CBA continues to make progress. Unfortunately, there was a need for the CBA office to eliminate the marketing position to manage its financial resources. Samantha McDonald was able to find employment immediately, which is a reflection of the quality of staff that works with the CBA. Although this has placed additional workload on remaining staff, it will assist in improving the financial resources of the CBA so that a national office can be maintained.

Next year is expected to see continued progress in the bison industry. There will be a focus on increasing the profile of the industry through domestic and international marketing strategies. Work will continue on the bison registry, a bison traceability strategy, On Farm Food Safety and representing the industry in national policy developments.

Seasons Greetings to you all!

By: Terry Kremeniuk & Tara Dlugan

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# TRACEABILITY AND THE BISON INDUSTRY

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The Canadian Federal Health of Animals Act requires "A National Identification System for animals for the purpose of controlling and eradicating disease." Through an industry government partnership and the establishment of the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, an animal identification program was established and implemented in 2001. Full implementation including enforcement began in July 2002.

The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) provided invaluable assistance during BSE investigations. Since BSE, the CCIA has enhanced its information system capabilities in response to the needs of the marketplace and the needs of government and its industry partners. Its history as well as present developments have made the CCIA a world leader in animal identification, tracking and tracing.

With the continued evolution of technology, animal identification in Canada is moving from the dangle bar-coded tags to radio frequency identification (RFID) technology. RFID tags provide several benefits including higher retention rates, improved data integrity as well as the ability to read the tags without direct line of sight of the tag. This combined with incorporation of premise identification and animal movement tracking abilities will provide for complete bison tracking capabilities.

The system is also capable of facilitating the collection of other data such as carcass grade, carcass performance, and bison registry information. The industry will be developing these options with producer input. One such option which has been developed is the Age Verification facility. Age verification is the ability to associate an animal birth date with a unique identification number for each bison. This program is voluntary and is considered by many producers to be very beneficial as it is a means of identifying animal age over dentition for export and domestic markets. The U.S.A. accepts birth dates over dentition. To access the website for further information and animal age registration please go to [www.canadaid.ca](http://www.canadaid.ca). A few bison producers have placed birth date information on the website. For producers without internet access, you can have someone registered to

submit information on your behalf. For further information, please call the CBA office at 1-306-522-4766.

For those producers registering animals on the Age Verification website facility, please ensure that you retain written and electronic birth date information as well as information such as bull release dates. This information may be required should there be an on-farm visit to verify the accuracy of the information. All birth dates entered into the CCIA database are subject to third-party auditing. Audits are being initially performed by CFIA inspectors but may be eventually conducted by provincial governments, private veterinarians, brand inspectors, or other independent parties authorized by a government body.

For a complete tracking and tracing system, in addition to animal identification and premise identification, animal movement information is required. Although still voluntary, there are provisions on the CCIA website to identify a physical location with a unique identifier. Each bison tag is associated with a premise identifier with a herd of origin, movement, or sighting until the bison tag is retired. The premise location allocator contains only public data. It could be a legal land description or geographic coordinates. In November, producers would have received a request from the CCIA to update producer contact information. Please complete the required information and forward it as requested.

To complete the traceability system requires the ability to associate a bison identification number with a location and time. This requires an efficient data collection system which will be achieved with the adaptation of RFID tags and automated reading installations at places like auction markets, feedlots, and slaughter facilities. Auction markets in select regions are beginning to test this technology. Once the three components; the bison identification, premises identification and animal movement and sighting are fully implemented, the industry will have a tracking and tracing system that will enable a dynamic response to the identification of a disease should it be required.

On November 25, 2005 federal, provincial

and territorial ministers of agriculture agreed to continue discussions and work towards a National Agricultural and Food Traceability System beginning with livestock and poultry. This will ultimately help to enhance the industry's capacity to seize market and business opportunities and plan to manage a crisis.

What does all this mean for bison producers? First it is important to note that RFID tags are the only approved bison tags now available for tracking and tracing purposes. These tags are available through the Canadian Bison Association office at 1-306-522-4766. In addition to the RFID tag which is only white, the CBA also sells a matching large white maxi tag which can be used for herd management purposes.

Secondly, if you have dangle tags from last year that are numbered between 3,000,000 and 304,999,999, they can still be used. Bison that have already been tagged with approved dangle tags do not need to be tagged with RFID tags.

Thirdly, all animals must be tagged before they leave the herd of origin unless they are being transported to a designated tagging site. It is not acceptable to send untagged animals to slaughter if they are not properly tagged.

Fourthly the CBA continues to encourage the use of the Movement Record forms. This will facilitate tracking and tracing until the infrastructure for RFID information management has been further developed so that this information can be managed using available technology.

