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## Weekly Update



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### *NBA Weekly Update for February 17, 2023*

*The Weekly Update is a service designed to provide National Bison Association members with news and information affecting bison production and marketing. Many items in the Weekly Update are reprinted from outside sources. The content of those articles does not necessarily reflect the policy position of the National Bison Association. The articles are reproduced here only as a means to keep our membership informed as much as possible of all information and opinions relating to bison that is circulating publicly.*

### **Bison Vaccine Updates**

The NBA this week received updates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service (ARS) on two important bison herd health fronts - vaccine development for Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) and Mycoplasma bovis (M. bovis). It's thanks in part to your NBA member dues that we are able to continue to lobby USDA and Congress to continue to support bison-specific health research, and this is a direct result of the NBA's legislative and regulatory work. See the updates and quotes from the agency's bison specialists at the University of Wyoming for MCF and the USDA National Ag Laboratory in Ames, Iowa for M. bovis:

#### **Mycoplasma Bovis (M. Bovis)**

"Research is going well, got a lot of irons in the fire."

#### **Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF)**

"It's critical that government administration know we have

The USDA-ARS/NADC Laboratory in Ames, IA is conducting live bison vaccine trials for M. Bovis. Lead research staff reported that the first dose was initiated last week, and a second dose is scheduled in two weeks.

They also reported that headway is being made on other avenues of research and are now involved with the InterTribal Buffalo Council and their research project featuring live bison.

support from the industry and the producers as we start the MCF vaccine trials in bison."

NBA received word that the bison have been delivered to the University of Wyoming research facility. M. Bovis inoculations will be started within a few weeks time.

NBA is initiating discussions with laboratories to explore vaccine production opportunities once live animal trials are successfully completed. USDA ARS hopes to have efficacy results by this summer.

## **NBA Office Closed on Monday**

The National Bison Association office will be closed on Monday in observance of President's Day. We'll be back in the office on Tuesday, and we wish everyone a great weekend!

## **Committee First Quarter Meetings**

NBA Committees are busy with first quarter meetings and projects. We are excited for the developing opportunities from the NABR committee, especially focusing on how to help membership get the most out of the genetic data from testing. Next week the State and Regional, and Science and Research Committees will both convene.

See a list of committees and their Chairs [here](#).

## **Bull & Heifer Carcass Prices Up in January Price Report**

The USDA Agriculture Marketing Service released its first bison price report of 2023 with both bull and heifer carcass prices over the previous month and in an increase in bison processing year to date.

Based on the December bison carcass price report, the most recent data available from the US Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Marketing Service, young bison bulls brought an average of \$3.88/lb., an increase of \$.02 over the previous month and three cents less than the previous year. Young heifers brought nine cents more per pound than the previous month and had the same price one year ago.

The report also cited 208 more head of bison slaughtered over one year ago, which represents an increase of nearly 4%.

Click [here](#) for the full report. USDA Market News provides unbiased, timely, and accurate market information on hundreds of agricultural commodities and their related products, free-of-charge to everyone. Our premier data gives a representative picture of commodity markets and promotes market transparency and fairness.

## **Marketer Input Needed by February 26th**

The National Bison Association is working with the USDA Ag Marketing Service to improve the Bison Price Report.

Said NBA Executive Director, Jim Matheson, "We sure appreciate USDA AMS's dedication to our market data. Given the relatively very small size of our industry in the American livestock sector, we get some very good support from folks like Amber and Sierra. I'm confident that we'll improve both participation among marketers, and the accuracy of the data being collected. One important thing to note is the inclusion of direct marketers in addition to commercial marketers, in the survey participants. We need to get everyone's input as it's the sole price report available to our industry."

USDA AMS staff strive to provide the most accurate bison focused reports, but the reports are only as good as the data provided from bison marketers.

Currently, marketers are participating in a survey on how AMS could potentially change the data collected and how it's presented as well as questions on how the report could be used to determine federal indemnification values. Marketers have until February 26th to complete the survey.

