

# Crane Trust Conservation Bison Sale

- Diverse Genetic Lineages
- Science-based Culling Strategy
- All Natural
- Range-fed Performance



**22 Yearling Heifers**  
**22 Yearling Bulls**  
**1 Two-year Old Breeding Bulls**

## **Direct Sale Information**

Opens **December 13th 10:00am** (CT) & Closes **January 3rd**

Payment Due via phone by **January 4th**

Loadout **January 7th-10th**

**Payment Contact: Wendy Bailey (402) 831-0550**

**6611 W Whooping Crane Dr., Wood River, NE 68883**

### **Contact and Inquiries**

**Joshua Wiese:** (308)-216-1066, [jwiese@cranetrust.org](mailto:jwiese@cranetrust.org)

**Timothy Smith:** (308)-240-3322, [tsmith@cranetrust.org](mailto:tsmith@cranetrust.org)

Detailed information can be found here and [cranetrust.org](http://cranetrust.org)



# Welcome to the 2024 Crane Trust Conservation Bison Sale

Welcome to the Crane Trust Conservation Bison Sale. This bison sale helps the Crane Trust maintain their bison population at a sustainable size per the carrying capacity of our bison range. The sale is intended to distribute valuable and genetically diverse bison to herds around the country to aid in the recovery of bison as a wild species. Proceeds from the sale will go back into the bison program and financially supplement research, herd maintenance, and range expansion.

Millions of bison that once roamed the Great Plains were hunted to near extinction by the late 1800s. About 150 years have passed since bison grazed the tallgrass prairies and wet meadows along the Platte River. In 2015 the Crane Trust made a bold move to reintroduce bison to the largest contiguous piece of untilled grassland left in the Central Platte River Valley. We purchased our founding bison population of 41 animals from T.R. Hughes's RimRock Ranch outside of Crawford, Nebraska. T.R. Hughes had a passion for bison health and recovery, paying particular interest in the species genetic diversity and resiliency.

The Crane Trust adopted T.R.'s genetic diversity philosophy along with the bison. The Crane Trust continues to add to the genetic diversity of the founding herd by supplementing bison genetics from unique genetic lineages throughout the country. Today the Crane Trust's breeding bison population has genetics from 8 of the federal core herds managed by the US Dept. of Interior. Each year the calf crop is tested for genetic lineage, parentage, and cattle introgression by UC Davis Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory. The Crane Trust has also produced a Genetic Value Index Model to help make culling decisions and provide insights for new genetic material introductions. Through the model and their continued reintroduction efforts, the Crane Trust bison produce calves with very high genetic diversity.

Today the bison herd has grown to 125 and their range at the Crane Trust continues to expand. Our bison have access to a diverse landscape of 1,200 acres, grazing in plant communities composed of tallgrass prairie, wet meadow, and mixed-grass prairie communities. The bison herd has been invaluable as a research herd as well, providing Crane Trust scientists to study habitat changes post reintroduction, examine social hierarchy systems, herd health, and minimizing bison working stress.

All our animals are exclusively grass-fed, living off the landscape 12 months out of the year with no supplemental feeding occurring throughout the winter. Our animals are given a multi-mineral (Purina Wind & Rain All Season) and an Iodized salt block. The bison herd at the Crane Trust is a semi-closed herd, where testing for major diseases and quarantine procedures are in place for newly introduced animals. The herd also undergoes biannual intestinal parasite testing. Crane Trust bison are not vaccinated for any disease and focuses parasite management through grazing management rather than deworming treatments.

Thank you for your interest in our bison and for purchasing these high-quality animals so that the Crane Trust may continue to support the recovery efforts of our National Mammal!



- Joshua Wiese, Range Manager

# Sale Terms & Conditions

## **Terms:**

Bison will be sold from the Crane Trust via phone call to the Range Manager, Joshua Wiese at (308) 216-1066 or Timothy Smith at (308) 240-3322. Yearling bison will be sold in minimum lots of 3, however bison lots can be mixed gender. Two-year old breeding bulls will be sold in single lots. Bison lots will be gate-cut at the time of loadout. Sale will open December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am (Central) and run through January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am or earlier if all bison are sold. No calls will be answered December 24<sup>th</sup>-December 25<sup>th</sup> or December 31<sup>st</sup>-January 1<sup>st</sup>, however a message can be left and return call can be expected during normal business hours the following day. Invoices will be emailed upon sale. Payments will be made phone call to Finance Department, Wendy Bailey (402) 831-0550, paid in full no later than January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00pm (Central).

## **Loadout:**

The Crane Trust corals are located at 6611 W Whooping Crane Drive, Wood River, NE 68883. At Interstate-80 Exit 305, drive 1.25 miles South and then 1.5 miles East on Whooping Crane Drive. Truck and semi-trailer loadout available. All trailers must be clean and in proper working condition before loadout can occur. Loadout will be arranged between January 7<sup>th</sup> and January 10<sup>th</sup> (8:00am-4:00pm) with the herd manager at the time of sale. Yardage fee after January 10<sup>th</sup> will be \$5 per head per day. Legal responsibility of bison transfers to the buyer upon loadout.

