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March 11 - Irish Creek Bull Sale - Camrose, AB.  
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## Weekly Update



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### *NBA Weekly Update for March 3, 2023*

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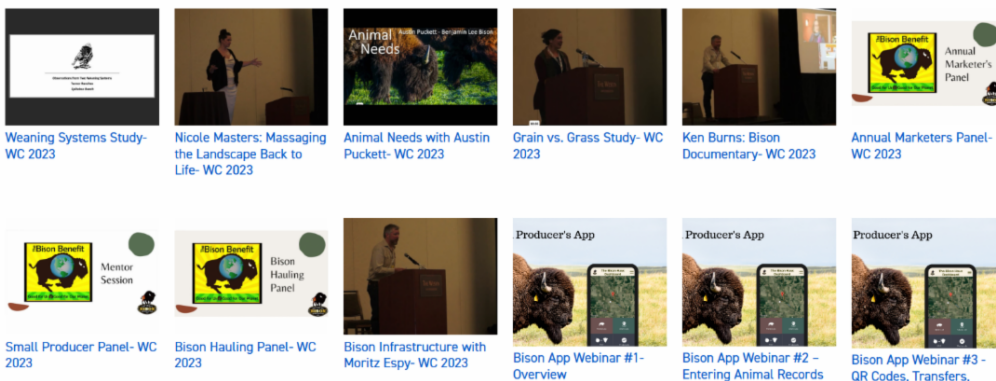
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As a service to our members who are not able to attend our events, the NBA is pleased to share these recorded presentations with you.



## Winter Conference Videos Now Available in Members Area

Missed a session at the winter conference? Wish you could remember the facts on the grass vs. grain finished study? We've got you covered. All 2023 Winter Conference

sessions are at [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com), under the members section in "[Video and Print Archives](#)". Thank you, 777 Bison Ranch, for sponsoring the filming of the presentations.

The 2023 NBA Winter Conference offered broad topical learning, emphasizing the Bison Benefit. Jim Matheson, Moritz Espy, Austin Puckett, Liz Riffle, Melinda Anakalea and Joe Graham partnered to provide a well-rounded Mentoring Session. Two Turner Enterprise research-funded projects were presented, focusing on Weaning Systems and Finishing Methods. Panel discussions were held on bison transport and commercial marketing. We had keynote speaker Nicole Masters present on soil health and regenerative cultivation. On top of all of that, we had the special honor of being the first audience to witness the new Ken Burn's documentary: *The American Buffalo*.

The print and video resource area has a trove of content including the Bison World Magazine archives, Farmers' Market Promotion Program Handbook, Bison Disease Field Guide, and handbook for Transitioning Cattle to Bison, An Introduction. All are free to members. See it all at the NBA Member Center - <https://bisoncentral.com/member-center/>.

## **NBA Drafting Farm Bill Priorities**

The National Bison Association is preparing priority statements to provide to members of Congress 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 Rocky Mountain Bison Association Meeting**

NBA Executive Director, Jim Matheson, along with President, Chad Kremer and Bison World editor, Karen Conley will attend the Rocky Mountain Bison Association's annual Spring meeting this weekend in Fort Collins, Colorado.

