



Doc Ken's Korner

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Weaning buffalo calves

Weaning buffalo calves is like everything else in the buffalo business. Some people are for it and some are against it. I believe in weaning for several reasons:

1. It is cheaper to feed the calf than to feed the cow enough for her to feed the calf.
2. The calves do better since they are not competing with the larger animals for the choice feed.

3. The calves from poorer cows get a better chance at keeping up with the other calves.

It seems to make the calves more uniform.

Calves from poor cows usually know how to eat and do not miss the milk as much as those from the better cows.

4. The calves are easier to watch and evaluate when they are alone. I have never even been able to get a good count on my calves when they are on the cow.

5. It is much easier to sort off a few calves and sell when they are separate from the herd.

6. It is easier to get a higher pregnancy rate among your cows if you wean each year.

If an older calf is allowed to continue to

nurse it drags the cow down to where she is much more likely to skip a year.

7. It lets the cow build up and give all of her attention to the new calf. I have heard of yearlings nursing and the new calf not surviving.

8. It lets me really save on the groceries that I give the mother cows in the winter in this part of the country.

9. It seems to make the mother cows much easier to work with if the calves have been removed for 3-4 weeks. Procedures such as preg testing can be done much easier as well as not having the worry of injuring calves while handling the cows.

Comment Corral

(Continued from page 4)

Combined Federal Campaign

Dear NBA,

I have made a contribution to our organization (NBA) through the Combined Federal Campaign. This is deducted from my pay, monthly, and should be paid to you over the course of the year. Every year, federal employees are asked to contribute to CFC and given a list of charities in which they can designate their money to. NBA, of course, is not on that list, however, there is a section to write in any charity of your choice. It may be of some interest to try to get placed on the list or at least let it be widely known amongst federal employee/NBA members that this is an option open to them.

Are you still interested in collections? And if so, what do you require? Since I do not actively raise buffalo, I find that there is little that I can do to assist in the NBA. However, I am very interested in buffalo and would be more than willing to contribute my time to do what needs to be done to further our cause.

Sincerely,
Ross A. Radzykewicz
3617 3rd Ave. N.
Great Falls, MT 59401

EDITOR'S NOTE: Though Ginny Ake has agreed to begin writing the "Collectors Corner" column again, she always appreciates a "vacation" from the chore and our readers appreciate the variety of seeing other collections. What we require is simply notification that you intend to submit an article. Based on this notification, I will determine which issue this will appear in and will provide you with copy deadlines, etc. As for copy, we need descriptive material in the form of photos (positive prints with good contrast, either B + W or color) and narrative. Guest columnists should also give a brief explanation on how they came to be collectors of buffalo items. That is all there is to it. I will smooth off any rough edges and if more material than can be accommodated in one issue is submitted I will run it as a series over several issues.

Wants data on buffalo meat

Dear Ms. Hebbing,

A recent newspaper article on buffalo included your name which I was glad to get. I've seen bits of information on buffalo meat but I'd like more. The article said you had

technical data as well as a cookbook.

I'd appreciate both of these since I can find nothing, for instance, in the U.S. Agriculture Handbook #8, nor much elsewhere.

I have been purchasing meat since late summer from LeRoy and Carolyn Kaufman of Wayland, Iowa. I like it. Its tasty, but especially wholesome.

Thank you,
Jean Croy
319 E. 2nd St.
Washington, IA 52353

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are happy to announce that USDA is updating its Ag. Handbook #8 and buffalo meat information will be included in that book.

Steak sparks interest

Dear Sir:

Could you provide me with information detailing where and how I might purchase a live buffalo (either calf or adult—male or female) for my farm. I would like to start out with one and see how it fares in our area. Then I might decide to purchase a mate so that I might raise a few head. Who knows, I might find a real market for the meat here in our area. I became interested after enjoying a buffalo steak at the "Buckhorn Exchange Restaurant" in Denver, Colorado this past summer.

Sincerely,
Bob G. Burford
1221 Schex Drive
Bossier City, LA 71112

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Buckhorn Exchange Restaurant is a 1985 recipient of the NBA's Restaurant Award of Excellence. We congratulate them on the apparently excellent introduction they gave Mr. Burford to our product. It sounds to me that Burford will not be long satisfied "with just a few".

Accepts explanation

Dear Ms. Hebbing,

Thanks a million for your having taken the time and trouble to write me such a detailed letter in reply to mine of early October. Please rest assured I found your explanations quite convincing in every respect and fully satisfactory to me. Not only that, but you deserve to be warmly congratulated for the astute business acumen you displayed in this case—as in many other instances—on behalf of your entire bison-ranching membership.

Even as a mere Associate Member and a

non-breeder, I deem it an honor and a privilege to belong to an "outfit" that prides itself on integrity, and whose Executive Director is a great credit to it and, indeed, is its best asset.

Had those calves been actually shipped to Indonesia their high mortality rate would have reflected adversely on NBA's (and the USA's) image abroad and might have jeopardized future exports of live animals to countries with more propitious climates.

Yours truly,
Joseph Peary
73-12 35th Ave.
Jackson Hts., NY 11372

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Peary's original letter of alarm and my abbreviated reply can be found on page 2, column (1), titled "Big Mistake" in the Nov.-Dec. issue of BUFFALO!

New magazine: Sportsman Chef

Gentlemen:

We are in the formative stages of a new consumer-oriented magazine: Sportsman Chef: the magazine of game, fish and wild-fowl cookery.

Our primary target is the outdoor sportsman and those gourmets who appreciate exotic fare. The magazine's content and photographs simplify the preparation and serving of those delectables as well as appropriate side dishes and beverages.

For those who are not "gatherers of their own bounty" we would like to include data as to how, where and when those various products can be obtained. Therefore, we seek your help in locating members of your association who raise, stock or market game, fish or wild-fowl for sale to consumers so that we may provide our readers with that information.

We are pleased to state that our preliminary research and tests have indicated a great interest in the subject matter. We feel everyone—consumer, supplier, publishers—will benefit from our publication.

Sincerely,
Mr. Verne Carlson, Publisher
Caverne Publishing
1401-G East Fourth St.
Long Beach, CA 90802