



**TANKA FUND
BISON BASICS 101**

PRESENTERS

- Dr. Trudy Ecoffey, Executive Director
- Jennifer Malaterre, Technical Services
- Arnell Abold, Business Development Director for TRAC



WHO WE ARE...

TANKA FUND

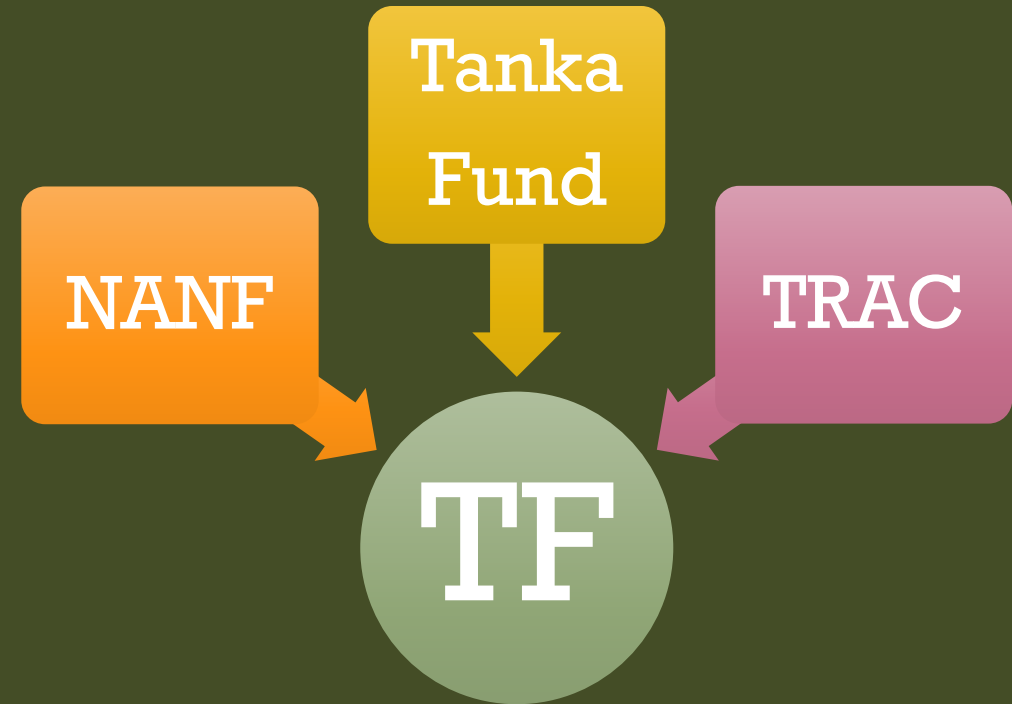
RETURNING
BUFFALO
TO NATIVE
LANDS, LIVES,
AND ECONOMIES



TANKAFUND.ORG

THE TANKA BRAID

- Native American Natural Foods
- Tanka Fund 501(c)(3) Nonprofit
- Tanka Resilient Agriculture Fund, LLC (TRAC)



BACKSTORY

- A branch off of Native American Natural Foods (NANF) – Tanka Bar.
- Tanka Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit established in 2014.
- Tanka Fund's mission is to return buffalo back to Indian country to empower Native American producers to restore & sustain an economy that centers around buffalo.
- Established Tanka Resilient Agriculture Company (TRAC), LLC.



WHAT
IS
THE
VISION

Imagine

- Imagine the return of thousands of native plant and animal species.

Imagine

- Imagine the return of a robust local food system.

Imagine

- Imagine the return of physical wellness to Native communities.

Imagine

- Imagine shift from poverty to prosperity through a meaningful livelihood caring for the land and the buffalo.

