

# Online Only Bison Auctions!

**BIG HORN BISON, LLC • FORT SMITH, MT**

Monday, March 23 • 10 a.m. MDT • (160)+ Head of Bull & Heifer Calves, Yearling Bulls & Heifers

**SWEETGRASS BUFFALO COMPANY • MELVILLE, MT**

Monday, March 23 • 11 a.m. MDT • (100) + Head of Bull & Heifer Calves, Yearling Bulls & Heifers



Jud Seaman - Auctioneer  
(605) 390-1419



Photos, videos and registration for all auctions available at:

**[www.qas.hibid.com](http://www.qas.hibid.com)**



[bisoncentral.com](http://bisoncentral.com)

303-292-2833

The National Bison Association (NBA) Weekly Update is an exclusive service for NBA members.

Reprint is encouraged and permission is granted when the following credit appears:

©National Bison Association; Westminster, CO

## **NBA Weekly Update for March 13, 2020**

*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.*

## **U.S. Reps. Flores and Marshall Sign on to Co-sponsor Truth in Labeling Bill**

The Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act picked up two additional sponsors this week following a blitz of Capitol Hill meetings by National Bison Association President Donnis Baggett and Executive Director Dave Carter.

The latest co-sponsors to sign onto the House legislation are U.S. Reps. Bill Flores (R-TX) and Roger Marshall (R-KS).

"We are very pleased to have Reps. Flores and Marshall signal their support for U.S. bison producers by signing on to the Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act," Carter said. "We hope that our meetings this week will result in some additional co-sponsors in both the House and Senate."

## **NBA Website Being Updated With Focus on Marketing**

The NBA website is getting an overhaul this month, with the spring market season fast

approaching. The website's overall menu has been addressed and revamped to allow for easier navigation throughout the extensive website at [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com).

You'll also find the NBA's online store now more streamlined, offering an array of bison-specific educational resources, promotional materials, even ear-tags. See the store at <https://bisoncentral.com/bison-store/>.

The NBA continues to work on the Marketing and Health Resource pages in the member's area of the website. The Marketing Resources page will feature new and improved marketing tools that are free for Active, Allied Industry, Life and Junior members to access and utilize for their own promotional needs. The Health Resources page is also being updated to expand our health information beyond disease, as to include feeding, and more.

Spend some time at [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com) and stay tuned for updates.

---

## **Spring is Coming - Is Your Bison Promotional Toolkit Ready to Roll?**

As the grass begins to green, and we watch for those first red calves, it's time to start preparing for the summer marketing season. And, as part of that preparation, it's wise to stock the marketing toolbox with the resources that will help make that connection with your customers.

Here are sites that can offer a variety of resources for direct marketers:

The NBA's Store (<https://bisoncentral.com/bison-store/>) is stocked with promotional brochures, table tents, cut charts, and other items that will help your customers feel comfortable exploring the possibilities of bison meat. And, you can order some bison cooking cards with a QR code that your customers can utilize to access the cooking demo videos that were produced with assistance from USDA's Farmers' Market Promotion Program.

The National Buffalo Museum on-line store (<https://www.buffalomuseum.com/store/>) contains a great selection of bison tote bags, apparel, mugs, and other items.

And, the Minnesota Bison Association store (<https://mnbison.org/merchandise/>) is stocked with recipes, temporary tattoos, stickers and other fun promotional items.

Jim Matheson, NBA assistant director, noted, "Anyone who is marketing bison, or offering activities for the public should get on-line and get their information entered into the NBA Buyers Guide. Then, they will automatically be loaded onto our BuySome Bison app." Sign up at <https://bisoncentral.com/my-account/edit-account/>.

---

## **Meetings, Auctions Postponed Because of COVID-19**

Several bison events scheduled this month have been postponed or cancelled because of the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. Here's a summary of the postponements and cancellations that have been received by the NBA Office.

**Kansas Buffalo Association Annual Meeting**, scheduled for tomorrow, March 14. The meeting will be rescheduled in May.

**The Missouri Bison Association 21<sup>st</sup> annual Spring Show and Sale**, which was set to take place Saturday, March 21 in Butler, MO. The association has not yet set a date for the rescheduled auction.

**Illinois-Indiana Bison Association Spring Meeting**, scheduled for March 27-28, has been postponed, and will be rescheduled either in July, or in the fall.

