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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 20, 2020*

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### **A Note from NBA President Donnis Baggett**

Dear NBA Member,

I hope this finds you and yours doing well. I wanted to let you know that due to the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus, the NBA board and staff postponed the strategic planning retreat that we'd scheduled for March 19-20. We plan to reschedule it soon after the pandemic threat passes. In the meantime, we hope you will share any suggestions you may have for discussion items with your regional director. Here's a list by region:

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Chad Kremer  
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502-222-7051

If for some reason you can't reach your director, feel free to send your suggestions to me at [donnis.baggett@gmail.com](mailto:donnis.baggett@gmail.com). Thank you for your membership in the NBA. We wish you good health and a healthy 2020 calf crop.

Sincerely,  
Donnis Baggett  
President  
National Bison Association

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## **A Note from NBA Executive Director, Dave Carter**

Dear NBA Friends,

I know that everyone is trying to adjust to the rapidly changing landscape as we work to address the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Our meat processors and marketers are on the front lines of navigating through the shifting market dynamics. While their food service customers have disappeared, retail customers are demanding extra product to re-stock depleted meat cases. In fact, there's evidence that many shoppers stocking up on meat at the grocery store may be purchasing bison for the first time.

Processors and marketers are also wrestling with the challenges of keeping a safe,

healthy workforce in place during a time of social distancing.

We are definitely headed into a period of uncertainty and challenges in the weeks ahead.

It's during times like these that we can learn from the bison: face into the storm, keep moving forward, and lower our metabolism. While we may have to keep our personal distance from one another, there is no reason our "herd" can't continue to support and check on each other. We don't have to face this challenge alone.

In the next couple of weeks, red calves will start dotting pastures of rapidly greening grass across much of bison country. Turn off the news, and go out into your pastures and enjoy some "Bison TV." Those calves are the promise of warmer days ahead.

All the Best,  
Dave Carter

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## 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.

**The Missouri Bison Association 21<sup>st</sup> annual Spring Show and Sale**, which was set to take place tomorrow, 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 rescheduled either in July, or in the fall.

**Minnesota Bison Association Spring Meeting**, scheduled April 3-5, has been canceled. The MNBA is issuing refunds to those who have registered. Members who want to have their fees go toward the 2021 spring conference should reply by email to [info@mnbison.org](mailto:info@mnbison.org). the association will look at scheduling an annual meeting later this year.

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## Wholesale Prices Down For Bulls, Up for Heifers in February

For the second month in a row, the drop in wholesale prices for dressed bison carcasses is largely attributable to a decline in the top-end price reported to USDA's Grain and Livestock Market Reporting Service.

Dressed young bull carcasses averaged \$407.21/cwt in February, which was \$7.95/cwt lower than in January, and \$45.86/cwt. lower than the previous February. However, the top price in December was \$550.00/cwt., That price dropped to \$505.00/cwt. in January, and then to \$462.00 in February. However, the lowest price paid for a dress bull carcass in February was reported at \$385/cwt., compared to \$386/cwt. in December.

Meanwhile, the average price paid on dressed heifer carcasses rose slightly in February, despite a similar drop in the top price offered. The average price paid for a dressed heifer carcass in January was \$398.16/cwt., which was \$7.92/cwt. higher than in January, but still \$39.53/cwt. lower than the previous February. However, the highest prices reported for heifer carcasses also dropped by \$66.00/cwt between December and February, while the lowest price increased by \$005.00/cwt.

According to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, 10.823 head were processed under federal inspection during the first two month of 2020. That is 715 more than during the similar period in 2019, and the highest number processed on record to start the year.

The USDA's monthly wholesale bison price report can be found here.  
[ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw\\_ls526.txt](https://ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw_ls526.txt)

The National Bison Association's five-year tracing report can be found in the members' section at [bisoncentral.com/board-listing/bison-auction-results/](https://bisoncentral.com/board-listing/bison-auction-results/)

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## Hours of Service Rule Relaxed During COVID-19 Emergency

As a part of to the COVID-19 emergency relief effort, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) this week announced that is is exempting livestock haulers from compliance with federal Hours of Service rules that limit drive time until at least April 12.

Drivers wishing to haul under this exemption are suggested to print out and keep in their cab a copy of the Expanded Emergency Declaration, [available here](#). The Expanded Emergency Declaration provides relief to those drivers hauling “food” and “immediate precursor raw materials... that are required and to be used for the manufacture of ... food.” We have received official interpretation from Wiley Deck in the Office of the Secretary of Transportation that ALL livestock movement fits these exemption definitions. Once the driver has returned to the their “normal reporting location,” the driver must still receive a minimum of 10 hours off duty to rest.

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***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.***

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## Evolution has turned bison into efficient grazers

*(From The Western Producer)*

CAMROSE, Alta. — Bison evolved while grazing vast grasslands, and that evolution has allowed it to thrive better than cattle on mature, low-quality grasses, said a livestock nutritionist.

“Mature grasses in The Prairies are lower in protein and energy and the bison have evolved to use lower quality,” said Annette Suominen.

“They are the master of the grazing,” she told the Alberta Bison Producers conference.

During winter, bison are able to slow their metabolisms to reduce their feed requirements to maintain or lose weight. During winter, with reduced metabolism, an adult bison can lose 10 to 15 percent of its body weight.

In spring and summer as the days lengthen, a bison's metabolism increases and allows for increased weight and ensures fetal growth.

Because of these unique and changing nutrition requirements, the quality of forage fed to

the bison will drive the profitability of the farm, said Suominen, of Jones Creek Livestock Consulting.

