

It was another great Wildrose!!

With thanks to all the incredible support from our bison stakeholders and sponsors, the 2020 WILDROSE BISON CONVENTION / SHOW & SALE was deemed a wonderful **SUCCESS** !

It was our second year at the CAMROSE REGIONAL EXHIBITION venue, and attendees certainly appreciated the ample room for everyone with the :

- large Convention room
- hallway space for the Trade Tables
- a Children's Room
- AND Indoor Penning for the Wildrose Bison.



AND the two large screens at the sides of the Stage which provided a perfect visual for all the attendees :



Starting the day on THURSDAY morning was a BPA Update from Chair Steven Lundy, followed by an Update on the CBA given by Executive Director, Terry Kremenik.

Our Keynote Speaker - Internationally renowned scientist Dr. Jill Clapperton of Rhizoterra, Soil & Health Research Institute - presented information on ways to work the soil to grow better pastures for bison. Jill was a wealth of knowledge, which she continued to share with attendees throughout the day.



LUNCH featured delicious Bison Cervaleat sausages from Rangeland Meat Shop - and a bit of time to network and visit the trade and artisan tables.

After lunch, *Dr. Annette Suomine* spoke on Nutrition for Bison, giving helpful comparisons to the different requirements for Bison and Beef animals.

Next up was *Vincent McConnell*, an Agrologist that has travelled extensively discovering sustainable agriculture models. He truly believes that Bison are the best bet for animal protein, and enthusiastically shared those beliefs.

LAKELAND COLLEGE had a feature presentation for the Wildrose Attendees - acknowledging the February 25th donation of \$4 million from Armin and Rita Mueller. This donation will be used to establish a new student-managed bison operation at the Lakeland College, providing a hands-on experience that will only strengthen the future of our bison industry!



Dan (Naatsikapoina) Fox was the last speaker on Thursday, but gave one of the most interesting talks - "The Native American Aspect of the Bison". An advocate for the bison and for the Blackfoot culture, Dan raises bison and feels they are a tool for sharing knowledge. His slides demonstrated many traditional and unique methods our Indigenous peoples use with bison.



Then it was time for mingling - AND our **BISON BANQUET** ! It was Canadian Rangeland Bison that provided the Bison Strip Loin for the Steaks at our Banquet - **Thank You** again for your continued support of the Wildrose.

"Hats Off" to the staff at A1 Catering that grilled those Bison Strip Loin Steaks to perfection for our amazing meal !

**FUN AUCTION Time Next - AND
it WAS a whole lot of fun !**

A BIG "Thank You" to everyone who donated items for both the Live and Silent Auction - and to our Auctioneer - Christian Von Platen.

To start FRIDAY morning off, Ryan Voice, Business Advisor with MNP - spoke on CCA Tax Changes, Benchmarks financial institutions look for in farm programs, profitability, and opportunities in the agriculture industry.

A Producer Panel was next with bison producers Murray Sankey from Little Gem Ranches, Justin Dorey from Irish Creek Ranches and Judy Van Haren from Frontier Farms. These producers answered a wide variety of questions from the attendees, many of whom requested this portion of the Wildrose event be held again next year as it was deemed a valuable highlight!



Then it was Time for the AGM.

It was a basic Agenda, but there were again changes this year to the Board of Directors. Vice Chair & Director for the BPA - Glenn Kjemhus - had completed his third term of three years and was stepping down. Chair Steven Luntz presented Glenn with a heart-felt handshake and gift to thank him for his nine years of being on the Board.



Glenn's departure left a vacancy in the Peace Country Region, and Bison producer Brandon Adam of Adam Ranch in Grande Prairie was nominated and voted in for the position. Welcome Aboard Brandon !

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Judges - Ivan Smith and Les Kroeger did not have an easy time with 64 great animals to judge, but Kudos to both of you for a great job!