## **Rancher Participation Sought by Univ. of Texas**

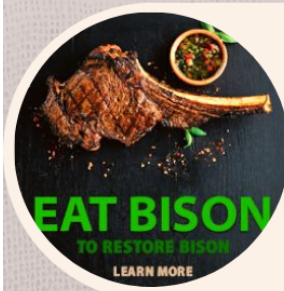
[Gazelle](#) is a Shell and Chevron-backed startup which sprung out of University of Texas Austin's Digital Landscapes Lab, which helps ranchers optimally stock their land, while rewarding them through carbon credits. We started off tackling the massive problem of overgrazing-driven desertification in Africa's grasslands, by developing a free, offline mobile app to calculate the carrying capacity and carbon sequestration and setting up carbon offset projects to reward ranchers for the protection of healthy soils. We are looking to work with bison ranchers here in the US who may be interested in piloting our app, and can allow us to get some vegetation and soil measurements for the development of carbon projects. Please email [team@thegazelle.co](mailto:team@thegazelle.co), or call Mihir Bendre (CSO) at +1 309-831-9238 if you are interested!





# NBA GROWTH FUND

*Support Bison  
Consumer  
Outreach!*



## 1. How the Growth Fund Works

The NBA Growth Fund raises important funds that support the efforts of the NBA's outreach to consumers and the general promotion of bison to the public. The concept is for producers to donate \$1/head of bison processed annually, matched by the processor.

## 2. How are the funds used?

Growth Fund dollars are used in a variety of ways to maximize consumer outreach and education. The fund has supported NBA consumer-facing promotional efforts that range from food sport competitions to National Bison Day celebrations, as well as virtual promotional campaigns.



## 3. Why should you contribute?

The Growth Fund brought in \$57,000 in 2022 despite having processed over 80,000 head of bison in the U.S. last year. That amount represents just over 70% of processed bison, and does not include bison sold in the live market. The more we collectively contribute, the more consumers we can educate.

## 4. What else has it supported?

In 2022 the Growth Fund supported our *Eat Bison to Restore Bison* Google Ads campaign, it made bison the sponsored main ingredient at the World Food Championships and Q BBQ Fest Series, as well as our presence at the FFA National Convention and much more!



## 5. Is this a Check-Off program?

No! Unlike commodity "Check-Off" programs, the NBA Growth Fund is a voluntary fund that, in turn, is not regulated like those federally mandated programs. As such, we can spend those dollars how we, as bison stakeholders, see best.

**Two Easy Ways to Contribute!**

<https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-growth-fund-program/>

1. Contribute online at <https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-growth-fund-program/>

2. The NBA can invoice you on an annual, bi-annual or quarterly basis, based on head processed. Simply email

***Editor's Note: The following news stories were distributed by organizations not affiliated with the National Bison Association. They may not reflect the opinions or the positions held by the NBA on matters such as genetic integrity, animal management, and other issues.***

## **Senators Introduce Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act**

From Ag Info

Senators John Hoeven (R-N.D.) and Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) have reintroduced bipartisan legislation to strengthen the labeling of U.S. bison products and prevent water buffalo products from being deceptively labeled as buffalo. In addition to Hoeven and Bennet, the legislation is cosponsored by Senators Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), Jon Tester (D-Mont.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.), Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.), John Thune (R-S.D.), Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) and Roger Marshall (R-Kan.).

The Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act provides the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with authority to ensure that products with water buffalo are marketed as "water buffalo" so consumers aren't misled to believe the product contains bison, which is commonly referred to as buffalo in the United States. Bison products would continue to be labeled as "bison" or "buffalo".

"Accurate labeling of bison products is not only good for consumers, but good for producers as well, and this legislation promotes transparency by ensuring products are properly labeled," said Senator Hoeven.

"Colorado's bison producers work hard to grow their markets and deliver high-quality meat. Misleading labeling undermines their efforts and deceives consumers," said Senator Bennet. "Our bill helps support American bison producers and delivers transparency for consumers by requiring accurate labels for water buffalo products."

[Click to read more.](#)

## **Tanka Fund: Where the bison roam**

From SD Public Broadcasting

Can bison return to the Plains? We sure hope so and so does Tanka Fund.

Dr. Trudy Ecoffey, executive director of Tanka Fund, shared more about the campaign to return buffalo to Native land and economies. With over 20 years of experience working with bison, including research, management and ecology, Ecoffey leads the charge for healthy land, people and economies.

[Listen here.](#)

## **Nature Notes: Bison, buffalo and wisent**

From Elko Daily Free Press

This is what happens in the middle of winter, especially a cold, snowy one like this year. I start pondering terminology. What, exactly, is the difference between a bison and a buffalo, and what in the world is a wisent?

Let's begin with the easy part. North America has bison. I know everyone calls it a buffalo. Some restaurants offer buffalo burgers, others offer bison burgers. We have the National Bison Range and the National Buffalo Museum. Regardless of the name, we have only one species, the American bison.