## Trade Commission to Consider Unique Bison Export Codes

The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) has agreed to consider establishing specific HS (Harmonized System) Codes for bison meat when it conducts its next meeting in May.

HS Codes are a standardized international system to classify globally traded products. The system was first implemented in 1988 and is currently maintained by the World Customs Organization.

Bison meat is currently listed under the HS codes used for beef. The lack of unique HS codes for bison meat make it extremely difficult to measure the level of bison meat moving in international trade.

At the request of the National Bison Association, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service has recommended to the USITC, that it establish unique HS codes for bison meat. In a letter send to USITC this week, NBA Executive Director Dave Carter, wrote, "Export markets for bison are growing and present a significant opportunity to expand the U.S. bison commercial business. This, in turn, can enhance the profitability and stability of U.S. bison ranchers.

"The inability to capture and monitor bison-specific export data is one factor that inhibits our ability to pursue these market opportunities. The lack of Schedule B codes also places the U.S. bison sector at a competitive disadvantage to our Canadian neighbors," Carter added. "Establishment of Schedule B codes will represent a very positive step forward to strengthen the ability of U.S. marketers to develop new, profitable markets outside of the United States."

---

***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.***

---



**REACH THE WHOLE HERD!**

WITH A WEEKLY UPDATE BANNER AD  
JUST \$65/WEEK FOR THIS SPOT  
CONTACT [KAREN@BISONCENTRAL.COM](mailto:karen@bisoncentral.com) TO RESERVE



---

## No Land Or Experience? No Problem For Beginning Rancher

*(From Farm Progress)*

Sarah Gleason is a first-generation bison rancher who got started in an unusual way. She didn't grow up on a ranch. She didn't have a family's or a friend's ranch to work on. She didn't access to any land.

Furthermore, she didn't know anything about bison. She didn't study animal science or ranch management in college.

But today, Gleason has about 30 bison and is in the final stages of negotiating a lease for 900 acres of rangeland.

How did she get started? Mostly by old-fashioned networking.

"It was about relationships," she says.

Gleason, 35, of Durango, Colo., loves the outdoors. She is skier, runner and horseback rider. She also worked for a while as river rafting guide. She's an avid gardener and local foods advocate. She worked for a decade in marketing and business development positions for several agencies, trade associations and businesses, including Whole Foods and the Savory Institute.

Though she loved her work, she was always searching for some way to get out from behind the desk and to earn a living by being outside. She turned eventually to agriculture, an industry she was exposed to at Whole Foods Market, a multinational supermarket grocery chain known for its organic selections; and the Savory Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to holistic management and regenerative agriculture.

"It not a big leap from loving the outdoors to wanting to be a farmer or rancher," she says. "If you want to be a good steward of the earth, there's no better ways to better to earn your living than to produce food for people".

Read [more](#).

---

## **Food Comes Full Circle In Sleepy Eye, Where Even The Bison Eat Local**

*(From MN Public Radio)*

As brewers siphoned a new batch of beer into kegs at the new Sleepy Eye Brewing and Coffee Co. last week, Craig Fischer waited patiently off to the side. He's there every week when they fill the kegs.

But the liquid gold wasn't what he wanted to bring home.

He wanted what was left over.

Several plastic barrels lined a wall near the back of the brewery. Under the lids were mounds of golden grain that had already been sucked dry of sugars and other elements that make beer what it is.

It's called spent grain — and it was exactly the gold that Fischer was after.

Craft brewers consider this byproduct of their work to be waste — but Fischer is a bison farmer. And to his herd, it's a tasty and nutritious snack, a good source of protein, fiber and energy.

So, every time head brewer Arron Luebbert starts brewing a batch of beer at the brewery in downtown Sleepy Eye — which usually happens about twice a week — he calls Fischer to let him know when the beer mash will be ready for pickup.

"Depending on the grain, he's getting anywhere from a couple of pounds all the way up to our biggest batch, which was just shy of 300 pounds," Luebbert said. "We'll take the mash, dig the mash right out of that big door. It'll spill out there, and we will fill up a couple of barrels and [we] haul it outside."

Read [more](#).

