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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 6, 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.

Eastern Bison Association Members Gather, Carter to Address

The members of the Eastern Bison Association are gathering today for their annual winter conference, along with their show and sale in Harrisburg, PA.

Members of the EBA enjoyed a welcome reception last night at the Red Roof in in Harrisburg. National Bison Association Executive Director Dave Carter is addressing the group today, and providing an update on the associations's consumer outreach and public policy priorities.

Meanwhile, the live bison being entered into the annual EBA Show and Sale are being judged at the Farm Show complex nearby. Those animals will be sold at the EBA annual auction, starting at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

Matheson to Provide Update to RMBA

NBA Assistant Director Jim Matheson will address the Rocky Mountain Bison Association's (RMBA) Spring Conference on Saturday in Westminster, CO.

RMBA expects over 60 attendees at its one-day conference, which has a full agenda of expert speakers addressing an array of bison topics. Matheson will provide an update on the national bison market, as well as an overview of the NBA's current projects and focusareas.

Learn more about the Saturday conference at https://www.bisonranchers.com/event/2020-spring-conference/

RMBA will host the NBA's summer conference this June 21 - 23 in Cheyenne, WY, at the Little America hotel and resort.

Carter and Baggett to Lobby for Truth in Labeling Bill Next Week

National Bison Association President Donnis Baggett and Executive Director Dave Carter will be in Washington, D.C. Monday and Tuesday to hold a new slate of meetings on Capitol Hill to garner support for the Senate and House versions of the Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act.

The two NBA officials have scheduled meetings with the aides of several Senators and Representatives who serve on the health committees in each chamber. That is where this legislation has been assigned.

The Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act would outlaw deceptively labeled water buffalo food and ingredients from masquerading as bison in the consumer marketplace.



Winter Bison World Magazine 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 Winter issue has wrapped up and it is now available on the website at: https://bisoncentral.com/publication/bison-world-magazine/.

You will need to log in to the member area to access the magazine.

The flipbook version of the magazine can be viewed right on your computer. Handy links allow you to open it into a new window, make it larger, magnify certain features and even print pages if desired. The realistic page turning sounds make it feel like you are reading the printed version of the magazine.

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

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.

MISSOURI BISON ASSOCIATION

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21ST ANNUAL SPRING SHOW & SALE

Saturday, **March 21st, 2020** – 11:00 AM

Mo-Kan Livestock Market, Butler, MO Dinner & Fun Auction: March 20th Sale Barn Cafe, 6 pm

For more information, call: Carol Morris: 660-998-0990 or Peter Kohl: 816-585-4779



Meet The American Bison Roaming The Grasslands Of Tehama County | Bartell's Backroads

(From ABC10.com)

TEHAMA COUNTY, Calif — Tom Frankovich's 15-year passion project led him on a wild west journey raising a herd of 200 American bison.

Historically, Northern California was not typically known as "bison country," yet, at Black Butte Bison Ranch, you'll find a large herd roaming the grassland of Tehama County, just outside Corning, Calif.

As owner of the ranch, Frankovich enjoys the role of bison rancher living out the rough lifestyle of buying and selling bison for meat. It's not uncommon to see him driving his old farm truck and wearing a worn-out duster, but don't let the cowboy get-up scare you.

Life on a bison ranch is to say the least, different.

"This is a true working ranch. There is no 'dudeship' here at all. We got our own hay, our own machinery," Frankovich said. "We got a premium herd and it's a food source always been a food source."

This is a lifestyle that most won't understand, but those who work here have the upmost respect for the bison. It takes a small team of ranch hands to feed, water and maintain the herd.

Read more here.

San Francisco's Golden Gate Park Doubles The Size Of Its Bison Herd

(From the Mercury News)

San Francisco's newest girl band is living it up in Golden Gate Park, meeting the neighbors and learning the lay of the land.

The "girls" are five 1-year-old bison, whose arrival at the park doubles the size of the herd that now calls the Bison Paddock home. All the bison are female, so there will be no unauthorized breeding.

The bison will officially be introduced to the public on April 4, when the park celebrates its sesquicentennial with a series of events and activities marking the park's 150th birthday. Golden Gate Park has a long history of bison on the grounds. The park first welcomed a pair of bison in 1890, when a cow, named Sarah Bernhardt, and a bull that answered to the name of Ben Harrison, began roaming the fields of the park.

In 1899 the herd, which now included several other bison, was moved from the Music Concourse to its present location at the paddock, just west of Spreckels Lake along John F. Kennedy Drive.

Read more here.

Alberta reserve explores bringing back bison

(From The Western Producer)

Southern Alberta's Blood Reserve is 546 sq. miles among the thousands of square miles in which bison once roamed.

Now members of the Blood First Nation are exploring whether bison can return to their lands.

