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## Weekly Update



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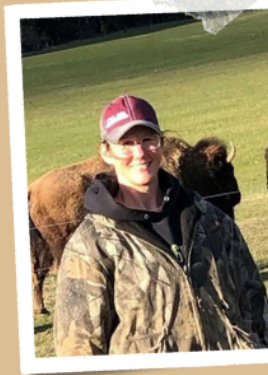
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### *NBA Weekly Update for March 10, 2023*

*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.*

# International Women's Day



HAPPY WOMEN'S DAY



Happy Women's Day to all the wonderful and strong women in the National Bison Association and beyond. You make the world such a better place to live in.

Check out this and more at <https://www.facebook.com/nationalbison>! The National Bison Association connects with producers and consumers alike across multiple social media platforms. Make sure you "like" the NBA and share the great content across your feeds.

**Instagram:** @nationalbison

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**YouTube:** @nationalbisonassociation3992

**Facebook:** @nationalbison

Join the Official National Bison Association Members Group- just Facebook message Lydia Whitman or Jim Matheson to get added.

## Bison Focused Grazing Standard Development

Bison education and grazing standard development has begun in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The National Bison Association, with support from the InterTribal Buffalo Council, is working with the national NRCS team to generate a guiding document on bison behavior, management, and planning.

"With the substantial increase in funding towards climate smart and regenerative ranching and farming, we need to make sure bison producers can receive bison specific technical planning. Bison are the perfect fit for these federal funding opportunities," said Lydia Whitman, Program Manager with the NBA.

Click to learn more about or sign up for NRCS [EQIP](#) and [CSP](#) programs to support your regenerative ranching practices.

## NBA Legislative and Regulatory Committee Reconvened

Between the USDA Farm Bill Development, Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act, and nearly weekly opportunities to submit comments for different federal programs, the staff and leadership of the National Bison Association have been busy representing the needs of the bison industry.

The NBA Legislative and Regulatory Committee has been reconvened to provide more focused input on these areas. Adam Ulbricht has accepted the invitation by NBA President Chad Kremer to chair this committee.

First projects for the committee will be reviewing NBA priority statements to provide to members of Congress on our industry's Farm Bill priorities on a variety of regulatory and legislative issues impacting the bison business.

This is especially important right now, as the Senate and House ag committees are currently drafting the next USDA Farm Bill. Over the past decade, USDA has played a critical role in supporting the growth of the bison business. The American bison industry thanks the USDA for their continued support for our relatively minute agriculture sector and appreciates the help and support they have provided as we restore our national mammal, the bison, to its native landscape.

If you have Farm Bill priorities that you'd like the NBA to consider, please email them to Jim Matheson, executive director at [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com).

## NBA Attends the Eastern Bison Association Winter Conference

NBA Executive Director, Jim Matheson, along with NBA Region 7 Representative and EBA President Carrie Starr, is attending the Eastern Bison Association Winter Conference Show and Sale this weekend in Harrisburg, PA.



Matheson will provide an update on the NBA in a presentation that focuses on what's new at the association, which it turns out is a lot!

The action-packed agenda includes presentations that range from Center of Excellence for Bison Studies to handling equipment to field-harvesting bison and more. See a full agenda at <https://www.ebabison.org>.

The NBA thanks the Eastern Bison Association for including the NBA! Please consider supporting your local bison association. While all bison associations are independent of each other, we collaborate whenever possible to grow our collective bison resources that benefit all producers. See a full list of bison state and regional associations with links to their websites at <https://bisoncentral.com/state-regional-bison-associations/>.

## New Bison Podcast Available!

Do you know what glamping is? Learn more about agritourism efforts by Bethany Kriegel of Sunset Hills Bison Ranch. Also catch up on the auction results and the USDA report by listening to the [Bison Insider](#).

The Minnesota Bison Association produces this monthly podcast with a focus on what's happening within the bison industry.