The Canadian Bison Association is in the process of planning pilot projects that will assist the industry in developing its tracking and tracing procedures. It will also be evaluating the development of other data collection strategies that are required by producers to facilitate the management of their bison operations. In the meantime if you have any questions, please call Tara at 1-306-522-4766 or Terry at 1-306-522-4762.

Prepared by: Terry Kremeniuk, Executive Director, Canadian Bison Association

## **BISON REGISTRY REVIVAL: Ability to register foundation animals extended to end of 2007**

An important new strategy for preventing plains bison from being listed as a threatened species will soon be available to Canada's commercial bison producers thanks to the approval of over 40 bylaw changes at the Canadian Bison Association's (CBA) Annual General Meeting held on November 21 in Regina.

According to Jim Warren, a Saskatchewan Industry official who helped draft the bylaw changes, "The 2005 amendments will provide bison producers with the ability to objectively verify that the numbers of plains bison in Canada far exceed the estimates of conservationists who support threatened species status and discount the importance of commercial herds."

The bylaw changes support a revival of the bison industry's registry, which was created over 20 years ago but was never supported by a significant number of producers. According to Jim Warren the revived registry will recognize two streams of management practices within the industry. "One stream will recognize management practices within *conservation herds* that attempt to simulate the natural circumstances of bison prior to agricultural settlement. The other stream will be geared toward the commercial side of the industry and will enable breeding stock marketers the opportunity to objectively verify the parentage and genetic background of the

best performing animals, be they pure plains, pure wood, or plains-wood cross-breeds."

The Canadian Livestock Records agency and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada have been supportive of the bison industry's efforts to revive the registry and have agreed to extend the deadline for bringing foundation stock into the registry until December 2007. The identification of foundation stock is a critical first step in creating a registry. It gives a livestock breed (or species in the case of bison) the ability to start its registry with the critical mass of animals necessary to provide the new "registered breed" with the genetics necessary to ensure that individual animals registered in the future will reflect a broad spectrum of genetics and quality.

Warren hopes producers will see tremendous benefit in the opportunity to register their animals as foundation stock since it allows current and prospective breeding stock marketers to enter animals from their own existing herds directly into the registry without having to go to other producers to purchase registered stock just to get in the game. We are hoping federal funding support can be obtained to ensure that costs can be kept to a bare minimum to encourage producers to seize the opportunity that the foundation registry represents."

"The task is huge, and the timelines are tight," says Warren, "Without significant producer buy-in we won't succeed. It is critical that current marketers of generally recognized top-quality stock are warmly welcomed into the registry system. We need to make the process producer-friendly and ensure the industry retains significant control of the process on both the conservation and commercial sides of the registry. We need to be watchful and not automatically assume that the arguments put forward by some conservationists with respect to genetics and management practices are supported by science and common sense."

The CBA will begin the complicated process of reviving the registry early in 2006. First steps will involve the selection of a Pedigree Committee, the refinement of inspection practices and the criteria for plains and wood identification. Discussions within the industry regarding the criteria for conservation herd designation and liaison work with U.S. producers who are involved in similar initiatives will begin early in the new year.

For further information on planning for the registry contact Jim Warren at the SBA office in Regina at 306-585-6304 or by e-mail at [saskbison@sasktel.net](mailto:saskbison@sasktel.net).

### **SBA's Premium Stock Show and Sale -- set for Saturday March 11, 2006**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the SBA's Premium Stock Show and Sale to be held on Saturday March 11, 2006 at Kramers' Big Bid Barn, North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Show and Sale Committee co-chairs, Kurt Wigness and Ivan Thomson have laid plans to ensure the event is a success for buyers and sellers.

Kurt Wigness says, "Despite all the false starts over the past couple of years, most everyone is now reassured that issues at the border are consistently improving. Improved access to the U.S. market will see this industry take a leap forward in 2006. That growing level of confidence will result in better prices for both commercial and breeding stock producers."

Animals will be scheduled to arrive for the sale the afternoon of Friday March 10. That evening a meet and greet social will be held with an emphasis on welcoming new producers to the industry. Judging will take place on Saturday morning with trophy presentations made just prior to the sale. This year's Premium Stock Show and Sale will be held in conjunction with a commercial bison sale later in the day, ensuring plenty of buyers and sellers will be in attendance for what is shaping up to be Saskatchewan's bison event of the year.

According to Show and Sale co-chair Ivan Thomson, "The North Battleford location is handy for Alberta producers looking for a great opportunity to showcase their animals as we move into an improved market environment."

Registration/application forms will be available early in the New Year by member mail-out or by contacting Kramers' Big Bid Barn at 306-445-5000.