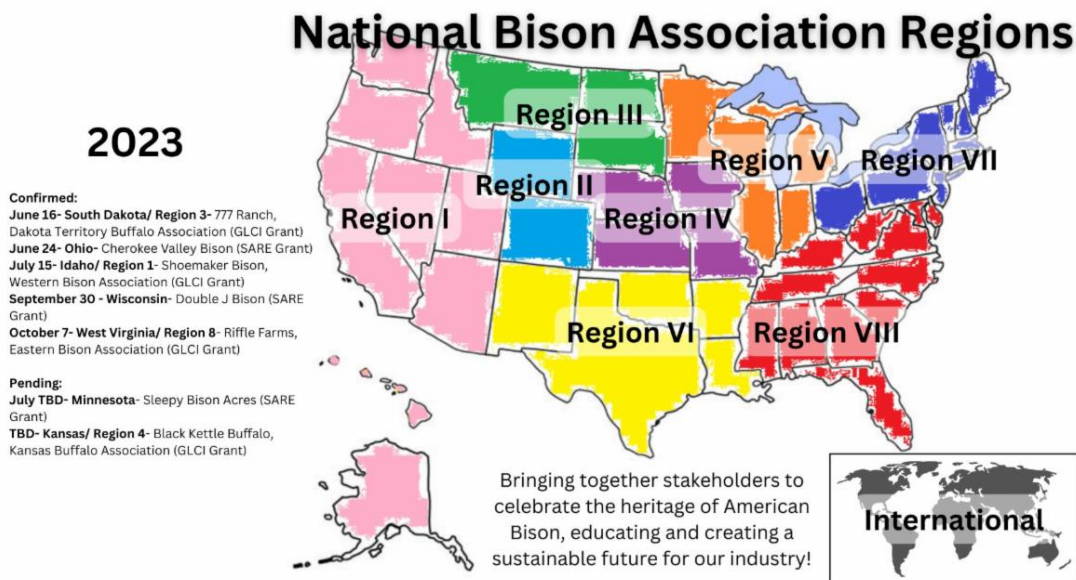


Matheson will provide an update on the NBA in a presentation that focuses on what's new at the association, which it turns out is a lot! Kremer will participate in a bison producer round-table discussion.

The action-packed agenda includes presentations that range from bison behavior to agritourism to field-harvesting bison and more. See a full agenda at <https://www.bisonranchers.com/>.

The NBA thanks Rocky Mountain 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/>.



## NBA Continues to Finalize Regional Summer/Fall Conferences

The NBA is confirming summer and fall events, with 5 events confirmed, and two still being finalized, but we are confident that we will offer events in the North, South, East and West of the U.S. this year! This includes our three remaining NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Days project thanks to a grant from North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program.

This new approach to multiple events instead of one summer conference is driven by two primary reasons. First, the NBA wants to bring the summer conference closer to our busy members, particularly in the summer months, to reduce time and expense away from home. The second is that as the collective herd grows along with our business, the need for more region-specific education does as well.

We will work with the local State/Regional bison association to share resources and collaborate on having quality conferences that will offer our usual mix of education, networking, farm/ranch tours, and fun.

Please see a list of our confirmed and pending summer and fall events below and we'll update you as we confirm more dates. A big thank you to all of these ranches, farms, and associations that are participating in this awesome lineup to share the story of the regenerative power of bison!

Note, the "GLCI Grant" indicates pending ranch tours that are somewhat dependent on a grant from the US Department of Agriculture that would fund this outreach, and develop bison-specific grazing standards for the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. However, we hope to follow through with these events regardless of the grant outcome.

### Confirmed:

June 16- South Dakota/ Region 3- 777 Ranch, Dakota Territory Buffalo Association (GLCI Grant)

June 24- Ohio- Cherokee Valley Bison Field Day (SARE Grant)

July 15- Idaho/ Region 1- Shoemaker Bison, Western Bison Association (GLCI Grant)

September 30 - Wisconsin- Double J Bison Field Day (SARE Grant)

October 7- West Virginia/ Region 8- Riffle Farms, Eastern Bison Association (GLCI Grant)

**Pending:**

July TBD- Minnesota- Sleepy Bison Acres Field Day (SARE Grant)

TBD- Kansas/ Region 4- Ranch TBD, Kansas Buffalo Association (GLCI Grant)

## **College Students Making a Difference for Bison**

The future is bright for bison with college students from across the country taking interest in the study and care of our National Mammal. We are happy to highlight their work, and help drum up participation in their research projects.

Kaylee Kipp is a doctoral student from Texas A&M University School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and is focusing her research in bison parasitology and management. She is conducting a research study on management practices that bison producers use on their ranches to better understand how these strategies relate to controlling economically important parasites within a herd. If you are interested in participating in Kaylee's research go over the informed consent [here](#) and click on the survey link: [https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ePdZxX3Rdduzk6y](https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ePdZxX3Rdduzk6y). The survey should take 10-20 minutes. All information given will remain confidential in all future publications and/or conference presentations. Contact Kaylee at [kkipp@tamu.edu](mailto:kkipp@tamu.edu) with any questions.