***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.***

## **There's Nothing More Adorable Than the Baby Bison at Big Bone Lick State Historic Site**

From Kentucky-Only In Your State

The temperatures are warming and the flowers are beginning to bloom; it's spring in Kentucky, and we're just crazy about this season! In addition to the literal birds and bees coming out en masse, there's the arrival of the animal kingdom's newest and cutest members. While fur babies are always fun to see at the Louisville Zoo, there's an often-overlooked Kentucky State Park where you can see baby bison taking their first tentative steps. Big Bone Lick State Resort Park is home to a thriving bison population that, come spring, welcomes new members to the pack.

And while visitors are welcome and encouraged to visit the park and admire the new bison babes, please keep a respectful distance and don't try to touch or feed them. But feel free to swoon from afar!

[Click to read more.](#)

## **Couple Processes Bison Meat Near Hordville**

From Aurora News-Register

For the past few years, Jace and Kendra Hudson have been bringing the massive beasts of the prairie right to the plate of Nebraska consumers and beyond. The Hudsons' business, Central Nebraska Buffalo, has been processing and shipping out prime bison meat, a venture that utilizes a family legacy to provide a beef substitute.



[Click to read more.](#)

## AMS Issues Updated Supplement 603 for the Purchase of Frozen Bison Products

The Agricultural Marketing Service has posted an update to Supplement 603 for the Purchase of Frozen Bison Products for Distribution to Federal Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs. Primary updates include microbial testing requirements, package size change, and modifications to the bison stew material number. Questions may be submitted to Steve Whisenant at [steve.whisenant@usda.gov](mailto:steve.whisenant@usda.gov).

To view the updated specification [click here](#).

## USDA Expands Generic Label Approval for Meat, Poultry, and Egg Products

From The Daily Intake

- On January 18, USDA published a final rule expanding the criteria of generic label approval for inspected meat, poultry, and egg products. The Expansion of Generic Labeling Rule is largely consistent with the proposed rule published in September 2020, which proposed to discontinue review of generically approved labels and expand the circumstances under which FSIS will generically approve food labels under its jurisdiction. Notably, the final rule does not eliminate the requirement to comply with USDA's labeling regulations, but instead shifts the burden of compliance for generic labels onto the manufacturer.
- Under the current regulations, FSIS evaluates sketches of some labels for approval, and approves others generically without submission to FSIS for sketch approval. To obtain sketch label approval, domestic meat and poultry establishments, egg product plants, and certified foreign establishments that are eligible to export product to the United States, or their representatives, are required to submit sketch labels to FSIS for evaluation, except when the label is generically approved by the Agency under 9 CFR 412.2. FSIS allows certain meat, poultry, and egg product labels that bear all required labeling features and that comply with the Agency's labeling regulations to be generically approved (9 CFR 412.2(a)(1)). Generically approved labels do not need to be submitted to FSIS for sketch approval before they can be used on products in commerce. Generic label approval requires that all mandatory label features are prominent and conform to FSIS regulations. Although such labels are not submitted to FSIS for approval, they are deemed to be approved and, therefore, may be applied to product in accordance with the Agency's prior label approval system.
- The final rule will expand generic approval to products only intended for export that deviate from domestic labeling requirements and permit generic approval of the labels of products that receive voluntary FSIS inspection. It will also expand generic approval to:
  - (1) "Organic" claims that appear in a product label's ingredients statement;
  - (2) Labels of products that receive voluntary FSIS inspection (e.g., exotic species);
  - (3) "Geographic landmarks" displayed on a product label (e.g., a foreign country's flag, monument, or map); and
  - (4) "Negative" claims made on product labels that identify the absence of certain ingredients or types of ingredients (e.g., statements such as "No MSG Added," "Preservative Free," "No Milk," "No Pork," or "Made Without Soy"). However, the final rule does not include negative animal raising claims (e.g., "no antibiotics administered").
- As of the effective date, FSIS will no longer evaluate labels submitted to FSIS that are eligible for generic approval. FSIS will, however, continue to provide industry with relevant resources, including updated generic labeling guidance, and timely answers to generic labeling questions. FSIS has updated the FSIS Guideline for Label Approval and intends to update and reissue FSIS Directive 7221.1.
- The final rule will become effective on March 20, 2023.