# 2005 Canadian National Bison Show Winners

**PREMIER BREEDER - Silver Creek Bison, Lorne, Louise, Nolan & Jason Miller, Binscarth, MB**

**GRAND CHAMPION MALE - #40 Wolverine Bison Company - Mark Silzer & Cec Stumborg, Humboldt, SK**

**RESERVE CHAMPION MALE - #17 - Silver Creek Bison -Lorne, Louise, Nolan & Jason Miller, Binscarth, MB**

**GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE - #32 Silver Creek Bison -Lorne, Louise, Nolan & Jason Miller, Binscarth, MB**

**RESERVE CHAMPION FEMALE - #24 XY Bison Ranch - Bill & Fay Bouffieux, Fort St. John, BC**

**ROOKIE OF THE YEAR - Fouillard Steel Ltd. Omer & Armand Fouillard & Ken Bell**

## HEIFER CALVES

<b>GOLD</b>	6	Celtic Bison Ranch	Robin & Jan Duffy, Lacombe, AB
<b>SILVER</b>	8	Hudye Farms	Paul, Ben & Greg Hudye, Norquay, SK
<b>BRONZE</b>	3	Fouillard Steel Supplies	Omer & Armand Fouillard & Ken Bell

## BULL CALVES

<b>GOLD</b>	1	Celtic Bison Ranch	Robin & Jan Duffy, Lacombe, AB
<b>SILVER</b>	5	Hudye Farms	Paul, Ben & Greg Hudye, Norquay, SK
<b>BRONZE</b>	2	Hudye Farms	Paul, Ben & Greg Hudye, Norquay, SK

## YEARLING BULLS

<b>GOLD</b>	17	Silver Creek Bison Ranch	Lorne, Louise, Nolan & Jason Miller, Binscarth, MB
<b>SILVER</b>	13	Wolverine Bison Company	Mark Silzer & Cec Stumborg, Humboldt, SK
<b>BRONZE</b>	10	XY Bison Ranch	Bill & Fay Bouffieux, Fort St. John, BC
<b>4th</b>	14	Hanson Bison	Troy & Serle Hanson, Valhalla Centre, AB
<b>5th</b>	16	Silver Creek Bison Ranch	Lorne, Louise, Nolan & Jason Miller, Binscarth, MB

## YEARLING HEIFERS

<b>GOLD</b>	24	XY Bison Ranch	Bill & Fay Bouffieux, Fort St. John, BC
<b>SILVER</b>	22	Hanson Bison	Troy & Serle Hanson, Valhalla Centre, AB
<b>BRONZE</b>	23	Silver Creek Bison Ranch	Lorne, Louise, Nolan & Jason Miller, Binscarth, MB
<b>4th</b>	21	Wolverine Bison Company	Mark Silzer & Cec Stumborg, Humboldt, SK
<b>5th</b>	25	Snyder Land & Development	Rex & Ronda Snyder, Lyman, WI

## BRED 2 YEAR OLDS

<b>GOLD</b>	32	Silver Creek Bison Ranch	Lorne, Louise, Nolan & Jason Miller, Binscarth, MB
<b>SILVER</b>	35	XY Bison Ranch	Bill & Fay Bouffieux, Fort St. John, BC
<b>BRONZE</b>	28	Antler River Ranches	Ron & Brooks White, Pierson, MB
<b>4th</b>	36	Snyder Land & Development	Rex & Ronda Snyder, Lyman, WI
<b>5th</b>	31	Wolverine Bison Company	Mark Silzer & Cec Stumborg, Humboldt, SK

## 2 YEAR OLD BULLS

<b>GOLD</b>	40	Wolverine Bison Company	Mark Silzer & Cec Stumborg, Humboldt, SK
<b>SILVER</b>	41	Silver Creek Bison Ranch	Lorne, Louise, Nolan & Jason Miller, Binscarth, MB
<b>BRONZE</b>	42	Silver Creek Bison Ranch	Lorne, Louise, Nolan & Jason Miller, Binscarth, MB
<b>4th</b>	44	MFL Ranhes	Dick & Karina Staudinger, Alix, AB
<b>5th</b>	43	MFL Ranhes	Dick & Karina Staudinger, Alix, AB

## Bison Carcass Class

**GOLD:** Wolverine Bison Company – Mark Silzer & Cec Stumborg, Humboldt, SK  
**SOLD at The Cut Above Auction-** \$1750.00 purchased by Canadian Prairie Bison

**SILVER:** Gerald & Sue Weins, Lockwood, SK  
**SOLD at The Cut Above Auction -** \$1600 purchased by Farm Credit Canada

