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Weekly Update



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

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NBA Weekly Update for March 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 Industry Weighs in on Farm Bill

From NBA Press Release

Westminster, CO (March 17, 2023) -- The National Bison Association (NBA) is encouraging members of the U.S. Senate and House Agriculture Committees to include farm bill policies that will foster continued growth in the bison business. See the NBA's Farm Bill priorities [here](#).

As the Agriculture Committees progress on the development of the 2023 Farm Bill, the National Bison Association this week provided each member of the committee with a summary of top priority issues for the bison business under the new long-term legislation.

The bison industry priorities include provisions regarding disaster assistance, trade, rural development, beginning farmer assistance, and truth-in-labeling. The organization also requested that agricultural research priorities recognize the importance of protecting the health of the nation's bison herds.

In a message accompanying the Bison Association's priorities, Executive Director Jim Matheson wrote, "Overall we simply want to ensure that bison is specifically included under the definition of livestock in terms of eligibility for all USDA loan, disaster, insurance, and other programs. Bison producers are generally included in farm bill programming, but being such a small sector of American agriculture, it always helps to explicitly list bison producers as being eligible."

Matheson also urged congressional leaders to include provisions that would encourage the elimination of trade barriers that place bison at a disadvantage to beef in the international marketplace. In the area of meat processing, the bison industry urged that loan and grant programs be expanded to encourage workforce development, infrastructure expansion, and reciprocity in state and federal inspection services, particularly in small facilities.

Learn more about the National Bison Association and their work at www.bisoncentral.com.

Bison Carcass Prices Up in Latest USDA Report

The USDA Agriculture Marketing Service released its February price report which showed both bull and heifer carcass price increases over the previous month.

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 \$3.99/lb., an increase of \$.11 over the previous month and \$.20 cents more than the previous year. Young heifers brought just one cent less per pound than the previous month and year.

That's the highest bull carcass price reported in well over two years and a sign that the supply of market-ready bison is tightening, as is expected in 2023. The report also cited 48 more head of bison slaughtered over the previous February.

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.

Spring Bison World Magazine is Now Available Online

One of the perks of NBA membership is access to the Bison World magazine before the printed copies arrive in the mail! Production on the Spring issue has wrapped up, and it is now available on the [Bison World](#) bookshelf on the NBA website. You must log in to the member area to access the magazine.

You can view the flipbook version of the magazine right on your computer. Handy links allow you to open it into a new window, make it larger, and even magnify certain features. The realistic page-turning sounds make it feel like you are reading the printed version of the magazine. We are also incorporating links that will take



you directly to websites and other areas of interest. Hover and click over links or ads to enable this feature.

The hard copy magazine is currently being printed and will mail shortly.

Stay Connected with @NationalBison

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

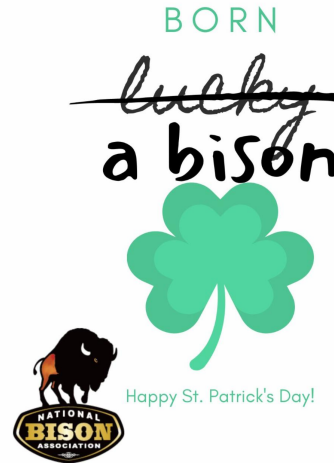
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Join the Official National Bison Association Members Group- just Facebook message Lydia Whitman or Jim Matheson to get added.



Advertising Opportunities in the Summer Issue of Bison World

Production will soon be underway on the Summer 2023 issue of the Bison World magazine.

Various advertising options are available within the magazine pages, from 1/8 page to full page. Lifetime and Active NBA members will enjoy discounted rates as part of their membership perks, and contract holders will receive a 5% discount for pre-paid advertising. Karen can work with you to tailor an advertising campaign that fits your budget and targets your message!

The final deadline for advertising materials will be May 1. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time but are subject to the same deadline for the Summer issue.

For more information about editorial submissions or advertising your ranch, business, or events, contact Karen@bisoncentral.com or call (605) 381-3738.

Truth in Buffalo Labeling House Sponsors Still Needed

A companion bill and sponsorship is still needed in the House of Representatives for the Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act, also called "S. 258 A bill to provide clarification regarding the common or usual name for bison and compliance with section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and for other purposes."