[Click to read more.](#)

## **Interior Department Wants More Bison on Federal and Tribal Land**

From Meat Eater

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland issued a secretarial order last week aimed at increasing bison herds on federal and tribal land.

While bison restoration efforts have been ongoing at the federal level since at least 2008, this new initiative injects an additional \$25 million into that project and emphasizes the Department of the Interior's commitment to consulting with Tribal leaders.

"The American bison is inextricably intertwined with Indigenous culture, grassland ecology, and American history," Haaland said in a statement. "While the overall recovery of bison over the last 130 years is a conservation success story, significant work remains to not only ensure that bison will remain a viable species but also to restore grassland ecosystems, strengthen rural economies dependent on grassland health and provide for the return of bison to Tribally owned and ancestral lands."

The order tasks the Bison Working Group with developing a Department Bison Shared Stewardship Plan. This plan will establish a comprehensive framework for American bison restoration aimed at restoring wide-ranging herds on large tracts of land.

The plan must adhere to five additional principles, among which are respect for "livestock health, private property rights, Tribal sovereignty, and state interests," along with the inclusion of "Indigenous Knowledge" in bison management. The plan must also prioritize tribally-led opportunities to establish new, large herds, and reserves a seat on the Bison Working Group for a "tribal leader."

[Read more.](#)

## **Proposed EID Rule Comment Period Open**

From The Fence Post

The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announced the pre-publication of their proposed rule to amend animal disease traceability regulations and require electronic identification for interstate movement of certain classes of cattle and bison. The rule will publish in the Federal Register as Docket No. APHIS-2021-0020, Use of Electronic Identification Eartags as Official Identification in Cattle and Bison.

The pre-publication information is currently available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2023-00505/use-of-electronicidentification-eartags-as-official-identification-in-cattle-and-bison>.

The proposed rule would require official eartags to be visually and electronically readable for official identification use for interstate movement of certain classes of cattle and bison. The proposed rule also clarifies record requirements related to cattle, including requiring official identification device distribution records to be entered into a Tribal, State, or Federal database and available to USDA, APHIS upon request. The proposed electronic identification (EID) rule applies to the following classes of animals: all sexually intact cattle and bison 18 months of age or older; all dairy cattle, with the definition of dairy cattle expanded by the rule to include any cattle regardless of age born on a dairy farm or cattle breeds used to produce milk for human consumption or crossbred calves of any breed born to dairy cattle; cattle or bison of any age used for rodeo or recreational events; cattle and bison of any age used for shows or exhibitions.

The existing rules currently allow for cattle or bison to move directly to slaughter without official identification if accompanied by an owner-shipper statement and only sold/resold as slaughter cattle with the requirement for animals to remain within the intended terminal slaughter channels.

The proposed rule makes no changes to using brands and tattoos as official identification when accepted by the sending and receiving states. Also, group/lot identification is considered official identification in cases when a group/lot identification number (GIN) may be used. Animals not impacted by the proposed rule would include animals that do not cross state lines or those already tagged with official EID, as well as animals exempted under the rule, such as beef cattle and bison under 18 months of age and animals going to slaughter or through an APHIS-approved market and then to slaughter. The proposed rule identifies an implementation timeline for EID of 180 days (six months) after the publication in the Federal Register of a Final Rule. USDA, APHIS believes that these changes to incorporate EID would strengthen the nation's ability to respond quickly to significant animal disease outbreaks. The proposed rule would enhance the ability of the United States to regionalize and compartmentalize animal disease outbreaks more quickly. Traceability of animals is necessary to form disease-free regions or zones that facilitate the re-establishment of foreign and domestic market access with minimal delay in the event of an animal disease outbreak. Having an EID system in place would minimize the spread of disease and lessen the trade impacts related to an animal disease outbreak.

