

## Lewistown Bison Cow Cinnamom (Spring 1995 – Spring 2013)

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The Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge staff is sad to share the news that Cinnamom was euthanized on April 2, 2013. She was 18 years old. Over the winter Cinnamom developed arthritis in her knee. The disease progressed rather rapidly and she was no longer able to get around the pasture. She is buried in the pasture close to Monte who was euthanized in 2011 at the age of 25. The staff will miss her.

Many Lewistown residents have grown up with Cinnamom and Monte. Monte arrived in Lewistown in 1988 as a two year old to replace Clyde. Cinnamom arrived in 1999 as a pregnant 4 year old to replace Anna. Cinnamom and her calf Seaman were the first two bison to be named by Lewistown students through the refuge “Name the Bison Contest” organized by Fire Management Officer Mike Granger.

Cinnamom had 8 calves while she resided in Lewistown. Her last calf Nutmeg was born in the spring of 2011 and is now two years old. Nutmeg will remain in Lewistown with our new bull Clayton who arrived from Ft Peck in December 2012.

Bison in the wild rarely live to old age (12 to 15 years old). Both Monty and Cinnamom passed the old age benchmark by many years. Bison cows can breed at two years old so the CMR staff hopes we will see a new calf from Nutmeg and Clayton next April or May.