---



# Satellite Observations Aid Bison Management

*(From NASA Press Release)*

Over the past few decades, the bison population in Yellowstone National Park has grown substantially. Some of that is due to longstanding conservation efforts, but some of it is also due to a greater abundance of food for the animals to graze on. A new study by a NASA scientist has found a link between the effects of climate change, the productivity of grasslands, and the proliferation of bison in Yellowstone.

Using 20 years of data from NASA's Aqua and Terra satellites, earth scientist Christopher Potter examined the length of the growing season in Yellowstone—from snowmelt in springtime to the first snowfall in autumn—and the health and abundance of vegetation during that time. He found that the annual period of vegetation growth has been getting longer, likely due to the decreasing severity of winters and warming average temperatures (year-round) as a result of climate change.

The map above depicts one aspect of that change: how the end of the growing season fluctuated around Yellowstone National Park between 2001 and 2017. The map is based on measurements of vegetation greenness (the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) as observed by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) instruments on Terra and Aqua.

The National Park Service first approached NASA about ten years ago for insight into patterns of growth across Yellowstone's grasslands. They thought tracking such growth could provide wildlife managers with clues about where bison and other animals might move. Potter became part of that effort.

Read [more](#).

---

## 'This Is Good Medicine:' Tribes Work Together In Annual Bison Hunt

*(From Missoulacurrent.com)*

The herd of bison fed quietly along the dirt roadside Saturday, just inside the northern border of Yellowstone National Park.

About 100 yards away, a group of about 50 Native Americans watched the bison intently. With rifles of all calibers slung over their shoulders, they waited for the big animals to cross the dirt road onto National Forest Land, where the bison could be shot.

Pickup trucks with license plates from around the country lined both sides of the narrow dirt road. Some of the men sat in pickup trucks, idling their engines to keep warm, while young boys sat on tailgates, sharpening knives. They knew the killing would start soon.

The bison, meanwhile, would step across the road, only to be herded back to the park by an unknowing passing motorist. The entire mood of the group of men shifted as the bison crossed back and forth.

After about six hours, the herd of 18 bison had crossed in singles and in pairs and was now making its way up a long, flat ridge where bison carcasses lay strewn about from previous days' killings.

The men grouped together to listen to a tribal game officer from the Nez Perce tribe tell them how the hunt was going to take place. As there were only 18 bison, but about 50 men, the tribal members who had come from across the country decided how the bison would be distributed. One elderly man was given the chance to lead the pack of men up the ridge. He would shoot first.

The men moved in a group slowly up the ridge while the bison grazed nonchalantly just 40 yards away, oblivious to the dead carcasses dotted around the sagebrush and open grass. The tailgate-party atmosphere of a few minutes ago had now turned serious, sullen and

quiet.

As soon as the bison had moved past fluorescent signs dictating where the shooting could take place, the elderly man raised his rifle and fired, dropping his buffalo. The other bison stood nearby, nonplussed.

The other shooters fired quickly and the bison dropped where they had stood. In less than 30 seconds it was over; the herd of bison lay dead in the snow, some still writhing from injuries while battle cries and shouts echoed across the still winter landscape.

The men took to their task immediately, skinning and butchering the enormous animals, while a few women shot photos with cellphones. The snow turned red, and a small creek running with snowmelt carried the bison blood down the hill.

Read more [here](#).

---

## How To Buy Some Bison

*(From the Lakewood Sentinel)*

Five bison calves found new homes on March 17 during one of the Golden area's most unusual fundraising events: the City and County of Denver bison sale.

Now in its 35th year, the annual bison sale is when the City and County Denver sells off most of the offspring born in its two bison herds that live at Genesee Park and Daniels Park near Sedalia. Matt Brown, the operations supervisor at the Genesee Bison Ranch, said the city maintains the herds as part of conservation and education efforts but cannot allow those herds to grow too large.

"We raise bison for people to look at but we can't keep them all because we have to be good stewards and we can't let animals overgraze the property," Brown said.

Enter the annual sale, which Brown said is open to anyone who wants to buy a bison (yes, many of them will eventually get eaten) and this year attracted buyers from as far away as Wyoming. Funds from the sale go toward maintaining the animals and covering the costs of veterinary care.

Brown said the sale is also a unique experience that allows people to see the bison up close. Of course, the bison can also be viewed throughout the year around Genesee park, including from the buffalo overlook from I-70.

