



**DISPOSAL
of
SURPLUS RANGE ANIMALS
of the
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM**

The information in this leaflet is for the guidance of persons, organizations or institutions, and agencies interested in obtaining animals and animal byproducts from herds of buffalo and longhorn cattle (range animals) maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on national wildlife refuges. Elk are NOT sold on refuges.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR BUFFALO AND LONGHORN CATTLE

Management objectives for American buffalo (Bison bison) and Texas longhorn cattle (Bos taurus) are to manage and preserve for posterity remnants of representative herds of these two distinctive North American animal forms; and to meet people's needs for the enjoyment of such animals and the enriching human benefits associated with this wildlife experience. Toward this end, herds of these animals are maintained on four areas under as natural conditions as possible.

WHY HERD REDUCTION

The national populations of buffalo and longhorns have increased to the point where these animals are no longer considered threatened or in danger of extinction. Therefore, population levels on each of the four areas are geared to optimum, not maximum, populations. As new animals are born into the herds, others must be removed to maintain the optimum level.

ACCOMPLISHING HERD REDUCTION

The Service determines on the basis of annual inventories the animals surplus on each area. Methods, procedures, and dates of disposal are then promulgated and made available to the public, usually in early August. Animals normally are available between September and November. Detailed information is available from the respective area (addresses listed below).



**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**



Surplus buffalo and longhorn cattle may be donated to public agencies or institutions that are entirely tax supported, or to charitable institutions. The remaining animals will be offered for public sale. Those not sold will be donated for food purposes to tax-supported entities (such as school system lunch programs) or charitable institutions (such as orphanages, hospitals, etc.). Recipients must pay shipping charges. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has no authority to donate animals to private individuals or to any organization or institution that is not supported by taxes.

MEAT SALES

Butchering has been eliminated from the program except for an occasional injured animal; thus, meat is not longer available.

TROPHIES AND BYPRODUCTS

On occasion buffalo and longhorn hides, heads, horns, and other byproducts are available for purchase in limited amounts at these refuges. Information on current price and available supply may be obtained by writing to the individual refuge.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ANIMALS OR INFORMATION

All requests for details on sales, donations, and related information should be sent directly to the manager of the area from which the animals or animal byproducts are desired. Inquiries should be made by July or August. Printed information and instructions are routinely furnished by the refuge manager in response to general requests for information.

HEALTH CERTIFICATES

Necessary health certificates will be provided. Recipients will be responsible for complying with other applicable State regulations in effect governing the interstate shipment and importation of these animals.

SUGGESTION FOR SHIPPING

Methods of transport are optional. However, trucking has been found to be the most practical means. Arrangements for loading must conform to conditions specified by the refuge manager.

HERD LOCATIONS AND ADDRESSES

Inquiries and requests to purchase should be addressed to the appropriate refuge manager as listed below. Longhorn cattle are not available at the National Bison Range or Sullys Hill National Game Preserve.

Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Nebraska. Located 5 miles northeast of Valentine on State Highway 12. Telephone: 402-376-3789. Telegraph and post office: Hidden Timber Star Route, Valentine, Nebraska 69201.

National Bison Range, Montana. On good road 6 miles north of Dixon and 50 miles from Missoula. Telephone: 406-644-2354. Telegraph office: Ravalli; post office: Moiese, Montana 59824.

Sullys Hill National Game Preserve, North Dakota. Located at Fort Totten on State Highway 57, 15 miles south of Devils Lake. Telephone: 701-662-2924. Telegraph and post office: Box 159-D, Devils Lake, North Dakota 58301.

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Oklahoma. Paved roads lead into the refuge, which is 29 miles northwest of Lawton. Telephone: 405-429-3221. Telegraph and post office: Box 448, Cache, Oklahoma 73527.

SUGGESTED OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPLY FOR BUFFALO AND LONGHORN CATTLE

Inquiries and requests may be addressed to:

Buffalo

The National Buffalo Association
P.O. Box 995
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Longhorn Cattle

Texas Longhorn Cattle Breeders
Association of America
P.O. Box 356
West Columbia, Texas 77486