## **Health:**

All bison will obtain a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) January 6<sup>th</sup> prior to loadout. The Crane Trust is a semi-closed herd, all bison were tested for brucellosis and TB prior to introduction to the breeding population. Bison are NOT vaccinated for any disease and not subject to deworming. Nebraska is a brucellosis and TB free state, however If the importing state requires a BANGS vaccination, arrangements will need to be made at the time of sale and will be provided at the cost of the Crane Trust. If additional testing or vaccination is required, both can be done at the buyer's risk and expense at the Crane Trust corrals as negotiated by both parties.

## **Genetics:**

All Crane Trust bison are tested for genetic diversity by UC Davis, including genetic origins linked back to federal herds. The Crane Trust also has reports on nuclear cattle markers (a single marker is present in ~2% of the herd). A composite of this information will be provided for each bison class prior to the sale. Individual bison genetic reports will be shared with the buyer when gate-cut bison are determined at loadout and will be shared via email.

## **Nutrition and Grazing:**

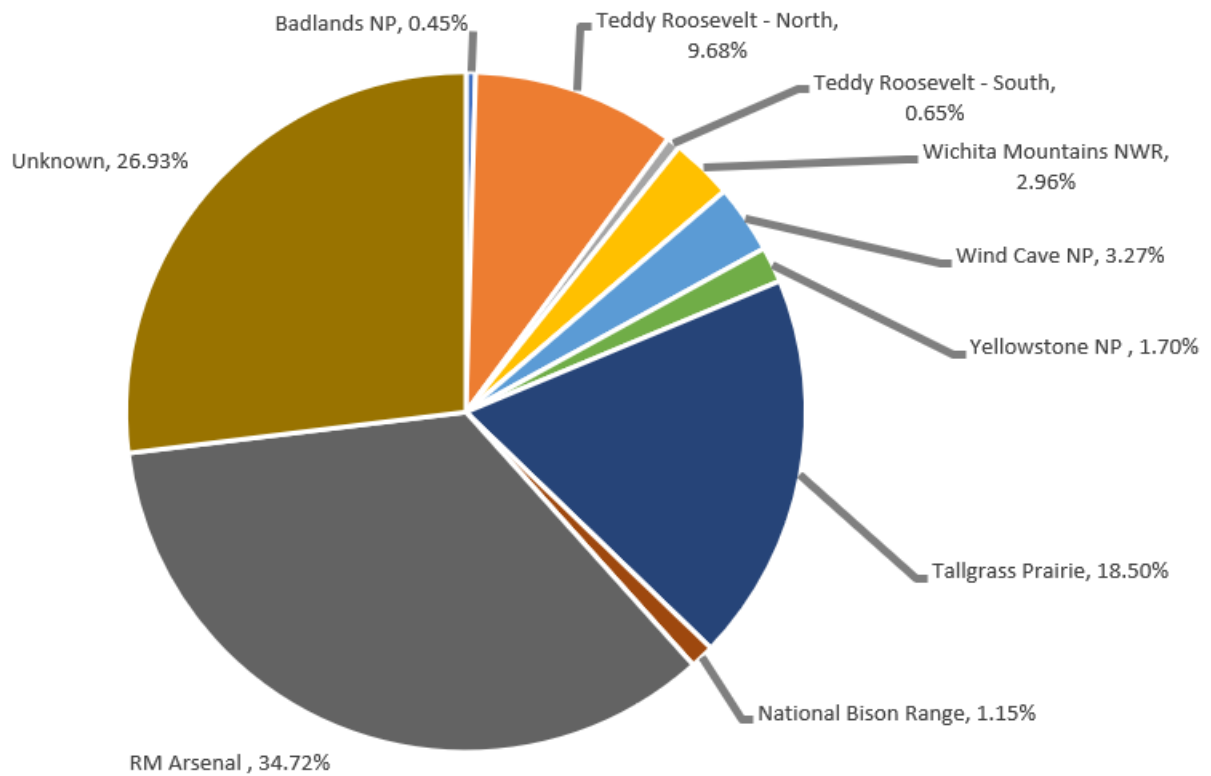
Bison have been raised since birth on 1,200 acres of native prairie, consisting of tallgrass prairie, mixed grass prairie, and wet meadow habitats. Bison are moved seasonally depending on management objectives and graze off the landscape year-round, with no supplemental feeding. Animals are given Purina Wind and Rain All Season Mineral and Iodized salt blocks.