Mike Bruised Head is among those within the Kanai Ecosystem Protection Agency who are studying soil, foliage and water on the reserve, the largest in Canada, to see if it will support a bison herd.

"It's all based on this feasibility assessment, everything. So we're going all out. And we want to try and bring the iinnii, the buffalo, back," said Bruised Head.

"We've got our own specialists that are coming up ... and a few outside consultants. We're mixing it with western science and indigenous science, indigenous knowledge."

Bruised Head gave a presentation Feb. 19 to the Alberta Soil Sciences Workshop about the project, noting there is strong competition for land within reserve borders. Much of it is already cultivated and non-native farmers with large operations farm a lot of that.

"It's kind of an awkward thing but it has to be said. We want to work. We want to farm our own thing but we've got no money," he said. Attempts have been made in the past to have band members farm more of their own land but a "colonial effect" remains strong.

Read more.

Tatanka Take-Out Has Bison on the Menu

(From South Sound Talk) [WA]

If you've ever driven down Pearl Street, you've likely spotted the sign: a large neon bison, frozen mid-stride, its lit-up legs giving the impression of an endless gallop. Inside, the theme continues in full force; there are books about bison under glass by the cash register, pictures of bison on the walls, and beautifully painted portraits of various sizes, all depicting the animals in moments of action or repose. The visuals are more than a gimmick, because the restaurant in question, Tatanka Take-Out, uses buffalo as its main ingredient in everything from sausage and chili to burritos and soup.

Although bison meat has become increasingly popular in recent years, especially on the health-food circuit, Tatanka has been using it for two decades – and it's not innovating so much as borrowing from the indigenous roots of the food.

Tatanka is currently run by Nathan Thomas, who took over in 2013. But it's been around since the late 1990s, when Rick Hammond and Cindy Weiss opened the original version on Vashon Island. The restaurant's unique culinary feature came from family roots; Hammond's father operated a bison ranch in Northern California for many years, and this background was what inspired their venture into alternative meat. After many years on the island, Weiss and Hammond moved to the current location on Pearl Street, where they continued serving up dishes with their signature animal.

Read more.

Yellowstone begins bison captures as it seeks to cull herd

(From The Salt Lake Tribune)

Yellowstone National Park has started capturing bison migrating outside the park and will hold them in pens for possible slaughter as part of a population reduction program, officials said Monday.

The annual operation began Sunday and by mid-day Monday six bison had been captured as they entered the Gardiner Basin along the Yellowstone-Montana border, park spokeswoman Linda Veress said.

State and federal officials want to reduce Yellowstone's bison herds by up to 900 animals this winter under an agreement aimed at shielding Montana's cattle industry from the disease brucellosis, which many bison carry.

The park has about 4,900 bison. When that population expands more animals take part in the winter migration, in which bison journey to lower elevations in Montana in search of food.

The population reduction would come through a combination of hunting, slaughter and placing up to 110 animals into quarantine for potential relocation at a later date.

Source.

Bison Dies at Smithsonian's National Zoo

(From Smithsonian.si.edu)

The Smithsonian's National Zoo humanely euthanized Zora, a 7-year-old bison, earlier today.

The Zoo's two female bison were in their barn being prepared for departure to other zoos to enter breeding programs. A team of animal keepers and veterinarians were in the process of lightly sedating the bison ahead of transport. Before sedation, Zora turned swiftly and accidently injured her left hind leg while still in her stall.

It was immediately evident to the team that she was unable to bear weight on her leg, which was in an abnormal position. Veterinary staff fully anesthetized Zora to more closely examine her leg. Following palpation, it was confirmed that her leg was severely fractured. Horses and large non-domesticated animals classified as ungulates, like bison, are not able to bear weight on fractured or broken legs.

Despite precise planning, the animal tragically injured herself. Due to her grave prognosis, the decision was made to humanely euthanize Zora.

The median life expectancy for bison is about 15–20 years. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists American bison as a species that is near threatened by extinction; IUCN does not consider commercial herds in designating population status. Bison have made a comeback since their populations were decimated to just 375 individuals, but the species still depends heavily on conservation action for survival. Today, about 30,000 individuals comprise the conservation herds. Approximately 500,000 are managed as livestock by private commercial ventures.

Read more here.

Meat Stockpiles Surge as Coronavirus Epidemic Curbs Exports (From Wall Street Journal)

The coronavirus epidemic is exacerbating a meat glut in the U.S., filling cold-storage facilities with pork, chicken and beef intended for export to markets hit by the outbreak. Rising quantities of breasts, thigh meat and drumsticks lifted the amount of chicken in U.S.

cold storage facilities by 12% over the first month of the year to 957.5 million pounds, the highest level on record for the month of January, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The amount of pork in storage climbed 11% versus January 2019. Meat industry executives say those stockpiles have likely since grown.

"The cold storages we deal with are all busting at the seams," Joe Sanderson, chief executive of Mississippi-based chicken company Sanderson Farms Inc., said on a conference call last week.