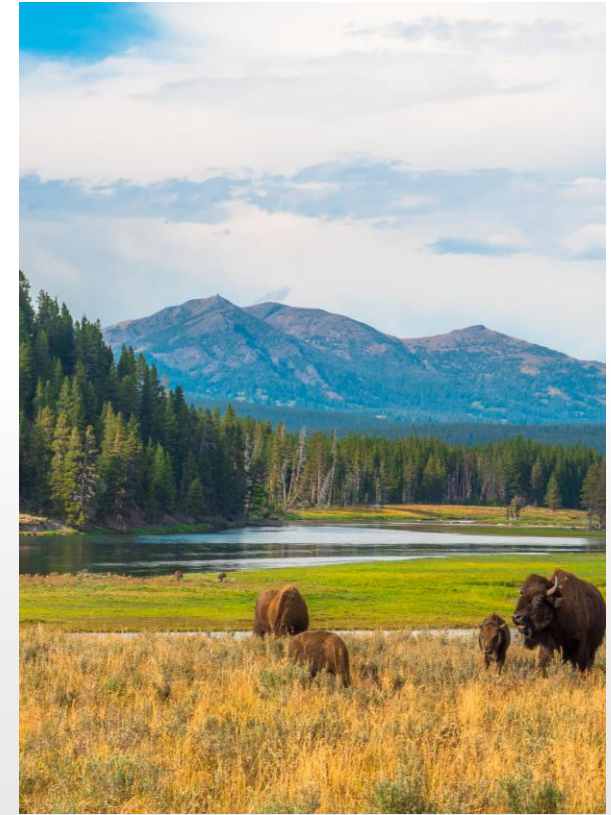
BUFFALO/BISON 101

THE BASICS

BISON/BUFFALO FACTS

Facts about Bison

- A bison can live 12-20 years in the wild
- Adult males are "bulls", females are "cows", and young bison are "calves"
- An adult bull can weight 2,000-2,200 pounds (907-998 kg) and cows can weight 1,000 pound (454 kg)
- A typical adult bison is 6 - 6.5 feet tall (1.8 - 2 meters) and 10 - 12.5 feet long (3 - 3.8 meters)
- Bison can run at speeds of 40 miles per hour (65 km)
- Bison can jump as high as 6 feet (1.8 meters)



Cotock Images

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

WOOD BISON



- Bulls average 1800lbs
- Taller with a square hump
- Darker in color
- Cape usually does not form distinct boundary behind shoulder
- Long, straight hair slopping down on forehead
- Little or no chap hair on forelegs
- Smaller, more pointed beard

PLAINS BISON



- Bulls average 1600lbs
- Stockier with a rounded hump
- Lighter in color
- In summer, cape forms distinct boundary behind shoulder
- Frizzy hair on head
- Chaps of long hair on forelegs
- Large rounded beard

FEED AND GRAZING

- Bison eat about 1.6 % of their body mass per day of dry vegetation
- Equals 24 pounds a day for a full-grown bison
- But what do the bison eat?
- Bison eat grass as the greatest percentage of their daily diet.
- 93% grass, 5% forbs, and 2% browse as averaged over the course of one year. Texas AM
- Bison will eat grain but more sensitive to grain feeding than cattle
- Also be careful with domesticated hay such as alfalfa, due to a sensitive rumen it isn't advised to have them just on those type of feeds.





GRAZING

- Bison tend to thrive better in larger environments
- Are more efficient in utilizing larger pastures
- Stock as if you would cattle
- Bison tend to be more efficient in utilizing grass than cattle and moving throughout a pasture better
- Very easy to train to move from one paddock or pasture to another
- Rotational Grazing

PASTURES

Stocking rate can be 2-3 cow/calf pairs, same as in cattle

On pasture a young buffalo can gain from 2.5 to 4 lbs a day.



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BUFFALO AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Are bison better for the land?
- Increased diversity
- Increased utilization
- Carbon and soil
- Harder animals adapted to harsher conditions



VACCINATIONS



- There is much debate about vaccinating buffalo
- There is no specific vaccinations for buffalo, they were developed for cattle and little to no research has been done to see how affective they are for buffalo
- Many people will vaccinate buffalo just to make their neighbors who raise cattle more comfortable
- Many people think that all buffalo have a disease called brucellosis. This is not the case, it has been eradicated in all buffalo except the herd in Yellowstone
- Some states will require a bangs (brucellosis) vaccination for buffalo to enter the state. Always check with your state veterinarian about requirements

DISEASES



- Mycroplasma Bovis
- Brucellosis
- Tuberculosis
- Anthrax
- Maliganant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) – sheep
- Types of Pneumonia

The background features a dark green gradient with silhouettes of a woman and a dog. The woman is on the left, and the dog is on the right, both facing right. A vertical white line is positioned between the woman and the dog.