"We want to encourage Denver residents to come up and see what Denver owns outside of downtown," Brown said. "We raise bison for educational purposes and for people to look at we want to educate people on the animal itself the bison and how long it's been around."

---

## Landowner Group Files Complaint Against Bison Management, Conservation Plan

*(From Montana Public Radio)*

A landowner advocacy group in Montana filed a complaint this week against Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks saying that the department has not thoroughly explored the consequences of allowing free-roaming wild bison in the state.

The United Property Owners of Montana says Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks failed to fully investigate the possible effect wild bison could have on Montana ranchers and farmers in a document that assesses how the state should reintroduce the animals in Montana, if at all.

United Property Owners policy director Chuck Denowh says the group believes free-roaming wild bison could do damage to property, crops and livestock.

“They could decimate a crop for instance. They could cause regular damage to hay supplies and other type of forage, but probably the biggest risk is with disease and brucellosis,” Denowh.

There are no documented cases of wild bison transmitting brucellosis to cattle.

Read more [here](#).

---

## **Yellowstone bison seems to dance to motorist’s tune**

*(From USA Today)*

Last summer the Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office in Montana revealed that its deputies sometimes blare “Hells Bells” by AC/DC [to scatter bison on roads](#) in and around Yellowstone National Park.

“That usually seems to work,” the Sheriff’s Office explained.

But apparently, not all music has the same effect. The accompanying footage shows a large bison reacting to a passing motorist’s catchy tune with a series of quick steps and head bobs.

“Normal day in Yellowstone,” Kristine Dugan says in the footage, which she titled, “Dancin buffalo in Yellowstone, Wyoming.”

Is the bison actually dancing, or does it merely have a pebble stuck in its hoof? We’ll let viewers be the judge.

See it at <https://ftw.usatoday.com/2020/03/yellowstone-bison-seems-to-dance-to-motorists-tune>

---

## **EQIP, CSP Renewal Application Deadlines Approaching**

*(From the Center for Rural Affairs)*

Farmers and ranchers interested in expanding conservation on their operations should be aware of two quickly approaching deadlines. New applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and renewals for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) are due soon.

EQIP 2020 deadlines for select Midwestern states are Minnesota, March 13; Nebraska, March 13; Iowa, March 20; South Dakota, March 20; and North Dakota, March 27. Applications deadlines for new CSP contracts are still being announced, and will likely fall around late May for your state.

Interested in applying for EQIP or renewing CSP? Contact your local NRCS office as soon as possible.

Read [more](#).

---

## **Five Workers At Michigan Wildlife Disease Lab Diagnosed With Tuberculosis**

*(From The Detroit Free Press)*

Five people who worked in a Michigan wildlife disease lab have been diagnosed with a latent form of tuberculosis, a spokesman said Friday.

The Department of Natural Resources' lab processes thousands of deer heads during the annual hunting season to check for chronic wasting disease and bovine TB.

TB is an illness caused by bacteria that attack the lungs. It can be fatal, although a latent form shows no symptoms, doesn't make people feel sick and is not contagious, according to federal health experts. It typically involves treatment to prevent full-blown TB.

The DNR learned about the infections last year, including three people in June and two later in the summer, spokesman Ed Golder said.

"It was discovered through routine testing we do with people who work in the wildlife disease lab," Golder told The Associated Press.

Full [text](#).

---

## **Why We Need Veterinarians in the Policy World**

*(From Tufts Now)*

When you think about someone working in public service, you may picture a City Hall employee, a public-school teacher, or a police officer. What about a veterinarian?

While it may not be intuitive, it's critically important to have veterinarians working in public service, said Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine alums Matthew Ferreira, V14, and Deborah Thomson, V12.

And that's not just lip service to their profession. Ferreira and Thomson both are spending this year in government fellowships in Washington, D.C. Ferreira is at the Department of State as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science & Technology Policy Fellow, and Thomson is the American Veterinary Medical Association Congressional Science and Engineering Policy Fellow on Capitol Hill.

As veterinarians, both bring their expertise to One Health discussions across government. A collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to the health of humans, animals, and the environment, One Health incorporates expertise from various fields, such as medicine, environmental sciences, public health, engineering, economics, and sociology.

