



Dear TTR Members,

Through this newsletter, I would like to introduce the Niibin Mashkode-biz project that is looking to bring back the bison to our people.

Please note that the project has the following three stages:

Stage One: (April 01, 2020 to March 31, 2021) – this stage is currently underway and TTR is currently researching the potential of establishing a bison herd in the community.

During this phase TTR is identifying the best and most suitable area of the reserve to develop a bison ranch that could eventually grow upwards to 50 head of bison. In order to identify the best location, we are conducting studies that include soil, vegetation, cover, water and topographical suitability. Also during this stage, a business plan will be developed to determine the economic viability of creating a bison business (herd of 50 bison).

To complete Stage One, TTR has retained the engineering firm of Samson Engineering who are based out of Brandon, Manitoba to assist with the technical studies. Also, Mr. Ray Salmon who is formerly the Bison and Equine Specialist Manitoba Agriculture Food, and Rural Initiatives is supporting TTR with the business plan. Ray has worked over 30 years establishing bison herds throughout Manitoba and has worked with Ebb & Flow, Sioux Valley and other First Nations in developing local bison herds.

In addition to conducting studies – TTR is planning to hold a training program called an “Introduction to Bison” which will be offered from January, 2021 to March, 2021.

Stage Two: (April 01, 2021 to March, 31 2022 – this stage is pending funding from Indigenous Services Canada, Agriculture Canada and Agriculture Manitoba.

If this phase is funded TTR will begin the process of establishing a small herd (8 to 10 bison) and will also build the required infrastructure (fencing, barn, watering systems, feeding areas, etc..).

Proposals are being developed to support TTR with the capital cost of this phase of the project.

Stage Three: (April 01, 2022 to March 31, 2023) – this stage is pending

During this final phase, TTR intends to expand the bison herd to up to 30 to 50 bison and a smaller herd will be established for cultural, educational and health programs. The larger herd will be an economic herd and its focus will be to maximize economic returns on behalf of TTR members. As part of the development of the herd – TTR will be looking at creating more value-added through the processing of the meat, hide and skulls, which will establish greater returns per animal than simply selling the meat alone.

For more information about this program and for those TTR members who are interested in attending the training sessions that will be conducted in February/March 2021, please send an email to Bison@TTR292.ca for more information.





HISTORY OF THE BISON...

Prior to European contact it is estimated the bison population of North America was over 70 million. The Bison was the "walking supermarket of the prairies" as it provided our people with all the things required for Anishinabe people (food, clothing, shelter and tools)

In a period of 40 years the bison herd went from an estimated 60 million in the mid 1800's to fewer than 1,000 by 1880. The last wild plains bison was shot in southwestern Manitoba in about 1883.

Modern Bison Ranching:

Bison is a true agriculture industry. It is an industry based on meat. Because of its infancy stages the bison industry tends to leave the impression that breeding stock is the name of the game, and that all heifers seem to be entering the breeding herd. Producers are selling breeding stock, and yes, all go into the breeding herd, but the price of breeding stock is still established by the meat market.

Effective Bison Management Involves 5 General Areas:

- Natural resources: land, water & facilities
- Nutrition
- Genetics
- Herd Health
- Common Sense

Note: Grass/Feedlot requirements

The bison industry is composed of two segments. One is the breeding herd and replacements, where you are a grass rancher. The other side of the coin is the feedlot.

The feedlot requires intensive management and ration design that gives you growth condition, and finish.



DID YOU KNOW

Bison is leaner than beef and may be a healthier choice if you're looking to reduce your calorie or fat intake. It has nearly 25% fewer calories than beef and is lower in total and saturated fat (2, 3). Additionally, due to its lower fat content, bison has finer fat marbling, yielding softer and more tender meat.

The advantages of Bison:

| 4 oz Serving | Bison | Beef |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Nutrition | 130 calories 25 grams of protein 3 grams of fat 0 grams of carbs | 140 calories 25 grams of protein 3 grams of fat 0 grams of carbs |
| Safety | Never given antibiotics or hormones | Often administered antibiotics and hormones unless organic |
| Environmental | Low carbon emissions, helps to preserve grassland | High carbon emissions, depletes grasslands |
| Treatment of animals | Allowed to graze freely most of the time | Usually raised in feedlots (unless marked as "free range" on the label) |
| Taste | Drier and sweeter than beef | Drier and leaner than conventional beef only if labeled "grass fed" |
| Cost | More expensive (approx. \$ 11.00 or more per pound for most cuts) | Less expensive (approx.. \$ 8-9 per pound for most cuts) |

Source: National Bison Association - <https://bisoncentral.com>

Across all cuts, buffalo meat is lower in calories and fat than beef is, and higher in protein. A three to four-ounce serving of bison ribeye has 177 calories, 6 grams fat, and 30 grams protein compared to a typical beef ribeye, which contains 265 calories, 17 grams fat, and 27 grams protein. According to the USDA, bison burgers have 152 calories and 7 grams fat, which is less even a 90% lean beef burger (184 calories and 10 grams fat) and a 93% lean turkey burger (176 calories and 10 grams fat).

Bison offers more omega-3 fats than beef, and a better omega-6 to omega-3 ratio.

LOGO DESIGN CONTEST



Calling all people of Tootinaowaziibeeng, the Niibin Mashkode-biz ("Summer Buffalo") project needs a logo. We are seeking an original and creative design to be used as the new program logo

Logo must be done by free hand drawing and must be submitted electronically to the email address: Bison@TTR292.ca before December 1st, 2020.

- Logo must represent a Bison Ranch Business from a First Nation's perspective;
- Artist that creates the selected logo must sign a Logo Design Release Form;
- Artist that creates the selected logo will receive \$500.00 cash.