OTHER HEALTH THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Copper deficiency and other mineral supplements
- Parasite control
 - External
 - Internal
- Pink Eye

GENETICS

- Pure bison? Gene pool is still very small compared to what it was
- Cattle genes
- Genetic diversity (switching bulls)



HANDLING OF BISON

- Bison are wilder and harder to contain than cattle
- Do not trust a buffalo – keep your distance
- Buffalo only go where buffalo want to go
(Convince them to go where you want them to go)
- Slow and steady for moving, much more sensitive to noises and things to spook them than cattle

BROWNOTTER BUFFALO CORRALS





FENCING AND CORRALS



FENCING

Unlike livestock fencing is a bit more complex for buffalo

- Fencing is usually 5 to 6 strands of barbed wire
- Taller posts
- Cost per foot is essential 1/3 higher than for cattle
- Cost can range from ten to fifteen thousand dollars per mile
- Adequate handling facilities for buffalo can cost fifty to seventy-five thousand dollars

Buffalo caretakers need security and support and guaranteed long-term access to land, to justify the cost of investing in a buffalo operation

PASTURES

Buffalo pastures are a unique animals when it comes to grazing

The study, conducted by Applied Ecological Services INC (AES) found that returning buffalo to the landscape improved the soil quality compared to nearby non regeneratively managed cattle-grazed pasture.



MARKETING

Online live animal auctions are trending in Buffalo country

Many sale barns don't allow for buffalo to come into their facility due to their massive size can be destructive to the equipment

OBSTACLES IN MARKETING BUFFALO PRODUCTS IN INDIAN COUNTRY

- Small or geographically-remote Tribes may struggle with marketing their products due to no USDA meat processing facilities nearby
- No state inspector available for inspection or cost may be too costly for smaller tribes
- Lack the tourism traffic to support buffalo tourism revenue-generation
- Marketing resources to reach high-end clientele who pay top dollars for the buffalo hunts

HOW TO MARKET YOUR BUFFALO PRODUCTS

- Online sales
- Grocery Store
- Office sales



GROCERY STORE

- Local Grocery store
- Meat Markets
- C- Store

10lb Bee's Bundle
Hamburger
Roast
Steak
Pork
\$179.92

40lb Pork Bundle
Bacon
Italian Sausage
Breakfast Sausage
Pork Roast
Pork Steak
Pork Chops
\$134.95

40lb Mi
Englis
Bread
Raw
Hamb
Pork
Soup
\$14



IDEAS ON WHAT TO MARKET

- Meat
- Bones
- Hides (unprocessed or processed)
- Tallow (fat)
- Hunts
- Live animals