This legislation would prevent water buffalo products from being deceptively labeled as buffalo, which misleads consumers and negatively impacts the U.S. bison industry. The bipartisan bill provides the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with the authority to ensure that products with water buffalo are marketed as "water buffalo" so consumers aren't misled to believe the product contains bison. Bison products would continue to be

labeled as "bison" or "buffalo". The need for legislation is prompted by the importation of water buffalo meat into the United States, which in the past has been labeled and marketed in a manner that leads consumers to believe they are buying North American bison. The proposed legislation has been reintroduced in the 118th Congress by sponsors U.S. Sens. John Hoeven (R-ND) and Michael Bennet (D-CO).

The bill needs to be reintroduced in the house. NBA members can help build support for the Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act by recruiting co-sponsors in the House. This is pretty time sensitive- if you have any contacts or relationships within the House of Representatives let Jim and Lydia know so we can join forces and work towards getting some legislation moving forward by emailing them at jim@bisoncentral.com, or lydia@bisoncentral.com.

Live Auction Results Updated



[HOME](#) [BISON STORE](#) [GENERAL INFO](#) [MEMBERS AREA](#) [CONSUMERS](#)

Live bison auction results have been updated to include most every U.S. 2022/23 bison auction this season through today. Active and Life members, follow this link to see the results - <https://bisoncentral.com/board-listing/bison-auction-results/>

Not a Life or Active NBA member?

You can always upgrade your membership by contacting the NBA at info@bisoncentral.com, by calling 303-292-233, or upgrade online at <https://bisoncentral.com/nba-membership-options/>. We will prorate your current membership based on your expiration date.

USDA AMS Wholesale Monthly Bison Report - Current and Archived - [Available Here](#)

Live Bison Auction Results:

[Fall 2022 - Spring 2023](#)

[2023 Gold Trophy Show and Sale Results](#)

[2022 GTSS Results](#)

Archived Live Results:

[Fall 2021 - Spring 2022](#)

[Fall 2020 - Spring 2021](#)

[Fall 2019 - Spring 2020](#)

[Fall 2018 - Spring 2019](#)

[Fall 2017 - Spring 2018](#)

[Fall 2016 - Spring 2017](#)

[Fall 2015 - Spring 2016](#)

[Fall 2014 - Spring 2015](#)

Special thanks to Karen Conley for compiling this data and to Quality Auction Services for sharing the data.

Annual Scholarship from the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association

The Dakota Territory Buffalo Association is seeking qualified applicants for its annual scholarship award. One scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 will be granted to a graduating senior planning to continue his/her education at any college, university, or vocational or trade school.

Although all graduating seniors are eligible for this award, an applicant must be affiliated with a current DTBA membership or be sponsored by a DTBA member in good standing.

The award will be based on career goals, academic record, extracurricular activities, and community involvement. Funds for the scholarship will be made out to the institution of the recipient's choice upon proof of enrollment.

Completed applications must be sent to the DTBA on or before April 15th.

In addition to the application and questionnaire, students must also submit at least two letters of recommendation (excluding family members) and a copy of their official high school transcript.

A new feature allows students to [complete the application online](#) and upload electronic copies of transcripts and letters of recommendation. Alternatively, students can [download and print the DTBA Scholarship Application](#) and complete a hard copy using black ink. Completed applications can be submitted via email to Info@DakotaBuffalo.com or mailed to:

Dakota Territory Buffalo Association
PO Box 1315
Rapid City, SD 57709-1315

If you have any questions, please contact the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association at Info@DakotaBuffalo.com, or call (770) 500-9896 or (605) 545-2132.



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.

Denver donates 35 bison to Native American tribes

From NPR

The city of Denver has donated 35 bison to several Native American tribes and one memorial council in Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming. The transfers marked another example of Indigenous people reclaiming stewardship over land and animals their ancestors managed for thousands of years.

After a ceremony on Wednesday, the animals were loaded onto trucks and moved to tribal lands.

The city's Parks Department transferred 17 bison — which many, including Tribal members, commonly call buffalo — to the Northern Arapaho Tribe and 12 to the Eastern Shoshone Tribe, both located in Wyoming. Five went to the Yuchi Tribe of Oklahoma, which will use the animals to establish a new herd. One will go to the Tall Bull Memorial Council in Colorado.

"Our tribes, our ancestors were buffalo people," says Jason Baldes, a Tribal buffalo program senior manager at the National Wildlife Federation and executive director of the Wind River Tribal Buffalo Initiative. "We want to ensure that our young people today also have that historical and contemporary connection to this animal."