It is a member of the bovine family, animals often called oxen, and the only member of its genus, so the scientific name is *Bison bison*. It is the largest land animal in North America. Bulls can weigh up to 2,200 pounds and stand 6 feet tall, while cows can weigh up to 1,000 pounds and reach a height of 4-5 feet. Calves weigh 30-70 pounds at birth.

We have two sub-species of bison. Every bison you see in Yellowstone National Park, South Dakota's Custer State Park, Utah's Antelope Island or spread across several Native American reservations is a plains bison.

[Click to read more.](#)

## **Thune offers bill to expand capacity for small meat, poultry processors**

From Ripon Advance News Service

Small and very small meat and poultry processing establishments across the country would gain federal support to expand and strengthen their operations under a bipartisan, bicameral bill introduced by U.S. Sen. John Thune (R-SD).

"South Dakota's producers work hard to raise high-quality livestock and it is imperative that we invest in expanding processing capacity to help them meet consumer demands," Sen. Thune said on Feb. 8. "My bill would support small meat and poultry processors' operations and provide more local marketing opportunities for livestock producers."

The Strengthening Local Processing Act of 2023, S. 354, which Sen. Thune introduced with U.S. Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Mike Rounds (R-SD), would help small meat and poultry processors improve and streamline their operations, according to a bill summary from the lawmakers.

Additionally, the proposed legislation would give small meat processors more access to information for food safety planning; allow for more inspector-approved meat products to be sold across state lines; and funnel federal dollars toward training, education, and technical assistance grants, the summary says.

"This legislation will bolster local production while providing education and training assistance to support the next generation of local processors across Ohio," said Sen. Brown.

The companion bill, H.R. 945, was introduced by U.S. Reps. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) and Jim Baird (R-IN) in the U.S. House.

According to the lawmakers, the bill has gained support from the South Dakota Farm Bureau, the U.S. Cattlemen's Association, the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, and the National Bison Association.

[Source.](#)

## **A lot' of Yellowstone bison to be removed this winter, says YNP biologist**

From KBZK - 7

A Yellowstone National Park biologist says to expect a lot of bison to be removed from the herd this winter.

Yellowstone Biologist Chris Geremia says there is deep snow with a hard crust in the northern part of the park right now. He added, "The harder the snow gets, the more energy it takes to access grass."

That means hundreds of bison are moving into the Gardiner area in search of food. He said, "We're just going to have to see how the rest of this winter plays out but I would anticipate a steady increase in the numbers of animals coming down here until the middle of March."

Geremia illustrated the dilemma faced by the animals when he said, "If you were in three to four feet of snow and you were trying to walk and every step you took you kind of put your foot on top of the snow and it went crashing down into the bottom. That's an exhausting life to live."

Geremia was non-committal about just how many bison might be culled this year. He said, "This year we, the National Park Service, did not set a removal target. But, we are going to manage the migration."

Managing that bison migration is as much about managing people as it is about managing the animals. Geremia explained, "Every part of this program takes intense coordination with the State of Montana, the part of the USDA that manages diseases, the Animal and Plant Inspection Service, the tribes that we're working with, and the park."

[Click to read more.](#)

## **Denver's Native American Restaurant Tocabe Providing Meals to North Dakota Reservation**

From Denver Post

The minds behind Denver's Native American restaurant are taking their culinary skills directly to Indian Country, with a new program aimed at providing healthy meals to tribal members.

Co-owners Ben Jacobs and Matt Chandra first opened Tocabe, An American Indian Eatery, at 3536 W. 44th Ave. in 2008 as "the only American Indian-owned and -operated restaurant in metro Denver specializing in Native American cuisine." A second outpost is in Greenwood Village at 8181 E. Arapahoe Rd. in Unit C. It opened in 2015.

Spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, the pair officially expanded the company in 2021 as Tocabe Indigenous Marketplace – an online marketplace selling Native and Indigenous ingredients.

"All of us saw the supply chain just being decimated through COVID, and people not having access to food, and we're like, 'Well, now we know what to do,'" Jacobs said.

[Click to read more.](#)

## **19 Types of Game Meat, Explained**

From Tasting Table

Bison has a similar taste profile to grass-fed beef. It is also known to have a slightly less greasy flavor than beef, which makes ground bison a good swap for lean beef for burgers. Bison contains fewer calories than lean beef too, but it is susceptible to overcooking because of how little fat it contains. The key to making a good bison burger is to keep it to remove it from the heat as soon as it finishes cooking, rather than letting it continue to sit on a hot pan or grill.