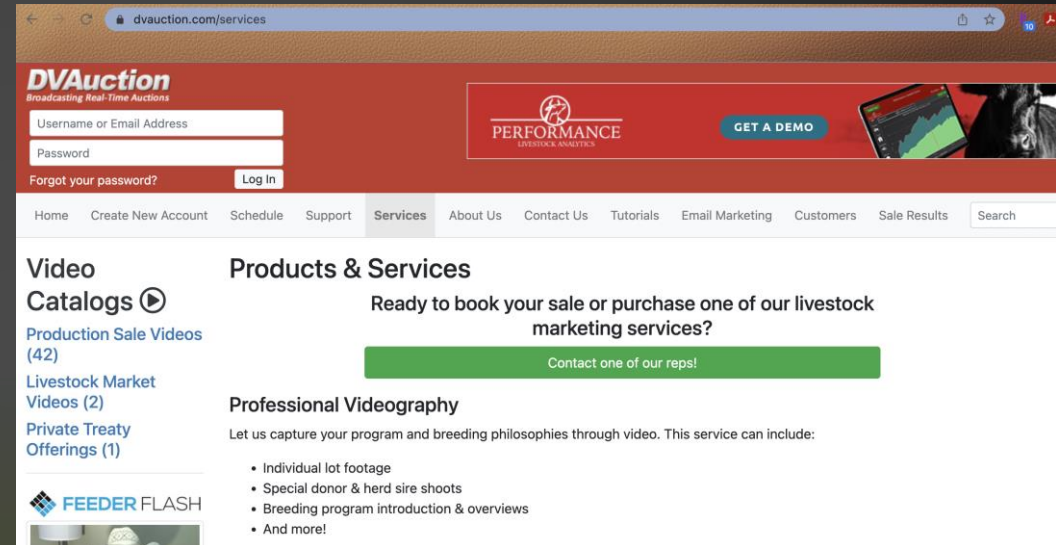
AUCTION BARN



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ONLINE AUCTION

- Now let's fast forward to the new way to market your livestock
- Safer for the animal
- The auction comes to your farm



The screenshot shows the 'Services' page on the DVAuction website. The page features a red header with the DVAuction logo and a navigation menu. Below the header, there are sections for 'Video Catalogs', 'Products & Services', and 'Professional Videography'. The 'Video Catalogs' section lists 'Production Sale Videos (42)', 'Livestock Market Videos (2)', and 'Private Treaty Offerings (1)'. The 'Products & Services' section includes a call to action to 'Contact one of our reps!' and a 'Professional Videography' section with a list of services.

DVAuction
Broadcasting Real-Time Auctions

Username or Email Address
Password
Forgot your password? Log In

PERFORMANCE
LIVESTOCK & ANALYTICS

GET A DEMO

Home Create New Account Schedule Support **Services** About Us Contact Us Tutorials Email Marketing Customers Sale Results Search

Video Catalogs ▶

Production Sale Videos (42)
Livestock Market Videos (2)
Private Treaty Offerings (1)

FEEDER FLASH

Products & Services

Ready to book your sale or purchase one of our livestock marketing services?

Contact one of our reps!

Professional Videography

Let us capture your program and breeding philosophies through video. This service can include:

- Individual lot footage
- Special donor & herd sire shoots
- Breeding program introduction & overviews
- And more!

AUCTION AT STATE PARKS



Auction Owners:	Custer State Park	
Auction Date:	Nov. 5, 2022	
Auction Time:	10:00 AM	
Auction Location:	Custer State Park Visitor Center	
Location: Custer State Park Visitor Center	13438 US HWY 16A	Custer, SD 57730
East of the State Game Lodge and North of the junction of Wildlife Loop Road and 16A. LOOK FOR AUCTION SIGNS!		

ONLINE CATALOG

Live Public Auction: Animals will be sold via photo/video at the Custer State Park Visitor Center with online webcast bidding available. Online bidders will be bidding against live onsite bidders. There can be a slight audio/video delay on auction day. Animals will be sold individually and by gate cut. See individual lots for details. If you are bidding online do not wait, bid early to ensure you do not miss out.

TRANSPORTATION

Buffalo can be transported in the same ways cattle and other livestock can

They can travel by semi, stock trailers, airplanes, boats, etc.

Health papers from local veterinarian.

Permit requirements between states.





STOCK TRAILERS

REFERENCES

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- [One step in understanding Canada's iconic wood bison - Livestock Gentec \(ualberta.ca\)](http://ualberta.ca)
- [Bison in Profile | Fan PhotoFridayBlack Hills & Badlands - South Dakota \(blackhillsbadlands.com\)](http://blackhillsbadlands.com)
- [United States of Climate Change \(weather.com\)](http://weather.com)
- [Bison after brucellosis: Bison are losing their stigma as a diseased species, but many hurdles remain for their return to the prairie | News | bozemandailychronicle.com](http://bozemandailychronicle.com)
- [532465910_540x304.png \(540x304\) \(9news.com\)](http://9news.com)

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