Mikayla Lacher is a second-year veterinary student at Kansas State University from Christine, ND, and a current National Bison Association member. She helps manage the family bison ranch and is interested in bison medicine as well as rural mixed animal general practice. She has four years of experience at a mixed animal practice in Enderlin, ND in addition to experience with husbandry, and treatment the family farm. She is seeking a job shadow with bison veterinarians in North Dakota or other states this summer for a few weeks. More information in the [attached CV](#), and Mikayla can be reached at 701-429-7800 or [mikayla.lacher@gmail.com](mailto:mikayla.lacher@gmail.com).

Arnold and Mihir are part of the team making up the Gazelle, a Shell and Chevron backed startup which sprung out of UT Austin's Digital Landscapes Lab. Gazelle helps ranchers optimally stock their land, while rewarding them through carbon credits. They started off focusing on 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. They are looking to work with bison ranchers in the US to pilot the app, and allow Gazelle to get vegetation and soil measurements for the development of US based carbon projects. Click [here](#) to learn more, or contact Arnold and Mihir at [team@thegazelle.co](mailto:team@thegazelle.co) or 512-966-1734.



***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.***

### **Thune, Coons Introduce Legislation to Kick-Start Trade Negotiations with United Kingdom**

The bipartisan legislation builds on the common values and interests of the U.S. and U.K. to help pursue a new bilateral trade agreement  
From Thune Press Release

WASHINGTON - U.S. Sens. John Thune (R-S.D.) and Chris Coons (D-Del.) today introduced the Undertaking Negotiations on Investment and Trade for Economic Dynamism (UNITED) Act. The legislation would authorize the administration to negotiate and conclude a trade agreement with the United Kingdom to open export opportunities for businesses of all sizes, increase the resilience of critical supply chains, and advance economic prosperity for people in both countries. The UNITED Act also requires the administration to work closely with Congress throughout the process to ensure that any agreement advances congressional trade policy priorities.

"Now is the time to strengthen our economic and strategic relationship with the United Kingdom in order to create new opportunities for American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses," said Thune. "A comprehensive free trade agreement with the U.K., one of our closest allies, would reduce costs for consumers, improve supply chain resilience, and open new markets for U.S. producers. This bipartisan bill marks an important step toward a strong and hopefully long-standing trade agreement with the world's fifth-largest economy, and it serves to advance the historic and special relationship between our two countries into the 21st century."

"The United Kingdom is one of our largest trading partners and closest allies. A comprehensive free trade agreement with the United Kingdom would advance our country's strategic and economic interests while creating new economic opportunities for Delaware workers, businesses, and consumers," said Coons. "This bill demonstrates bipartisan congressional support for restarting negotiations with the U.K., and would pave the way for a trade deal that sets ambitious international standards for our shared priorities on climate, labor protections, digital trade, intellectual property rights, and many other areas."

The bill's introduction comes shortly after the U.K. and European Union announced a new agreement on post-Brexit trade rules for Northern Ireland. The deal promises to uphold the Good Friday Agreement and advance peace, stability, and prosperity in Northern Ireland.

The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support in 2020, set high trade standards in a number of areas. The UNITED Act encourages the executive branch to build on those standards in negotiations with the U.K. in order to ensure that U.S. workers and companies can compete on a level playing field.

## **Interior Department Announces Significant Action to Restore Bison Populations as Part of New Restoration and Resilience Framework**

From the U.S. Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON – The Department of the Interior today announced several new steps to restore wild and healthy populations of American bison and the prairie grassland ecosystem. Through a new Secretary's Order and over \$25 million from the Inflation Reduction Act, the Department will empower its bureaus and partners to use the best available science and Indigenous Knowledge to help restore bison across the country.