Most bison is free-range on farms rather than harvested via hunting. As a result, bison is one of the most accessible types of game meats; you can purchase ground bison in most grocery stores. You can use ground bison to make chilis, meatballs, or tacos instead of ground turkey or beef. A bison brisket is a good option for stews or braises, while sirloin and inside rounds should be pan-seared to avoid drying them out.



[Click to read more.](#)

## **Healthiest Meats For Your Diet: Top 5 Foods Most Recommended By Nutrition Experts**

Bison has become extremely popular. Though it's not inexpensive, many people have replaced the beef in their diets with bison. It's essentially a healthier version of beef and it has a similar flavor profile.

WebMD writes that "this is one of the leanest red meats, which makes it healthier from the start. But there's more: Compared to beef with the same fat content, bison doesn't make as many of the fatty plaques that can clog your arteries and lead to heart disease." If you're a beef lover that at the same time worries about the risks of consuming it, switching to bison may be a great option.

"I was actually rather surprised by the latest studies on this meat. There was a time when buffalo was considered less healthy," writes Morning Chores. And if you're a burger lover: "I'm so glad that it is back to being considered healthy because some of the best burgers I have ever eaten were buffalo burgers. Just remember to keep this meat lean as well." Keep in mind that lean meats such as this are easily overcooked. Bison, if cooked too long will certainly dry out, leaving you with a hockey puck between your buns instead of a juicy burger.

Fox listed bison as number one on their list of the five healthiest meats. "No matter how good white meat can be it will never truly satiate the craving for red meat. Buffalo, however, can. It's probably the reddest meat you'll ever see and unlike beef, it's pretty good for you. A hunk of buffalo has far less fat than steak and buffalo are generally grass-fed, which means healthier meat." And if you want data: "Your typical lean hamburger (10 percent fat) contains about 0.32 oz (9 g) of fat. Buffalo burgers, on the other hand, contain less than half that, about 0.14 oz (4 g). Not bad for a tasty burger."

[Click to read more.](#)

## **The restoration of wood bison herds is a grand experiment indeed**

From Fairbanks Daily News - Miner

At various times in the last 15 years, wood bison were taken from thriving Canada herds and, after a period of study in isolation at the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Large Animal Research Station, were transported by barge to an area near the Innoko River. Being migratory, the wood bison herd then settles where it finds territory suitable for it to prosper.

Well-known local conservationist Richard (Dick) Bishop notes how rare it is that a species once extinct in Alaska is now part of a robust herd in our state. "To me, the wood bison restoration is as significant as the musk ox restoration of the 1930s when the federal government brought about 35 musk ox from Greenland and put them on Nunivak Island," Bishop informed us.

Wood bison and musk ox were eliminated from Alaska in the late 1800s or early 1900s. They were fiercely hunted for food to feed whalers, loggers and miners. To

the shock and sadness of Native people, many times wood bison were slaughtered for their hides, and their carcasses left to rot.

"There were ups and downs [about the project]," wood bison restoration biologist Tom Seaton said. Dangers always exist in the wild, such as the bison falling through ice or drowning in the flooded river.

Seaton said he is optimistic that the herds will reach a substantial size so that hunters may be allowed to harvest a few in five to ten years. Another possibility is that some bison will be culled from the herd and taken to other areas in Alaska.

The News-Miner tips its hat to the Canada and Alaska wildlife specialists that made this grand experiment come true.

"Our hope is that permanent restoration of species will be beneficial for all Alaskans," Seaton said.

A healthy herd like this will be around for centuries. This experience enhanced Alaska's culture and benefits all Americans. Plus, it cannot be ignored what a wonderful thing it is for the U.S. to enjoy international cooperation with our Canada neighbors.

[Source.](#)

## **Guided saunters to see bison at Prairie State Park return in March**

From Missouri Department of Natural Resources

JEFFERSON CITY, MO, FEB. 17, 2023 – March forth from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 4, with team members from Prairie State Park as they take you on a guided saunter to see the park's bison and experience the prairie.

Visitors will stroll in a leisurely manner, walking at a slower pace to take in all the surroundings. The hike will be at least 2 miles over uneven terrain, so wearing sturdy footwear is recommended. Since the location of the bison is unknown until that day, dressing for the weather and bringing water, snacks and insect repellent is encouraged.

Due to the unique and rare diversity of life preserved at Prairie State Park, pets are not allowed on park trails, except for Path of the Earth People and Path of the Sky People trails. Because bison roam freely in the park, this regulation protects both you and your pet. You are welcome to bring your pet to the park's campground and picnic area, but must follow Missouri State Parks' pet rules. This applies to all types of pets except service animals assisting people with disabilities.

