

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

For Release August 19, 1969

Carroll 343-5634

FEDERAL WILDLIFE AGENCY ANNOUNCES SURPLUS BUFFALO SALES

Live buffalo and buffalo meat again will be available this fall through sales of 364 surplus animals at three National Wildlife Refuges, the Interior Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife announced today. Herds are being reduced to the carrying capacity of the ranges they graze.

At Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Cache, Okla., 230 buffalo, live or butchered, will be available. Live animals, mainly in the long yearling age group, will be sold at public auction on November 6. A sale of butchered buffalo will be held later in the year. A whole carcass, unfrozen, will sell for \$240; a half carcass at \$120. Freezing adds \$40 to the price of whole carcasses and \$20 for halves. Applications for meat should not be made before September 1.

At Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge near Valentine, Neb., 50 buffalo will be available for disposal. Live sales of long yearlings and older buffalo will be by public auction October 21. Buffalo meat at Fort Niobrara, where the animals are considerably larger than those at Wichita Mountains, will sell, unfrozen only, at \$320 for a whole carcass, \$160 for a half, and \$80 for a quarter.

The National Bison Range at Moiese, Mont., will dispose of 84 bison--long yearlings and older buffalo. Live sales at National Bison Range will be through sealed bids accepted from August 4 to September 8. Butchered animals from the National Bison Range, also averaging larger than at Wichita Mountains, will sell for \$320 a whole carcass, \$160 for a half, and \$80 for a quarter, unfrozen only.

Civic groups, sportsmen's clubs, and similar organizations are given preference and nearly always take all available meat at Fort Niobrara and National Bison Range, the Bureau reported.

Anyone wishing additional information on the surplus buffalo sales should write the Refuge Manager, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, Cache, Oklahoma 73527; Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Hidden Timber Route, Valentine, Nebraska 69201; or National Bison Range, Moiese, Montana 59824.

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