

FOUNDATION BULLS
OF THE BEEFALO BREED (Part I)

By Jon Nichols

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THE BURNETT BISON HYBRIDS



BURNETT'S 903

-IN THE BEGINNING-

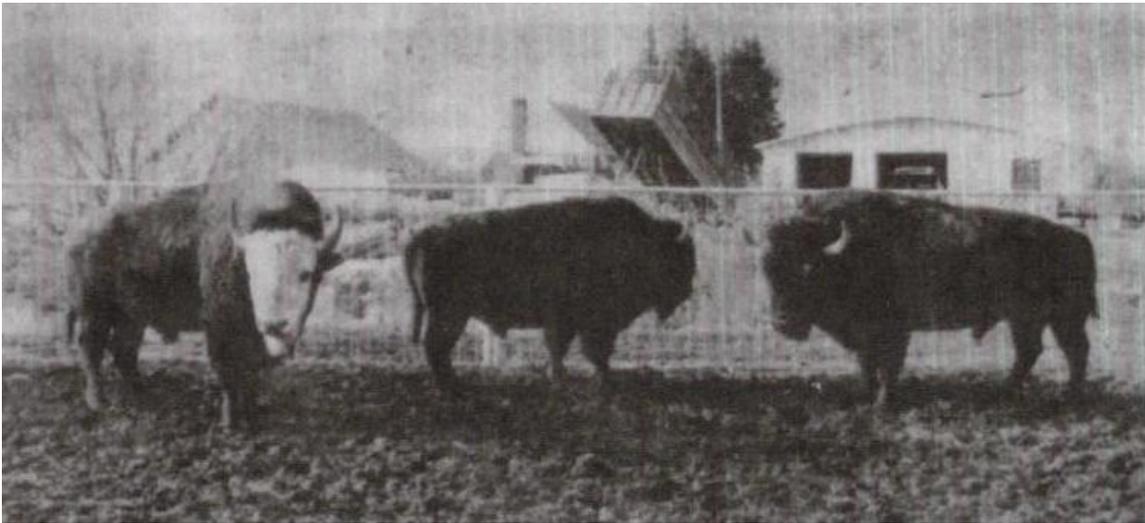
The Famous $\frac{3}{4}$ Bison - $\frac{1}{4}$ Hereford Bull of Montanan Jim Burnett. Many Breeders thought he was the original foundation bull of Beefalo, and Burnett was often referred to as the "Father of Beefalo."

It was well known that DC "Bud" Basolo leased 903 and took him to California for use in his Beefalo project; and when Beefalo made it big in the 1970's, Burnett claimed that 903 was the sire of Basolo's Foundation Beefalo Bulls. Burnett reasoned that Basolo set Beefalo's bison percentage at $\frac{3}{8}$ th because that's what you'd get by breeding a $\frac{3}{4}$ bison to a domestic cow. Burnett also noted that Basolo had a herd of Charolais cows and the mix of Bison-Hereford and Charolais, would be the exact combination of 903 when used on Charolais cows.

In reality the story gave Basolo's Beefalo creditability, because Basolo never revealed his breeding records.

When DNA testing came into use, it was discovered that 903 did not sire any of Basolo's Beefalo; and in reality, 903 did not sire many Bulls under Burnett's name either.

903 did sire a $\frac{3}{8}$ th Bison Fullblood Beefalo "Black Spot" as well as 003 – Burnett's $\frac{5}{8}$ th Bison- $\frac{3}{8}$ th Hereford bull out of a half bison cow.

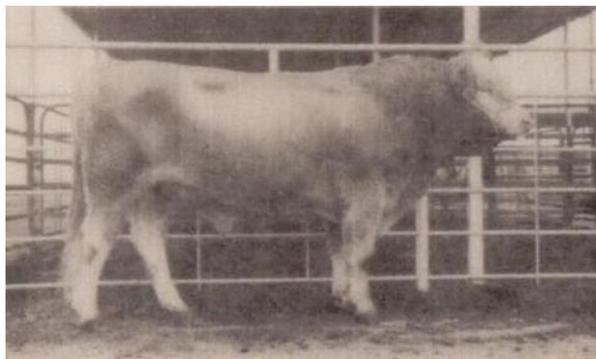


BURNETT'S BISON HYBRID BULLS

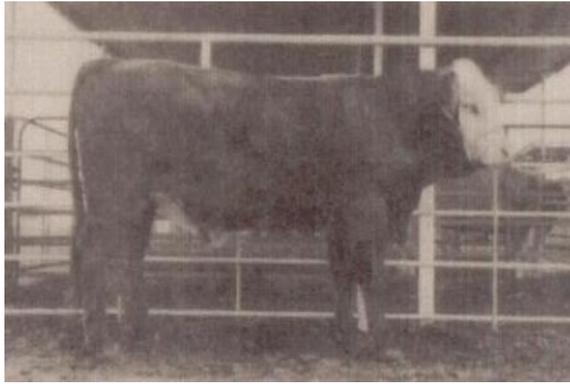
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Burnett's claim to fame was producing a series of Bison Hybrid bulls. Pictured above (l-r) are - 003 - a $5/8^{\text{th}}$ Bison bull, 004 - an $11/16^{\text{th}}$ bull, and 930 - a $3/4$ bison hybrid. This is only a small cross section of the hybrids Burnett produced. Burnett's fertile hybrids ranged from $1/4$ to $7/8^{\text{th}}$ bison.