Registration is required and limited to 25 participants. To register, call 417-843-6711. Prairie State Park is located at 128 NW 150th Lane in Mindenmines. Participants should meet at the Regal Tallgrass Prairie Nature Center.

For more information on state parks and historic sites, visit **mostateparks.com**. Missouri State Parks is a division of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

[Source.](#)

## **American willingness to pay more for meat is on the rise**

From Meatingplace

American willingness to fork over more money for most protein is on the rise, according to Kansas State University's most recent Meat Demand Monitor.

Grocery shoppers in January signaled a willingness to pay more for a variety of meat products such as ribeye steak, ground beef, pork chop, bacon and chicken breast. The same could not be said for plant-based patty and shrimp, according to the online survey of 2,000 people nationwide.

Foodservice customers were willing to pay more for meals other than for those involving pork chops or plant-based patties, the monthly tracking poll found.

Retail chicken breast market share increased to 26% in January from 25% in December. The retail beef market held at 24% from the end of 2022 to the start of 2023.

The findings reflect the notion that some meat products are now among the more affordable food options, with the latest Consumer Price Index showing meat costs moderating compared to other categories.

[Source.](#)

## **Johne's disease test developed [N. Ireland] - edited**

From Agri-View

Scientists in Northern Ireland have developed a new test for Johne's disease in dairy cattle that they say is much more sensitive and faster than current tests.

Researchers at the Institute for Global Food Security, one of four global-research institutes at Queen's University in Belfast, have developed the test with the university's School of Biological Sciences. The new test promises to be both more rapid and sensitive in detecting the infectious agent - *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* or MAP - of Johne's disease in veterinary specimens. It's showing greater detection capability than the milk-ELISA test that is currently used - the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. The team says the new test detects live infectious agent, not just antibodies against MAP as are detected by milk-ELISA.

In dairy herds the presence of Johne's disease will significantly reduce milk yields well before other signs of the disease can be found. In a recent study the new test was able to detect more infected animals by milk testing than does milk-ELISA, so could potentially facilitate faster control of Johne's disease. As well as bovine milk, the new test can be applied to feces and blood from livestock.

[Source.](#)

## **Consumers not looking to reduce meat intake: Purdue research**

From Meatingplace

While consumers are spending significantly more for food than they did last year, the desire to cut back on meat intake has not increased, according to a new survey conducted by Purdue University.

The second annual Consumer Food Insight Report, released by the university's Center for Food Demand Analysis and Sustainability on Wednesday, found that on average, food prices have risen about 19% from a year ago. However, meat purchases have not fallen in kind.

"People are generally knowledgeable about the actions needed to improve health and want to pursue them," Purdue agricultural economics professor Jayson Lusk wrote in a statement about the report. "However, they don't necessarily want to give up on taste

and indulgences. For example, eating less meat is low on the list of priorities of most Americans."

Instead, the survey found that consumers are interested in eating more fruits and vegetables and less sugar as a means of improving health. The only idea consumers liked less than cutting back on meat was "growing your own food."

Purdue experts conducted and evaluated the survey, which included 1,200 consumers across the U.S.

[Read more.](#)

## **USDA Announces Conservation Reserve Program Signup for 2023**

### USDA-FSA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16, 2023 Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin applying for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General signup starting February 27 through April 7, 2023. CRP is a cornerstone voluntary conservation program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a key tool in the Biden-Harris administration's effort to address climate change and help agricultural communities invest in the long-term well-being of their land and natural resources.

"The Conservation Reserve Program is one of the largest private lands conservation programs in the United States, offering a range of conservation options to farmers, ranchers and landowners," Vilsack said. "CRP has and continues to be a great fit for farmers with less productive or marginal cropland, helping them re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and support wildlife habitat. Under this administration, we have made several updates to the program to increase producer interest and enrollment, strengthen the climate benefits of the program and help ensure underserved producers can find a pathway to entry into CRP."

Producers and landowners enrolled more than 5 million acres into CRP through signups in 2022, building on the acceptance of more than 3.1 million acres in the largest Grassland CRP signup in history. There are currently 23 million acres enrolled in CRP, with 1.9 million set to expire this year. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is aiming to reach the 27-million-acre cap statutorily set for fiscal year 2023.

