

2023 Late June Update

**Dear Friends and Customers**

We got some rain. Not a lot, just one inch, but that helps.

We also bought 200 big round bales of fresh hay.

Even if the hot dry weather continues, we will be able to produce the animals we need to fill your Fall orders.

Through careful management we are still able to provide fresh pasture each day for the cattle.

The bison are grazing in lowland grass so tall it is over their backs. Ella and I looked all over for them during Sunday morning chores.

Janelle is providing fresh greens and new ground for the hogs as I write this.

**We completed the June harvest last Thursday.**

Many of you already have your meat but some orders are still being processed at Quality Meats.

We will continue with weekly metro drop off trips for at least two more Fridays.

Most of your June orders are for ground beef or ground bison. As often happens with "whole animal" ground we have ground meat leftover.

We could provide a couple more 1/10ths of ground bison, and about five, 1/10ths of ground beef. Let me know if you need some of either.

**The Fall harvest of beef will begin** in early August and end in December.

The hog harvest will run concurrent with the beef harvest, except that it may begin in late July if the folks at QM are ready.

Samantha introduced CC invoicing for the June Harvest. It went quite smoothly. Our experience bears out the statistic that 96% of people like the ease of CC payment.

A couple of customers preferred to pay by check and Post Office, and of course that is OK.

Gail took a photo of a **snapping turtle** on a farm trail. Attached.

They sure are primitive looking creatures.

Our Snake River is home to many turtles.

I have attached and pasted an article about White Bison that might interest you.

I have noticed that the "One in a Million" white buffalo calf seems to show up every year. Jim Matheson, the Director of the National Bison Association explains why.

Stay cool.

Tom

p.s. Email me if you have questions.

Quality Meats website link [Quality meats](https://www.qualitymeatsmn.com)

Quality Meats eaddress, [contact@qualitymeatsmn.com](mailto:contact@qualitymeatsmn.com)

Quality Meats phone # 320 968 7218

**For chickens and turkeys** contact [joppfamilyfarms@outlook.com](mailto:joppfamilyfarms@outlook.com)

Snake River Farm Eaddress. [Tom@snakeriverfarmmn.com](mailto:Tom@snakeriverfarmmn.com)



## ***The White Bison of Today***

*By Jim Matheson*

*June 9, 2023*

*Bison friends, I'm guessing that by now you've likely seen or heard about the latest article about a white bison being born at Bear River State Park in Evanston, Wyoming. Here at the National Bison Association (NBA), we generally love to see bison in the news, but this story includes some questionable claims in most of the published articles, particularly about the occurrence of a white bison being born.*

*The article details the May 16 birth of a 30-pound white bison calf at the park to its white mother. As of the most recent article two days ago, the calf is healthy and still being supported by its mother. After the initial burst of news stories came out about the event, we didn't see another one for about two weeks. Since then, a slew of articles has been released and they're still coming.*

*If you are familiar with the story, then you likely saw that many of the articles cite the chances of a white bison being born are one in ten million, "according to the National Bison Association." The NBA has been wrongly credited with this estimate for at least 15 years, and it simply is not true. The truth is we simply don't know the occurrence of a white bison because, to my knowledge, no one has ever kept track.*

*The NBA has great reverence for the spiritual significance of a white bison being born in Sioux, Cherokee, Navajo, Lakota, Dakota, and other plains tribes' cultures. It's also worth noting that the NBA counts Native Americans among its members and has a memorandum of understanding with the Intertribal Bison Council, which the NBA collaborates with on an array of bison matters.*

*In recent years, we've seen the proliferation of white bison, seemingly for the sole purpose of tourism by non-native people. Further complicating the situation is that one can breed a white bison rather easily by crossbreeding a plains bison with white Charolais cattle. As a result, it's common to see folks promoting their white bison on social media and beyond these days. While we at the NBA fully support an individual's right to pursue legal agricultural endeavors of their choosing on their property, we also prohibit the crossbreeding of bison with any other species. The prohibition of crossbreeding is part of our code of ethics, which NBA members abide by.*

*The NBA code of ethics explicitly states that members will "Never engage in deliberate crossbreeding of bison with another species." We also offer bison genetic testing through the University of California at Davis's genetics laboratory, which includes a Charolais diluter gene test to detect the presence of those alleles in the animal's DNA. Further, the NBA has a policy to not sell white bison on its classified service, the Trading Board, due to the mere potential of crossbreeding. Bear River State Park is not a member of the NBA, and based on some articles, the calf's mother was one of two white bison donated to the park years prior by a local ranch, which is also not an NBA member. I state this because several NBA members have contacted our office about this instance being a potential violation of our shared code of ethics. This exhibits to me our memberships' great concern about the potential crossbreeding of any bison, not to mention the overall welfare of the bison species, and I applaud our members for their concern.*

*Like so many other instances in today's information age, things are not always as they seem on the surface. Unfortunately, bison are not immune to these misnomers, but rest assured, NBA members will continue to responsibly breed and steward our national mammal of the United States while restoring the species through responsible farming and ranching.*