That means restoring each tribe's herd to the point that Indigenous people can "get them back into our diet, provide those animals for our cultural and spiritual belief systems," and provide educational opportunities for young people, Baldes says.

[Read more here.](#)

What happened to Bison No. 4 at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science?

From Denverite

There's a family of Bison in Colorado that hasn't moved a muscle in over a century. They're housed in the archives of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. And one of them is missing.

Every single thing in the museum's collection – all 4.3 million pieces – has its own number. That includes these bison, cataloged as specimens Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 5.

So how did these bison get these numbers? As the curator of vertebrate zoology, John Demboski cares for this taxidermied herd, among many other specimens in the museum.

"These were part of a founding collection for the museum," Demboski said. "There were three founding collections here at the museum back in 1900."

The museum has two floors full of dioramas on public view where you can see taxidermied animals from around the world. But these bison live three floors underground.

When you step inside the floor where most zoology specimens live, you're greeted by all sorts of taxidermied birds suspended in flight; a snow leopard crouched on some snowy rocks; and a group of bison.

The first bison you see is specimen No. 2. He's hard to miss since he's the largest, tallest taxidermied animal in the room. And that makes him a bit imposing, standing proudly on all fours, mounted on a slab with wheels. But even with those wheels, Demboski said he's hard to move.

"Back in the day, taxidermy was a little different. This thing has a wooden frame, our understanding, it still has a skull in it, so that adds some weight. But it's extremely heavy," he said. "We don't like to move it. We've moved it a couple times and it's scary."

[Read more here.](#)

Bison migrating back to Yellowstone National Park get help from volunteers digging tunnels through snow

From WBZK - 7

Some bison migrating back into Yellowstone National Park are getting a little help this year.

Volunteers with the Buffalo Field Campaign, with help from the Montana Department of Transportation, dug out tunnels for the bison.

West Yellowstone has received more than five feet of snow this winter, and road plowing has created giant berms of snow along Highway 191 that make travel for the bison very difficult. According to the Buffalo Field Campaign, 19 bison have been struck and killed on area highways this winter, including 13 that died in one semi-truck crash last December.

Now, the bison can use the dug-out corridors to travel quickly across 191 instead of trudging down the road.

The tunnels have been strategically placed to follow the herd's preferred route back into the park.

[Read more.](#)

Kane County forest preserve may once again become home to bison [IL]

From The Daily Herald

It's been 200 hundred years since bison roamed the prairies of Kane County, but a new plan to reintroduce them into a local forest preserve may turn back the clock.

Kane County Forest Preserve commissioners approved a plan this week to bring a handful of bison to the Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve. The plan centers on one of the main ecological goals of restoring tallgrass prairie to the county's preserves. Before the surrounding area developed, fire and the grazing habits of wild animals, such as bison, provided natural management of the grasslands. Preserve officials reintroduced controlled burns to the preserves many years ago.

Executive director Ben Haberthur told commissioners now is the time to reintroduce bison to restore the grazing aspect of grassland management. Up to 90% of the diet for bison is grasses.

"The grasses evolved with grazing," Haberthur said. "So it actually promotes the soil microbiome to grow more. Bison are native to Illinois, and they are definitely native to this county. They will bring a big component back to the ecosystem, namely fertilizer."

[Read more here.](#)

There's One Place in Missouri You Can Hang Out with Bison

From The Eagle

When most people think of bison, they think of the American West. There's a good reason for that as these massive beasts do call that part of the United States home. But, there's also one place in Missouri where you can also hang out with bison.

If you haven't visited Prairie State Park, you really need to make time at some point in your life if you have the ability. It's the one place in Missouri you can get up-close-and-personal with one of the biggest land mammals in the world. The bison herd in Prairie State Park really is just a short hike away.

The Missouri State Parks website has some sad statistics about what the state used to be like. They say that "tallgrass prairies once covered more than a third of Missouri; today, less than 1% remains, much of it preserved at Prairie State Park".

The bison herd that roams Prairie State Park is truly wild. They go where they want to go and graze the land as they did 150 years ago. That's one reason you'll want to be extra careful if you decide to see the live. They are unpredictable animals that can weigh up to 2,200 pounds according to the Missouri Department of Conservation website.

[Read more here.](#)

Pre-Solicitation Announcement for Bison Products

From USDA Press Release

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced plans to purchase Bison Stew Meat for distribution to various food nutrition assistance programs.