"The American bison is inextricably intertwined with Indigenous culture, grassland ecology and American history. 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," said Secretary Deb Haaland. "New historic funding from the Inflation Reduction Act will help support the Department's efforts to restore this iconic species and integrate Indigenous Knowledge into our shared stewardship goals."

American bison once numbered 60 million in North America, with the population anchored in what is now the central United States. Many Indigenous cultures, especially in areas where the species was most abundant, developed strong ties with bison and relied upon them for sustenance, shelter, and cultural and religious practices. In the 19th century, bison were nearly driven to extinction through uncontrolled hunting and a U.S. policy of eradication tied to intentional harm against and control of Tribes. By 1889, only a few hundred wild bison remained. The persecution of bison contributed to the decline of healthy grassland ecosystems and, eventually, to the Dust Bowl in the 1930s. The loss of the keystone species, coupled with land conversion, led to declines of other important grassland wildlife, such as migratory birds and pollinators.

Beginning in the early 20th century with the support of President Theodore Roosevelt, conservationists and scientists made a collective effort to restore the American bison. Since then, careful conservation and restoration efforts have increased the number of wild bison in the United States from fewer than 500 to more than 15,000. The Interior Department currently manages 11,000 bison in herds across 4.6 million acres of U.S. public lands in 12 states.

While the security of the species is a conservation success worth celebration, bison remain functionally extinct to both grassland systems and the human cultures with which they coevolved. Today's announcement will help advance bison restoration efforts to

grasslands, which can enhance soil development, restore native plants and wildlife, and promote carbon sequestration, providing benefits for agriculture, outdoor recreation, and Tribes.

[Click to read more.](#)

## **Saskatchewan research team aims to bring 30 million bison back to the Canadian Prairies**

From Global News

A team of scientists from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the University of Saskatchewan is trying to restore the bison to its original place in the prairies.

The project aims to preserve the bison genome and protect them from common bovine diseases.

The project, called the Genome Canada's Bison Integrated Genomics, is still in a pilot phase, but it has already seen great results.

Muhammad Anzar, a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, explains that the team has already managed to breed new bison.

"We are using the frozen semen and embryos for embryo transfer and artificial insemination in the field. We have successfully produced new healthy calves in the University of Saskatchewan."

[Read more.](#)

## **Expansion in works for North Dakota bison plant**

From KFYP TV

BISMARCK, N.D. (KFYP) - More bison meat is set to be produced in North Dakota.

The North Dakota Agricultural Products Commission approved a \$250,000 grant earlier this month for North American Bison LLC which incorporates North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Canadian ranchers and operates a plant in New Rockford, North Dakota.

The grant will go towards a \$550,000 expansion project that includes upgraded technology and centralized operations.

The project is set to increase bison processing at the plant from 11,000 per year to more than 17,000.

Some producers credit folks seeking out unusual protein sources for the recent rise in demand for bison meat.

[Click to read more.](#)

## **Despite all of the snow, official says bison on Antelope Island are doing fine**

From KSL.com



ANTELOPE ISLAND — This winter has been challenging for many of us, and it's been hard for our wildlife to find food.

Some animals have nowhere to turn because they live on an island. There's just something about being on Antelope Island in the winter. Visitation is lower during the colder months, which can make it feel like you have the whole island to yourself.

"It is a quiet, peaceful, beautiful time to be out here," Wendy Wilson said. She is the assistant park manager at Antelope Island State Park. "Our trails are still open. If you've got fat tire bikes, you can still bike out on the trails, so there's still a lot to do. The animals are really active."

However, it's those animals some visitors have been asking about, especially with how much snow we've received so far this winter.

"Last year at this time, I was out in a T-shirt looking at some rocks. This year, it is still freezing," Wilson said. "It has been a while since we've had as much snow as we've had this year for sure."

[Click to read more.](#)

## **Last bison home safe after three escape in Aroostook County**

From Maine Newscenter - NBC

The last bison has safely made its way home after three escaped in Aroostook County on Monday.