[Read more.](#)

## **USDA Foods Vendor with a New, Easier Financial Assessment Process**

From USDA Press Release

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it has made the process easier for suppliers to apply to be approved USDA food vendors by removing a significant barrier to participation. The Agricultural Marketing Service's Commodity Procurement Program (CPP) has changed how it assesses the financial responsibility of suppliers interested in selling to USDA.

To streamline the new vendor process and increase vendor participation, in December 2022, CPP removed the need for vendors to provide audited or reviewed financial statements. Instead, to determine financial capability, CPP will obtain a Contractor Responsibility Assessment Report (CRA) from FedDataCheck.



"Due to the cost and time involved, the requirement to provide certified financial statements has long been a barrier keeping both small and large businesses from participating with USDA as approved vendors," said USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt. "As part of creating more and better markets, USDA is working to remove prohibitive barriers like this and enable more market opportunities and more profit for American producers. This new process is one more instance of USDA transforming America's food system by promoting competition and fairer markets for all producers."

Under the new system, in order to pull the CRA report, it is essential for vendors to be registered and active in the System for Award Management (SAM) and have a Unique Entity Identifier.

For assistance in SAM, please contact the SAM HelpDesk: 1-866-606-8220. For questions regarding CRAs and FedDataCheck, please contact the Senior Contracting Officers: Felicitas Lofton, Felicitas.Lofton@usda.gov, 202-720-9199 and James Sprandel, James.Sprandel@usda.gov, 202-720-9191.

[Source.](#)

## **Request for Proposals for Farmers for Soil Health**

The submission deadline for full proposals is February 28, 2023.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, in partnership with the Farmers for Soil Health collaboration, anticipates awarding competitive grants to accelerate the voluntary adoption of cover crops on corn and soybean farms in 20 states.

NCAT is a partner in this project. The program is expected to award approximately \$15 million in grants in 2023. Applicants should propose state-level or multi-state programs to support Farmers for Soil Health in one or more of the 20 eligible states.

Grantees are limited to state corn, soy, or pork commodity affiliate organizations or their designated partners.

[Learn more.](#)

## **K-State in search of rural veterinarian hopefuls for immersive summer program**

From WIBW.com

MANHATTAN, Kan. (WIBW) - Calling all rural veterinarian hopefuls, K-State is in search of applicants for its immersive summer rural veterinary medicine program.

Kansas State University announced on Tuesday, Feb. 14, that the College of Veterinary Medicine is in search of applicants for its Summer Program for Aspiring Rural Kansans - SPARK - veterinary experience.

K-State noted that SPARK creates connections between aspiring veterinarians and practices in rural communities throughout the Sunflower State. During the weeklong experience, it said participants will shadow veterinarians in rural communities to gain exposure to the demands and rewards of rural practices.

The University indicated that participants will also be given consultation sessions to gain experience on how to create a competitive application for a selective Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree program.

[Full text.](#)

## **farm crisis center**

Even in the best of times, farming can be an incredibly high-stress occupation. Unpredictable weather, crop disease, volatile markets, heavy workloads, and social isolation are just a handful of the challenges that farmers may face.

These conditions force many family farmers and ranchers to make tough financial decisions that will impact their families, communities, and the entire country.

National Farmers Union compiled resources to help farmers through stressful times. Find them at:

<https://farmcrisis.nfu.org/>

**National Suicide Hotline - 800-273-TALK (8255)**



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### ***Save the Date!***

- 2/24/2023 - Beltway Bison Consignment Auction - PA
- 2/25/2023 - MBA Great Spirit - Brandon, MB
- 3/04/2023 - RMBA Spring Conference - Fort Collins, CO
- 3/06/2023 - Bare Bison Webcast Auction - Online

- 3/07/2023 - Oklahoma Trophy Ranch & Middle Earth Farms Webcast Auction - Online
- 3/09/2023 - Eastern Bison Association Winter Conference and Auction - PA
- 3/10/2023 - BPA Wildrose - Camrose, AB
- 3/11/2023 - Route 66 Bison Roundup Show & Sale - MO
- 3/11/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction, Camrose, AB - online
- 3/11/2023 - Irish Creek Bull Sale - Camrose, AB
- 3/25/2023 - SBA Cream of the Crop - Yorkton, SK
- 3/31/2023 - Minnesota Bison Association Spring Education Conference - MN
- 3/30/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 4/27/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 6/10/2023 - Texas Bison Assn. Spring Conference - Waco, TX

Please visit <https://bisoncentral.com/calendar/> for details and more up-to-date events. If you have a bison event coming up that's not listed, please send the details to [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com) and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

**Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events**

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