# Crane Trust Conservation Bison Sale

Yearling Heifers (20 Months)

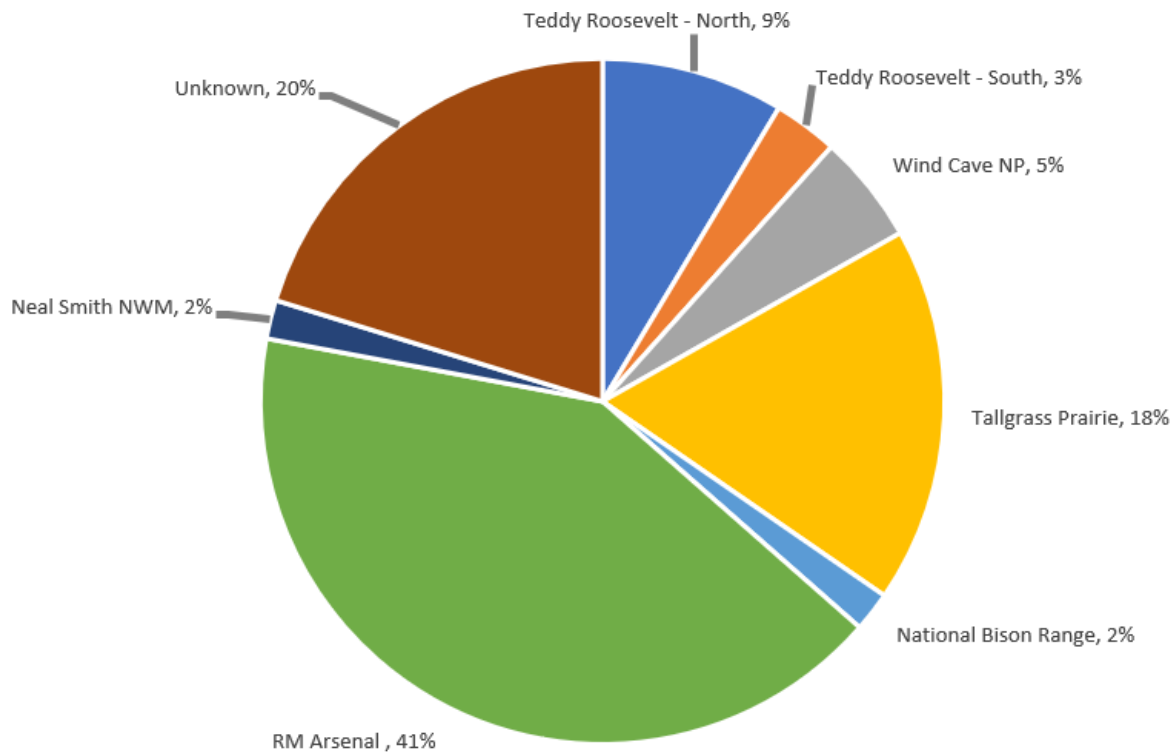
22 Head – 690 lbs Average – \$1,750



# Crane Trust Conservation Bison Sale

Yearling Bulls (20 Months)

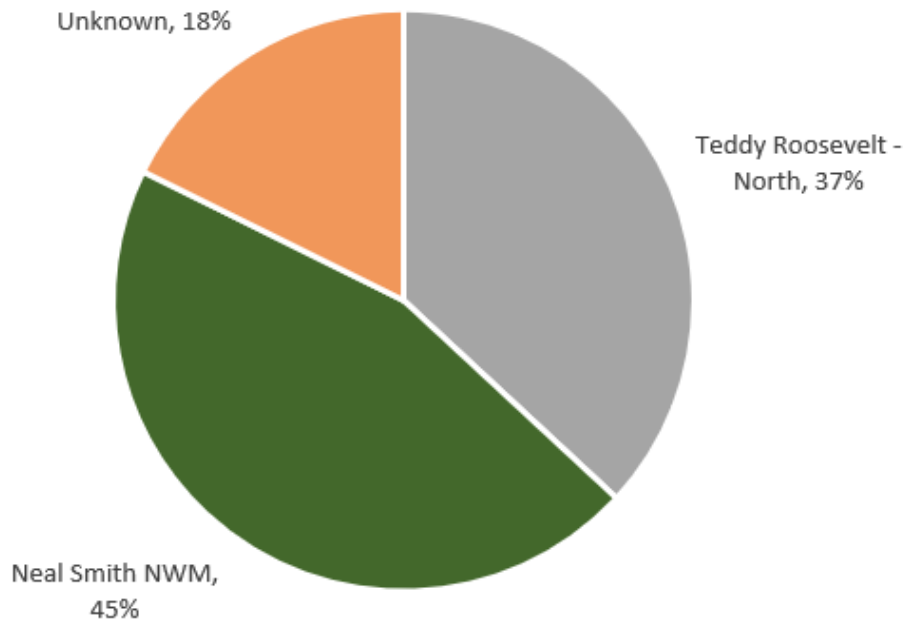
22 Head – 780 lbs Average – \$1,975



# Crane Trust Conservation Bison Sale

Two-Year Old Breeding Bull (32 Months)

Tag 2219 - 1150 lbs - \$3,850



Dec. 2022	Dec. 2023	2023	Dec. 2024	2024	2 Year
Weight	Weight	ADG	Weight	ADG	ADG
470	820	.95	1150	.90	.93