

# Myth Busting!!

**Myth:** "To me, these small clubs of buffalo, whether composed of bulls, calves, or cows, seem nothing more than clusters of like individuals.... The closest buffalo come to forming clans is in the pairing of each cow and her calf, a bond that normally dissolves by the end of the calf's first year and cannot properly be labeled a clan."

*The Time of the Buffalo*  
By Tom McHugh

**Truth:** Scientists' concern of being labeled anthropomorphic has led to an over reaction which blocks obvious sign and historical description of family life in herd animals.

**Myth:** "For the bull, getting his sperm on the way to the egg is the end of his investment for a man, it's the beginning."

*American Bison*, By Dale F. Lott  
Distinguished Behavioral Ecologist

**Truth:** When we realize Nature's bison are composed of families then it is easy to see bulls fill the same roles as human males. The historical accounts are numerous.



## Nutrition

**Myth:** The best meat comes from young animals



**Truth:** The meat from the different ages of bison matches best the nutritional needs from comparable ages and energy requirements of humans.

- "The Eskimos, like the Homeric Greeks, prefer the flesh of older animals to that of calves, yearlings, and two-year olds ... Homer is quoted to the effect that the Greeks preferred the meat of bulls five years old.", *The Fat of the Land*, By Vilhjalmur Stefansson
- "The best meat, especially for roasts, comes from five to six-year old grass fatten oxen. Younger oxen, belonging to an early maturing breed, give, at least in France, more tender but less palatable meat." *Larousse Gastronomique*

### A GROWING BODY DOES NOT CONCENTRATE NUTRIENTS

**Myth:** Meat from the Hind quarter is better than the Front Quarter.

**Truth:** Assuming good health, nutrients are found in areas of the body with the most use. Thus front quarters have more nutrition.



- "These people [Native Americans] had, as one might expect, removed the best meat first, even as did the later, historic people. They first opened the buffalo down his spine in order to remove the hump meat, the forelegs and the innards: the forelegs were consistently found at the bottom of each pile of severed bones. Next they took the pelvic girdle and the hind legs, then, last, the least desirable neck and skull." *Heads, Hides & Horns*, By Larry Barsness

**Myth:** Bull meat is rank and tough

**Truth:** Depends on stress levels. At TGB we routinely butcher 8-15 yr olds that consistently get rave reviews.

TGB Inventory

Animal	Age	Sex	Weight	Processing	Total	Comments
100	8-10	♂	250	10/15	10/15	10/15
101	8-10	♂	250	10/15	10/15	10/15
102	8-10	♂	250	10/15	10/15	10/15
103	8-10	♂	250	10/15	10/15	10/15
104	8-10	♂	250	10/15	10/15	10/15
105	8-10	♂	250	10/15	10/15	10/15
106	8-10	♂	250	10/15	10/15	10/15
107	8-10	♂	250	10/15	10/15	10/15
108	8-10	♂	250	10/15	10/15	10/15
109	8-10	♂	250	10/15	10/15	10/15
110	8-10	♂	250	10/15	10/15	10/15

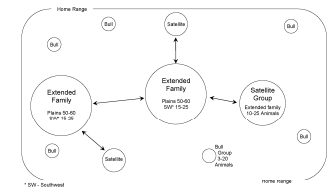
Rich flavor that even the best old time beef could only hope to achieve. This one destroys the usual assumption that you cannot have tenderness, flavor and the superior nutrition of a very mature animal. Make sure you taste this one before adding salt.

**Myth:** "The manner in which they hunted before firearms were introduced (by driving the buffaloes into pens) was infinitely more destructive than at present." *The Assiniboine*  
By Edwin Thompson Denig

**Truth:** If we think in terms of infrastructure, instead of multiples of individuals, then we realize eliminating one family group is better for a population than shattering the structure of many.

**Myth:** "Most important, it [American Bison] argues convincingly that the only way to assure survival of bison and their habitat in the wild is to establish a Great Plains National Park. At least 5000 sq miles in extent."

*American Bison*,  
Comment by David Wallace



**Truth:** The perceived "need" of mega landscapes is based on the "awe" and "mystery" of the "wild". Break down the unknown and most herd related ecological objectives can be accomplished on far fewer acres.