



## **Durham Ranch Tour**

As a member of the Montana Bison Association will have an opportunity on June 10 to tour the renowned Durham Ranch. We would encourage all members to mark this date on your calendar and register today to attend this exciting tour. We would encourage to also make your hotel reservations at the Wright Hotel call 307-464-6060, mention you are with MBA for a special rate.

In the 1930's Armando Flocchini Sr., grandfather, purchased the Durham Meat Company in San Francisco where he worked as a butcher. In 1965 he purchased a 55,000 acre bison ranch near Wright, Wyoming and renamed it Durham Ranch. Three generations later, this same ranch continues to be operated by the Flocchini family and remains one of the larger bison operations in North America. The Durham Ranch has provided seedstock for many bison ranches in North America today. In preparation for this tour, if you would like to learn more about the Durham Ranch, visit the DR web site at <http://durhambisonranch.com/> or the facebook page: Durham Bison Ranch.

The Durham Ranch has been practicing Holistic Management since 1986. They have hosted over 10 Holistic Management seminars for bison producers on the ranch. On the morning of July 10, John Flocchini, Pat Thomson, and Roland Kroos will all share some of the Holistic Management strategies used to manage 2,000 bison on this landscape. This ranch currently is subdivided into approximately 80 pastures and the large bison herd is moved from pasture to pasture every 3-6 days. By attending the tour you will have an opportunity to see:

- A large bison herd of approximately 2,000 animals.
- How 2,000 animals can beneficially garden native rangeland.
- What types of fencing they use to contain this large herd.
- A Watering System that can meet the water needs of over 3,000 head of bison.
- Working Corrals
- Land health monitoring program (We plan to visit one of the 26 monitoring sites).
- What the pasture looks like before and after it has been grazed by this large herd.
- How this ranch stock piles feed for year round grazing.

You will have a chance to visit with other bison producers from the region. Learn what works and what doesn't work. Eat some great tasting bison that has been produced on the Durham Ranch and have a beer or two with friends. The Montana Bison Association has a full day of camaraderie, learning, and good food planned for the whole family. So register NOW!

## **Agenda for Durham Ranch Tour:**

Thursday, June 9, 2016

6:30 – 8:30PM Informal gathering at Wright Hotel Conference Room (Bison skewers and other snacks)  
Mini Bar will be setup in Conference Room

Friday, June 10, 2016 (Everyone needs to meet at Durham Ranch HQ)

- 9:00 – 10:00 Aaron Paulson -- opening comments  
Welcome to Durham Ranch, History of Durham Ranch and operations (John Flocchini)  
Explanation of infrastructure (pastures, waters systems, drought plan (Pat Thomson)  
Explanation of Grazing System and other land management strategies (Roland Kroos)
- 10:00- 10:15 Break
- 10:15 – 10:45 Report from NBA (Jim Matheson or Dave Carter)
- 10:45 – 12:00 Leadership in Agriculture, How can we be more effective? Olin Oedekoven Peregrine  
Leadership Institute
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch-- Barbecued Bison Burgers at Durham Ranch
- 1:00 – 5:00 **Tour Durham Ranch**  
Look at Large Bison Herd (2,000 plus)  
Look at the large herd's impact to the land (before & after grazing)  
Look at Land Heath Monitoring Transect and monitoring process  
Look at cell center (Water tanks, fencing, etc)  
Look at Durham Ranch's Corral
- 6:00 – 7:00 Supper-- Barbecued Bison Steaks at Durham Ranch
- 7:00 – 8:30 Bonfire, S'mores, Fun Auction, and Karaoke (Does anyone have a Karaoke Machine?)

**Directions to Durham Ranch:** Those of you with GPS – Smart Phone, need to imply enter the address: 7835 Hwy 59, Gillette, WY. The Durham Ranch is 3 north of Wright, WY or 33 miles south of Gillette, WY (from I-90). As you travel on Highway 59, you will see highway markers on the east side of the highway. The turn-off to the Durham Ranch is located between highway marker 78 & 79. Ranch Headquarters is ½ miles west of the highway.

**Camping:** There are three private RV Parks - campgrounds in Gillette, Wy. All Seasons RV Park, Greentrees Crazy Woman Campground, and High Plains Campground. **If you have a self-contained camper and do not require hook-ups and running water, you can camp on the Durham Ranch for no charge.**



**Montana Bison Association**  
**2016 Summer Conference**  
**Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> & Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Durham Ranch**  
**Gillette, Wyoming**

As a Join the Montana Bison Association for its summer conference in Gillette, Wyoming. June 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 we will have an informal gathering at Wright Hotel Conference Room with Bison skewers and other snacks and a Mini Bar will be setup in Conference Room. On June 10<sup>th</sup> we will have an opportunity to tour the renowned Durham Ranch. We would encourage all members to mark this date on your calendar and register today to attend this exciting tour.

We would encourage you to make your hotel reservations at the Wright Hotel call 307-464-6060, mention you are with MBA for a special rate. Make your reservations ASAP.

We would appreciate your registration or a call soon so we can make the necessary arrangements with the caterer.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Ranch Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Web Site: \_\_\_\_\_

# of PRE\_REGISTERING Adults at \$60 each

(Registration includes Friday light snacks, Lunch and Dinner on Saturday)

Kids 14 AND UNDER # \_\_\_\_\_

FREE

2016 MONTANA BISON ASSOCIATION DUES) \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

(make checks payable to MBA)

**Please fill out form and return to:**

Montana Bison Association

Julia Arnold

5 N. Virginia St.

Conrad, MT 59425

Or call (406) 627-2436 to reserve your place

or email: [jarnoldmt@gmail.com](mailto:jarnoldmt@gmail.com)