Solicitations will be issued in the near future and will be available electronically through the Web-Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) system. A hard copy of the solicitation will not be available. Public WBSCM information is available without an account on the WBSCM Public Procurement Page. All future information regarding this acquisition, including solicitation amendments and award notices, will be published through WBSCM, and on the Agricultural Marketing Service's website at www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food.

Interested parties shall be responsible for ensuring that they have the most up-to-date information about this acquisition. The contract type is anticipated to be firm-fixed price. Deliveries are expected to be to various locations in the United States on an FOB destination basis.

[Read more here.](#)

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.

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

Cattlemen ask lawmakers to end Oregon's brucellosis vax mandate

By Mateusz Perkowski

Capital Press

March 9, 2023

SALEM - Representatives of Oregon's cattle industry are asking lawmakers to eliminate the state's legal requirement to vaccinate female cows against brucellosis, a disease that causes abortions.

The bacterial pathogen hasn't been found in Oregon for about 30 years, so ending the vaccination requirement under Senate Bill 57 would acknowledge that victory, according to supporters.

[Source.](#)

USDA's outlook for 2023

MorningAgClips.com

AMES, Iowa - Every February, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides its outlook for the agricultural year ahead at its annual conference, the Ag Outlook Forum. During the forum, USDA brings together industry, academic, and government experts to discuss the major agricultural issues of the day and examine the near-term market outlook for agriculture. This year's forum follows two of the best years ever for net farm income. Farmers across the nation captured higher prices and returns for most commodities. The markets were supported by strong domestic and international demand. But with concerns about recession and inflation dominating the general economic discussion, the projections for 2023 highlight some challenges for agriculture in the year ahead.

Table 1 outlines some of the basic numbers for cattle/beef. For the cattle sector, producers started shrinking their cattle herds in 2020. That reduction in herd size has continued over the past three years. Within the past two years, the national herd shrank by 4.5 million animals, with most of that reduction occurring in 2022. The drought throughout the western United States over the past few years has forced a significant reshaping of the cattle industry. The lack of high-quality pasture put pressure on cattle producers to shift more heifers into feedlots and speed up the movement of cattle to slaughter plants. The result was an increase in beef production in 2022, even though the cattle herd was declining; however, that combination cannot be sustained in 2023.

This year, the smaller herd will translate into fewer cattle on feed and lower beef production. The 1.8 billion pound drop in beef production will be the largest decrease since 2000. With the combination of lower production and relatively strong domestic consumption, beef exports are projected to fall by 400 million pounds while beef imports remain steady. As the herd shrank, steer prices rose significantly over the past couple of years. The outlook for 2023 shows average steer prices reaching nearly \$160 per hundredweight.

[Read more.](#)

Severe winter, disease create deadly challenges for pronghorn

From The WyoFile

Toward the end of each hard winter, Wyoming Game and Fish Department gets the word out about dead animals: Mule deer falling over from starvation or pronghorn caught in fences or hit by vehicles.

Those announcements ask people to slow down on highways, stay off of closed winter ranges and not put out feed for deer and pronghorn no matter how hungry and skinny they look.

This winter has been no exception. Record snows blanketed the western half of the state punctuated by brief warm spells and then cold. The combination created layers of ice and snow, rendering any last food underneath unavailable.

Plenty of mule deer die during each of these bad winters, which are becoming more extreme with climate change, but pronghorn may bear the brunt, biologists say. Their primary food, sagebrush, is often locked under layers of crusty snow, said Justin Binfet, Game and Fish's Casper regional wildlife coordinator. They're also more likely to be stuck in or behind fences because snow drifts prevent them from crawling under and also don't provide a hard surface to use for jumping.

Pronghorn are dropping dead across the western and central portions of the state only a handful of years after the last severe winter that also hammered them. And this year, pronghorn near Pinedale are suffering even more as a strange bacteria, *Mycoplasma bovis*, has killed more than 200. The bacteria causes pneumonia and once contracted, appears to be universally lethal to the creatures, said Hank Edwards, Game and Fish's wildlife disease specialist.

[Read more here.](#)

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!

- 3/25/2023 - SBA Cream of the Crop - Yorkton, SK
- 3/27/2023 - Diamond 4D Bison Webcast Auction - MT
- 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 - Rapid City, SD
- 6/24/2023 - NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day - Thornville, OH
- 7/09/2023 - NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day - Sleepy Eye, MN
- 7/15/2023 - NBA Regional Conference - New Plymouth, 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 and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

[Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events](#)

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