U.S. meatpackers including Sanderson, Tyson Foods Inc. TSN 1.27% and Pilgrim's Pride Corp. PPC 0.85% have been counting on big orders from Chinese buyers, as trade tensions ease and China struggles to fill a pork shortfall after losing hundreds of millions of hogs to a swine disease. U.S. hog farmers have ramped up production, and chicken companies have been raising fatter birds. U.S. meat exports to China surged in late 2019, with more U.S. pork shipped to the country in November and December than in all of 2018, according to the USDA.

Power Of Meat 2020: The Danger At The Door

(From Meatingplace.com)

Eating meat is the norm for consumers: 81% describe themselves as "meat eaters," and growth in the meat market at retail is up both in terms of dollar sales and volume. But those trends are not guaranteed to last, as demographics shift in the next 10 years or so.

This, according to the 2020 Power of Meat survey, conducted by Anne-Marie Roerink of 210 Analytics LLC, for the Food Industry Association (FMI, formerly the Food Marketing Institute) and the North American Meat Institute, and unveiled here at the annual American Meat Conference.

Noting that so-called flexitarians now constitute 12% of the Power of Meat respondent pool, up from 10% last year, Roerink told the conference's several hundred attendees, "Politicians spend money reaching swing voters because they make or break an election," she said. "Flexitarians are the same. What can we do to understand what bothers these people and make sure they remain meat eaters?"

Activists, nutritionists and others who would encourage consumers to eat less meat tend to play on what Roerink called the "three triangles of guilt": Consumers are told that not eating meat is better for the planet, because animal agriculture is environmentally destructive; that animals raised for meat are routinely subjected to treatment and conditions that are unnecessarily cruel, and that meat-free is better for their health personally.

The challenge is for the meat industry at all levels of the supply chain to counter these arguments with accurate information that does not rely solely on their accuracy to make the point: rather, the meat production and retail industry must appeal to consumers' emotions, the same way anti-meat messaging does. Or, as Roerink put it in her presentation, "Bring our passion back to the table. Get every link of the chain to show their passion about what it is that they do."

The Power of Meat report for 2020 is available here.

JBS Is Latest Entrant In Plant-Based Protein Competition

JBS S.A. will launch its own line of plant-based protein products in April, about seven months after deciding to develop meat alternative patties, ground product and flavored meatballs.

The plant-based products under the new OZO brand are made using a proprietary blend of pea and rice protein fermented by shiitake mushrooms. The line is designed to offer

more food choices to the growing flexitarian market, the Brazilian meat giant said in a news release.

The products will retail for between \$5.99 and \$7.99 per package, will be managed by the Colorado start-up Planterra Foods and will arrive in retail stores next month, JBS said. The OZO line also is expected to be available to foodservice and retail clubs later this year.

Products contain up to 22 grams of protein per serving and have no cholesterol and less fat, calories and saturated fat than 80% lean ground beef, JBS said.

The move by JBS to enter the alternative protein arena next month follows the arrival of similar plant-based proteins from Cargill Inc., Tyson Foods Inc. and Marfrig Global Foods since mid-2019.

South Dakota Poll Says Soil-Health Farmers Less Stressed, More Optimistic

(From ATTRA)

A poll conducted by South Dakota State University, in partnership with the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition, shows that a significantly higher percentage of producers who are using soil health-improving practices on their operations experienced less stress, are more satisfied with farming and/or ranching and are more optimistic about their futures than their conventional peers.

Soil-health producers reported having lower input costs and a higher degree of confidence that their operations would be better positioned, both in terms of natural resources and economics, for generational succession. Specifically, 31% of soil-health farmers and ranchers reported increased profitability during the past year, while only 12% of conventional producers did.

Additionally, when asked to look ahead three to five years, a significantly higher percentage of soil-health producers predicted that their farm profitability would increase.

The survey also asked farmers and ranchers to predict the future resiliency of their farming and ranching operations. Soil-health producers were significantly more optimistic than their conventional counterparts (83% vs. 60%) that their operations would be more resilient to weather extremes.

Read more.



- 3/06/2020 Eastern Bison Association Annual Sale and Conference PA
- 3/06/2020 Denver Mountain Parks Genesee Bison Auction CO
- 3/07/2020 Rocky Mountain Bison Association Spring Conference CO
- 3/7/20 Northwest Bison Association Spring Meeting OR
- 3/15/2020 3 Suns Ranch Online Dispersal Auction Opens FL
- 3/21/2020 Missouri Bison Association Spring Sale MO
- 3/23/2020 Bighorn Bison, LLC Online Auction MT
- 3/23/2020 Sweetgrass Buffalo Company Online Auction MT
- 3/27/2020 Illinois/Indiana Bison Association Meeting IL
- 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 Chevenne, WY

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