The following features the winners in each Class with photos for the GOLD Trophy Winners, then Reserve & Grand Champions :

2018 BREEDING BULLS (Sponsored by El Valley Ranches)

- Honorable Mention: Rocky Meadow Bison, Ryan Yachyshen, Rama, SK
- Bronze: Donally Livestock, Cyndy Donally, Fort St. John, BC
- Silver: Irish Creek Bison, Justin & Shaelyn Dorey, Vermilion, AB
- GOLD: Irish Creek Bison, Justin & Shaelyn Dorey, Vermilion, AB (in Photo below)



2018 OPEN HEIFERS (Sponsored by Morrin Corner Bison - on left)

- Honorable Mention: Wildman Bison Ranch, Gary & Maryanne Kozicky, Elk Point, AB
- Bronze: XY Bison Ranch, Bill & Faye Bouffioux, Fort St. John, BC
- Silver: Donally Livestock, Cyndy Donally, Fort St. John, BC
- GOLD: XY Bison Ranch, Bill & Faye Bouffioux, Fort St. John, BC

****Cyndy Donally accepted for Dad & Mom, Bill & Faye Bouffioux (in Photo below)**



2017 BRED HEIFERS (Sponsored by XY Bison Ranch)

- Honorable Mention: Big Valley Bison, Dale Mailer, Big Valley, AB
- Bronze: Frontier Farms, Erwin & Judy Van Haren, Lacombe, AB
- Silver : Alberta Bison Ranch, Neil Hochstein, Mayerthorpe, AB
- GOLD : Alberta Bison Ranch, Neil Hochstein, Mayerthorpe, AB (in Photo below)



2019 BULL CALVES (Sponsored by KLB Bison Ranch)

- Honorable Mention: Tatonka Ranch, Trent Schwitzer, Melville, SK
- Bronze: Hill Top Elk Farm, Rene & Arielle Van Cauwenberge, Three Hills, AB
- Silver: Elk Valley Ranches, Frank & Neil McAllister, Kitscoty, AB
- GOLD : Tatonka Ranch, Amanda Schwitzer, Melville, SK

****Trent Schwitzer accepted for daughter Amanda (in Photo below)**



'Pen of Two' 2019 HEIFER CALVES (Sponsored by Buck Lake Bison Ranch)

- Honorable Mention: Elk Valley Ranches, Frank & Neil McAllister, Kitscoty, AB
- Bronze: Donally Livestock, Cyndy Donally, Fort St. John, BC
- Silver : Tatonka Ranch, Amanda Schwitzer, Melville, SK
- GOLD : Tatonka Ranch, Trent Schwitzer, Melville, SK(in Photo below)



RESERVE CHAMPION FEMALE

Alberta Bison Ranch, Neil Hochstein, Mayerthorpe, AB

(in Photo below)

(Sponsored by Sun Creek Ranches)



GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE

Alberta Bison Ranch, Neil Hochstein, Mayerthorpe, AB

(in Photo below)

(Sponsored by Sun Creek Ranches)



RESERVE CHAMPION MALE

Tatonka Ranch, Amanda Schwitzer, Melville, SK

(Sponsored by Paul & Cindy Kolesar, Land Link Investments)

***Trent Schwitzer accepted for daughter Amanda*

(in Photo below)



GRAND CHAMPION MALE

Irish Creek Bison, Justin & Shaelyn Dorey, Vermilion, AB

(in Photo below)

(Sponsored by Paul & Cindy Kolesar, Land Link Investments)



And Last, but Not Least - ROOKIE of the YEAR

Tatanka Ranch, Trent Schwitzer, Melville, SK

(in Photo below)

(Sponsored by Buffalo Hill Ranch, Joe & Georgina Orcheski)



2017 Bred Heifers - 5 head Entered, Arrived & Sold, Avg \$2,280
Top Sellers - from FRONTIER FARMS sold for \$2,500 to G203
AND from ALBERTA BISON RANCH sold for \$2,500 to Lyle
Froehlich

2018 Open Heifers - 8 head Entered, Arrived & Sold, Avg
\$2,300

Top Sellers - from DONALLY LIVESTOCK sold for \$3,700 AND
from XY BISON RANCH sold for \$3,700 BOTH to F1737

"Pen of Two" 2019 Heifer Calves - 26 head Entered, 21 head
Sold, Avg per Head \$1,300

Top Seller - TATONKA RANCH sold for \$1,800 to S676

Total - 64 head sold for \$129,050

And ENDING the WILDROSE EVENT -



The Draw from the Raffle Tickets for the **2019 BISON
HEIFER CALF** donated by **IRISH CREEK BISON**
- Justin & Shaelyn Dorey

**CONGRATULATIONS to LYLE FROEHLICH of Marwayne,
AB**