Various agencies and departments across the government—think Department of Defense, Health and Human Services, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—have people working on news-worthy issues such as emerging infectious diseases and crisis response. A big part of what Ferreira does in his fellowship is interagency coordination, to make sure there's a unified response when an emergency, disaster, or crisis happens.

"I think veterinarians are naturally a lot more comfortable with the concept of One Health than other people," said Deborah Thomson, V12. "I think veterinarians are naturally a lot more comfortable with the concept of One Health than other people," said Deborah Thomson, V12.

Thomson said veterinarians are best suited for this kind of task. "I think veterinarians are naturally a lot more comfortable with the concept of One Health than other people. We're trained to work with multiple species and consider their living environment when getting a patient's history for the medical record—and that includes knowing who is in the household," she said. "We have to, of course, include the human aspect because we need to communicate effectively with our clients in order to provide the best possible care for our patients and understand the whole picture."

Full [text](#).

---

## **Amid Coronavirus Outbreak: USDA Braces For Staff Disruptions, Considers Ways To Provide More Food Aid**

*(From AgriPulse)*

Federal agencies are cutting travel and preparing to operate with staff disruptions because of the coronavirus outbreak, and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue signaled that he's



open to expanding feeding programs if Congress gives him the legal authority.

The Food and Drug Administration informed employees that it is canceling official agency travel through April “except mission-critical and COVID-19 response-related travel, and will reassess on an on-going basis for future months,” according to a memo obtained by *Agri-Pulse*. FDA also is postponing all foreign inspections until April.

In an Agriculture Department memo authored by Deputy Secretary Steve Censky and obtained by *Agri-Pulse*, agencies were told to rethink all nonessential travel and to consider teleconferencing for meetings.

“Agencies should review their Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) to ensure that telework is fully incorporated and that employees are telework capable and telework ready,” the memo says.

Perdue told the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee on Tuesday that the department has tested its information technology systems to see if they could handle large-scale teleworking by staff.

“We have a lot of people who depend on USDA on a daily basis, from farmers and ranchers to consumers out here, and we have to carry on the work,” he said.

He said the department is allowing employees in Washington state to telework but denied a teleworking request by some Forest Service employees who were not affected by the outbreak. He didn't say where they were located.

But Perdue told the subcommittee the department needed broader legal authority to address potential needs for food assistance in cases of school closures and job losses.

A special version of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for addressing food aid needs during a pandemic was implemented during the H1N1 virus scare in 2009, but its authorization has long expired. “There might be a need for something like that now,” he said.

Another special SNAP program, known as D-SNAP, is limited to natural disasters and could not be used for an outbreak, he said. Recipients may qualify for D-SNAP based on the cost of disaster-related repairs, shelter and evacuation expenses or disaster-related injuries or funeral expenses.

Perdue declined to block implementation of a new rule that makes it harder for states to get waivers from SNAP work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents. He said states can waive the work requirements on their own for “good cause,” which would include SNAP beneficiaries who are unable to work because of the outbreak. The rule takes effect in April.

---



**REACH THE WHOLE HERD!**

WITH A WEEKLY UPDATE BANNER AD  
JUST \$50/WEEK FOR THIS SPOT  
CONTACT [KAREN@BISONCENTRAL.COM](mailto:karen@bisoncentral.com) TO RESERVE



---

## Save the Date!

- 3/15/2020 - 3 Suns Ranch Online Dispersal Auction Opens - FL
- 3/23/2020 - Bighorn Bison, LLC Online Auction - MT
- 3/23/2020 - Sweetgrass Buffalo Company Online Auction - MT
- 3/25/2020 - Clearwater Ranch Online Only Auction - OK
- 4/03/2020 - Minnesota Bison Association's Education Conference
- 5/15/2020 - Texas Bison Association Spring Meeting - TX
- 6/7-2020 - Montana/Western Bison Association Joint Summer Meeting - MT
- 6/21 - 06/23/2020 - National Bison Summer Conference - Cheyenne, WY
- 1/20 - 1/23/2021 - National Bison Winter Conference - Denver, CO
- 1/23/2021 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - Denver, CO

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](#)

---

National Bison Association | [info@bisoncentral.com](mailto:info@bisoncentral.com) | 303-292-2833 | [bisoncentral.com](http://bisoncentral.com)  
[@nationalbison](https://www.instagram.com/nationalbison)