THE SIMMALO BULLS



Simmalo 100



Simmalo 200

Simmalo 100 and Simmalo 200 were $\frac{1}{4}$ bison - $\frac{1}{4}$ Hereford - $\frac{1}{2}$ Simmental bulls bred by Mel Lauriton. In the early years of Beefalo, the Simmalo's added another new bloodline to enhance the breed. Lauriton, who did much artificial insemination work for Bud Basolo, realized the value of producing a bison-based breed, and produced his own half-bison-half Hereford cow named Herfalo 230. Lauriton bred her to purebred Simmental bulls producing the two aptly named "Simmalo's".

THE BEEFALO BULLS



HB-1 GEORGIA'S PRIDE

DC Bud Basolo's First Beefalo Bull

$\frac{3}{8}$ th bison-Hereford-Angus-Shorthorn.

This bull was decidedly different from Basolo's other Foundation Bulls, which were a blend of Bison, Hereford and Charolais.

Even though Basolo said he'd keep how he developed Beefalo a "Secret", Mel Lauriton who did extensive artificial insemination work for Basolo did leak out some of the aspects of Beefalo's development.

Lauriton swore that HB-1 was by Jim Burnett's 903 by a natural service to one of his own cows.

This was during the time that Basolo had leased 903 from Burnett and held him at Lauriton's Bull Bank in Escalon, California for semen collection. DNA testing 25 years later showed that Lauriton was wrong. 903 was not HB-1's sire. Since Lauriton had other bison hybrid bulls at his collection station at that time, any one of them could have been HB-1's sire.



HB-15 JOE'S PRIDE

No Beefalo Foundation Bull Showcase would be complete without including HB-15 who Basolo sold in 1975 to a Canadian Syndicate for 2.5 Million Dollars.



HB-6 BIG BOY

HB-6 and HB-17 (shown on the next page) were two other popular Beefalo bulls with early Beefalo Breeders.



HB-17 KAMMIE'S PRIDE



HB-125

was a second generation Basolo bull.

Basolo was often criticized for not developing new bloodlines and only using his original foundation bulls to create “newer” bulls.

It is interesting to note, of the 80 listed Foundation Beefalo Bulls by the old American Beefalo World Registry, 59 were Basolo Bred Bulls.



BCB JOHNNY REB

bred by Joe Barnett of Barnett Cattle Breeders in Mississippi.

Sire: Jim Burnett's $\frac{3}{4}$ bison $\frac{1}{4}$ Hereford Bull 930-

Dam-Chianina-Hereford-Holstein

Barnett was one of the first breeders to use different bloodlines other than Basolo Beefalo. It was a general opinion that Barnett developed Beefalo comparable to Basolo's.



BCB FREIGHTTRAIN

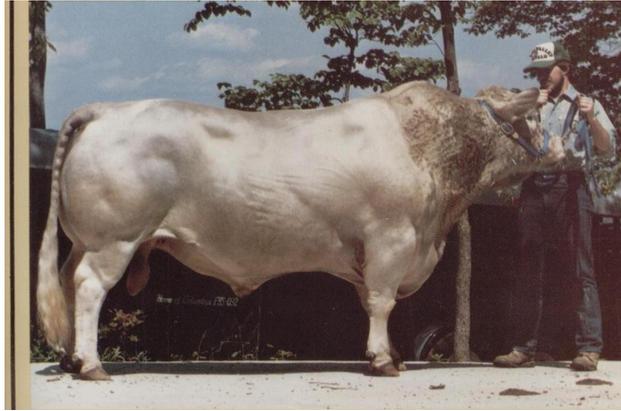
Joe Barnett also produced the widely used bull Freighttrain.

Barnett had a number of bison heritage cattle containing from

$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$ th bison, which he used to develop his Beefalo.

Freighttrain was by a $\frac{3}{4}$ bison $\frac{1}{4}$ Charolais Circle K bull out of a Red Brangus cow.

(More on the Circle K influence below)



COLUMBUS

**This show stopping bull is a classic example of
Montanan Jim Burnett's
influence on the Beefalo Breed.**

**Columbus was by Burnett's $\frac{3}{4}$ Bison Hybrid Bull 930, out of a Charolais Cow.
Burnett's $\frac{3}{4}$ Bison Hybrid Bulls 930, 031 Tony I Tony II were heavily used
to develop $\frac{3}{8}$ th's Beefalo bulls.**

One amusing side note is that Burnett had distributed semen of several hybrid bulls under the name 031 including an $\frac{11}{16}$ th bull. When Burnett mistakenly distributed semen on the $\frac{11}{16}$ th bull as $\frac{3}{4}$ bison semen he issued a published apology to breeders. Since there was no DNA testing at the time, breeders didn't worry too much about it. They just claimed the $\frac{3}{4}$ bison 031 was the sire used, not the $\frac{11}{16}$ th bull. (!)



BISONTENNIAL II

**North Dakotan Harold Odermann also had
a strong impact on the Beefalo Breed.
Pictured above is Odermann's Bisontennial II
Sire: Burnett's 031 out of a Simmental/Hereford cow.**

Be sure to read Foundation Bulls Part II