Public comments will be accepted through 11:59 pm on Monday, March 20, 2023. Comments may be filed electronically by going to the Federal Register Docket site at <http://www.regulations.gov> and entering APHIS-2021-0020 in the search box, and following prompts in the docket file to submit comments.

[Source.](#)

## **USDA Announces Sign-up for Cost-Share Assistance for On-Farm Grain Storage in Areas with Limited Commercial Capacity Due to Severe Storms**

From [FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov](mailto:FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov)

WASHINGTON, March 9, 2023 Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that producers in counties affected by eligible disaster events in Kentucky, Minnesota, South Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, and Tennessee can apply for cost-share assistance through the Emergency Grain Storage Facility Assistance Program (EGSFP). The new program provides cost-share assistance for the construction of new grain storage capacity and drying and handling needs, in order to support the orderly marketing of commodities. An initial allocation of \$20 million in cost-share assistance is available to agricultural producers in affected counties impacted by the damage to or destruction of large commercial grain elevators as a result of natural disasters from Dec. 1, 2021, to Aug. 1, 2022. The application period opens later this month and closes Dec. 29, 2023.

"Weather events in 2021 and 2022 in several states caused catastrophic losses to grain storage facilities on family farms as well as a large, commercial grain elevator, leaving stored grain exposed to the elements and affecting storage and commodity marketing options for many producers," Vilsack said. "USDA heard from congressional leaders, including Minority Leader McConnell, who identified a gap in our disaster assistance toolkit and used our Commodity Credit Corporation authority to act more quickly than waiting for specific legislation. This new program will provide cost-share assistance to help producers address their on-farm storage capacity needs that are necessary for marketing grain."

This assistance from USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is designed to help producers affected by the December 2021 tornadoes that passed through 11 counties in Kentucky, as well as producers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Tennessee affected by eligible disaster events in 2022. The program was

previewed last fall and will be made available with the publication of the Notice in the Federal Register.

[Source.](#)

## **USDA Announces More Than \$43 Million Investment in Meat and Poultry Processing Research, Expansion and Innovation**

From USDA Rural Development

WASHINGTON, March 9, 2023 The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today an investment of more than \$43 million in meat and poultry processing research, innovation and expansion in support of its ongoing efforts to transform the food system at every stage along the supply chain. This investment is funded through the American Rescue Plan and the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).

As part of this total investment, the University of Arkansas was awarded a \$5 million grant from the AFRI Center of Excellence for Meat and Poultry Processing and Food Safety Research and Innovation (MPPFSRI). In addition, \$13.9 million in grants from the Meat and Poultry Processing Research and Innovation Small Business Innovation Research Phase III program were awarded to 14 small and mid-sized meat and poultry processors. These grants are administered by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

[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 Reminds Farmers, Ranchers and Forest Managers of Approaching Deadline for Prospective Customer Survey**

Are you a farmer, rancher or forest manager? Please share your vital feedback with USDA by taking a nationwide survey at [farmers.gov/survey](https://farmers.gov/survey)! The survey is completely anonymous, will take about 10 minutes to complete, is available in multiple languages, and will be open until March 31, 2023. The survey focuses on gathering feedback about the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Risk Management Agency.

All farmers, ranchers and forest managers are encouraged to take the survey. USDA would especially like to hear from prospective customers: those who don't know about USDA or have yet to work with USDA, and those who were unable to participate in the past. The survey will help USDA enhance support, improve programs and services, increase access, and advance equity for new and existing customers.

## **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!***

- 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
- 6/17/2023 - Montana Bison Association Summer Meeting - MT
- 6/17/2023 - NBA Regional Conference - SD
- 6/24/2023 - NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day - Thornville, OH
- 7/9/2023 - NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day - Sleepy Eye, MN
- 7/15/2023 - NBA Regional Conference - ID

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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