According to an update from the Fort Fairfield Police Department Tuesday night, the remaining bison was found on Route 167.

Police said the owner and units from the Fort Fairfield and Presque Isle Police Departments were able to bring the animal back home safely.

Police were first notified of the escaped bison on Route 167 around 7 a.m. on Monday, according to an earlier news release.

Several breaks in the fence may have resulted in the escaped bison, police said.

Charges are reportedly pending as a result of the incident.

[Source.](#)

## **Foodservice outlook for 2023 looks rosy: NRA forecast**

From Meatingplace

The foodservice industry's post-pandemic rebound in 2022 is expected to continue to expand in 2023, according to the latest report from the National Restaurant Association (NRA).

Consumers' hunger for the restaurant experience remains strong and should drive annual sales to \$997 billion this year, the NRA's 2023 State of the Restaurant Industry report predicts, driven primarily by higher menu prices.

Sales reached \$937 billion in 2022, higher than the \$898 billion the NRA predicted for the 12-month period.

The report also projects that the foodservice industry workforce is expected to grow by 500,000 jobs in 2023, bringing total industry employment to 15.5 million by the end of the year. That jobs figure is higher than the total before the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the report added.

However, 92% of the restaurant operators surveyed for the report say the cost of food remains a "significant issue" for their operations, creating profitability challenges even as inflation and supply issues experienced in 2022 subsides. The report also notes that 84% of consumers surveyed believe that going out to a restaurant with family and friends is a better use of their leisure time than cooking at home and cleaning up.

NRA economists' outlooks and surveys of restaurant operators and consumers form the basis for the annual report, the organization noted.

[Source.](#)

## **NCBA slams 'checkoff reform' bill**

From Meatingplace

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) slammed legislation introduced Tuesday that seeks to reform the federal Beef Checkoff program the industry self-funds for promotional and educational use.

The bicameral, bipartisan Opportunities for Fairness in Farming (OFF) Act seeks to reform the checkoff to protect farmers from alleged misappropriation of funds and anticompetitive practices.

Sens. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Mike Lee (R-Utah), along with Sens. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), introduced the Senate bill. Reps. Nancy Mace (R-S.C.) and Dina Titus (D-Nev.) introduced the House bill.

Groups such as Animal Wellness Action, the Organization for Competitive Markets, the Center for a Humane Economy, and the National Dairy Producers Organization applauded the bill. Independent cattle organizations such as R-CALF support it, as well.

"The decades old beef checkoff program is ill-suited to meet the needs of today's cattle farmers and ranchers; in fact, the program promotes corporate control and globalization over the interests of America's cattle producers," R-CALF CEO Bill Bullard said in a news release.

[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.

## **Farmers: Share Your Thoughts on Cover Crops in the National Cover Crop Survey!**

Farmers are invited to share their thoughts on cover crops in an online survey at [bit.ly/CoverCrop23](https://bit.ly/CoverCrop23). Why do you plant cover crops...or why don't you? What do you want to know? Your insight will help guide research, communications, seed development, and more.

This National Cover Crop Survey is the seventh since 2012 conducted by the USDA-NIFA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) and the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA), with the help of Informa/Farm Progress.

"Since 2012, the National Cover Crop Survey has been extremely valuable in helping guide research priorities, direct communications and education efforts, provide data to researchers, and illustrate the effects of policy on cover crop use and adoption," says Dr. Rob Myers, regional director of extension programs for North Central SARE and director of the University of Missouri Center for Regenerative Agriculture. "Data from previous surveys have been used in scientific papers, business planning, extension efforts, media coverage of cover crops, and even included in testimony to Congress."

Please take a few minutes to contribute your voice at [bit.ly/CoverCrop23](https://bit.ly/CoverCrop23). After completing the questionnaire, you may enter a drawing for one of three \$100 Visa gift

cards.

# 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/>

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

- 3/04/2023 - RMBA Spring Conference - Fort Collins, CO
- 3/06/2023 - Bare Bison Webcast Auction - Online
- 3/07/2023 - OK 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
- 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

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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