**BRONZE:** Manitou Springs Bison—Curtis & Audry Eby, Drake, SK

**THANK YOU  
 CANADIAN PRAIRIE  
 BISON  
 &  
 FARM CREDIT  
 CANADA**

# Please Support Our 2005 Sponsors

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- ◆ Oliver Lake Lodge & Meridian Bison Co. - Michel & Joséé Dubé
- ◆ Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada- International Trade Canada

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## SILVER SPONSORS

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- ◆ L & M Wood Products
- ◆ Winkler Meats
- ◆ Bouvry Exports
- ◆ Hudye Farms Inc
- ◆ Carmen Creek Gourmet Meats

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## BRONZE SPONSORS

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- ◆ Paysen Livestock Equipment
- ◆ S.G. Marketing Services
- ◆ Travelodge Hotel
- ◆ Farm Credit Canada
- ◆ Western Producer

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## FRIENDS OF THE INDUSTRY

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- ◆ Conexus Credit Union
- ◆ CIBC
- ◆ Edseland Bison Ranch Inc
- ◆ Buck Lake Bison Ranch
- ◆ McConachie Creek Bison Ranch
- ◆ Rosedale Bison
- ◆ Lovas Bison
- ◆ Impact Printers
- ◆ Wigness Bison
- ◆ Silver Creek Bison Ranch
- ◆ Nial Kuyek & Associates
- ◆ XY Bison Ranch
- ◆ Wolverine Bison Company
- ◆ The Willow on Wascana
- ◆ Gervais Bisson
- ◆ Manitoba Bison Association
- ◆ Saskatchewan Bison Association
- ◆ Rough Bark Bison Company
- ◆ PFRA
- ◆ Gerald Parsons
- ◆ Bear Lake Bison
- ◆ Wigness Bison
- ◆ Canadian Prairie Bison
- ◆ Hotel Saskatchewan
- ◆ Sask Energy
- ◆ IPSO-Reid
- ◆ Quill Creek Bison
- ◆ Feed Rite
- ◆ Prairie Land Bison
- ◆ Larson Hides
- ◆ South River Bison Company
- ◆ Business Impact
- ◆ BC Bison Association

# CANADIAN BISON ASSOCIATION

## Benefits of Membership

Through membership in the Canadian Bison Association (CBA) and their regional associations, bison producers provide financial support to assist the associations protect and promote the interests of the bison industry. This support enables the national and regional associations to provide benefits that include:

- Smoke Signals, an industry magazine and Bison Link an association newsletter each published three times per year, a national electronic news letter and regional news letters to keep members current on industry issues.
- Seminars and a national convention to educate members and to enhance their management practices both in production and marketing.

The Canadian Bison Association and regional associations represent their members in many ways. These include:

- ◆ Lobby on industry's behalf to ensure the interests of the bison industry are considered in federal and provincial policy development.
- ◆ Lobby on the industry's behalf to remove trade restrictions both domestically and internationally.
- ◆ Represents the interests of the bison industry to assist in opening the U.S. border to live bison and bison products.
- ◆ Lobby on behalf of the industry to obtain financial assistance as required. i.e. \$550,000 Other Ruminant Market Development Program
- ◆ Represent the industry in dealing with animal health issues i.e. worked with CFIA to move to TB/Brucellosis slaughter surveillance thus reducing the stress on bison, facilities, and handlers while reducing operating costs.
- ◆ Lobby on behalf of the industry which prevented plains bison as a threatened species under the Species at Risk Act
- ◆ Represent the industry in dealing with conservation and environmental issues
- ◆ Work with the National Bison Association in the U.S to ensure free trade in bison and bison products as well as share industry knowledge.
- ◆ Develop national marketing strategies and promotional material
- ◆ Increase consumer awareness by participating in food shows.
- ◆ Administer the bison identification and trace back program.
- ◆ Administer the On Farm Food Safety Program
- ◆ Developed a Code Of Practice for producing bison.
- ◆ Developed grading program for bison.
- ◆ Funds research in production, finishing and marketing of bison.

Where appropriate, regional associations work with their provincial governments to ensure provincial programs and support include the bison industry.

**The activities of the Canadian Bison Association and Regional Associations are supported financially by membership. Non-members have access to all these benefits, and are encouraged to join to support the Canadian and Regional Bison Association's initiatives and activities.**

**RENEW YOUR 2006 MEMBERSHIP TODAY!! BECOME A NEW MEMBER TODAY!!  
CALL THE CANADIAN BISON ASSOCIATION'S OFFICE AT 306-522-4766**

*Once you become a member of a regional association, you are automatically a member of the Canadian Bison Association*

*Happy Holidays and all the best in 2006  
From the CBA staff and the board of directors.*

PLEASE RETURN ALL UNDELIEVARABLE COPIES TO:  
CANADIAN BISON ASSOCIATION  
BOX 3116  
REGINA. SK  
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