“The better the forages, the less supplementation necessarily. You may not need a supplement if you have good forages. It is cheaper to grow good forage than add supplement,” she told the group of producers.

Healthy soils, rich in nutrients, will also reduce the need for supplements.

“If forage is low in energy, animals need to eat more of it to fill its requirement for energy and may have to be supplemented.”

Read [more](#).

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## **Buffalo Jump: Chicago Natives Leap Into New Lifestyle As Bison Ranchers**

*(From The Billings Gazette)*

Matt Skoglund’s rubber boots are shredded. A previous attempt at holding the rips together with sealant is now yellowed and peeling. Blood is smeared across the rear door handle of his white flatbed pickup. Inside the truck cab, on the floor, rests a small tangle of curly brown bison hair.

Born and raised in suburban Chicago, Matt seems an unlikely candidate for the role of bison rancher, but at the age of 41 the one-time lawyer and former Bozeman environmental group director has fully embraced his new career in all of its glory and messiness.

“I craved doing something on my own and more tangible that was rooted here in southwest Montana, that would have a conservation ethos to it but entrepreneurial — a business, not a nonprofit,” he said, a wide smile spreading amid his bushy, gray-streaked beard. “I’m trying to make the world a better place.”

So, in 2018, after a year of intense research, he overcame his “giant insecurity” about knowing nothing about ranching and leapt into the lifestyle head-first. In the process he also took out a second mortgage on his home, borrowed money from his retirement plan and obtained bank loans. The money financed the purchase of land on the east side of the Bridger Mountains and the bison to graze it.

“The funny thing is, I don’t know why, but it hasn’t been scary,” said Sarah Skoglund, Matt’s wife. “It’s always felt like it’s been too right to be scary.”

The debt seems like an investment in a new lifestyle, she added, something much more philosophical than just land and bison.

“To worry about it and not do it seemed like a bigger risk,” Sarah said.

Raised in Chicago, Sarah admitted that her sense of ease with the transition to rancher’s wife at age 40 while raising two youngsters may also be born out of innocence.

“It’s probably because I have no idea of what to be scared of,” she said half-jokingly. “I’m probably so naïve it’s benefiting me.”

Read [more](#).

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## **Raising bison at the Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company**

*(From the Scottsbluff Star-Herald) [NE]*

The Rocky Hollow Buffalo Company is located on the historic Monkey Ranch 11 miles north of Kimball in the valley called, “Rocky Hollow.”

The ranch was once owned by the Van Pelt family, who named it Rocky Hollow, ranch owner and operator Rick Forepaugh said.

Then Forepaugh’s parents, retired Army Colonel Vance Forepaugh Jr. and retired Air Force Colonel Jill Crotty, purchased the ranch and named it “The Monkey Ranch.” “Dad is my hero,” Forepaugh said.

His father spent two tours in Vietnam alongside the great-great grandson of Crazy Horse and nephew of Sitting Bull, he said. This relationship fostered a reverence for buffalo and dream to begin a buffalo ranch — the Monkey Ranch.

Forepaugh’s tie to the land and love of animals goes back even further than his parents to his grandparents.

“My grandfather, Vance Forepaugh Sr., was a world-class polo player who taught Dwight D. Eisenhower’s kids to ride horses,” Forepaugh said. “Ranching is in my blood.” Forepaugh managed newspapers in Colorado and Texas in the past, but returned to his love of animals and ranching.

“I love being my own boss,” he said.

“Historically, the ranch was owned and operated by homesteader, Dave Wilkinson, who worked land from Wyoming to Sidney through Rock Hollow,” Forepaugh said.

Read more [here](#).

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## **Bison Shipment Set To Begin**

*(From The Char Koosta News) [MT]*

The Tribal Council approved the Yellowstone Bison Transfer Program operations for the 2019-2020 bison hunt season. When shipments begin, CSKT tribal programs who have requested bison will be filled first. It will then open up to the general CSKT membership, Tribal members did not have to attend the Yellowstone Bison Hunt Orientation class to be eligible to pay and receive a bison carcass.

Tribal Members who are interested in receiving a transfer bison need to contact the Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation (DFWRC) office by phone or in person to be placed on the list for bison meat. To sign up for the bison transfer program call 675-2700 or 883-2888 ext. 7200 or visit the DFWRC office at 406 6th Avenue East in Polson.

When a shipment occurs, tribal members who have signed up to be on the list will be randomly drawn from the participant name pool, with unsuccessful bison hunters confirmed by CSKT Wardens drawn first. Drawn names will be called to pay a deposit to reserve a bison carcass. Tribal members may also come to the DFWRC office and make a deposit via money order or debit/credit card ONLY (Checks will not be accepted) to be held in the event they are drawn.

For more information on the bison transfer program contact Tom McDonald, Amanda Bourdon or Stephanie Gillin at (406) 883-2888.

Read [more](#).

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## **Most Of The World's Permafrost Could Be Preserved Until 2100**

## By Horses, Reindeer And Bison, Study Suggests

*(From Newsweek)*

Horses, bison and other large herbivores could be used to help save most of the world's remaining permafrost and reduce thaw with their feet, say scientists writing in [Scientific Reports](#).

A preliminary study inspired by experiments in Siberia involving herds of horses, bison and reindeer used computer models to calculate how much permafrost could be saved if the Arctic circle was repopulated with large herbivores. Their research suggests 80 percent of the world's permafrost could be preserved until 2100 with animal intervention.

Herbivores, the researchers say, can help protect permafrost-covered regions because their stamping hooves scatter and compress snow cover. This reduces the insulating effect of the permafrost, reducing warming and preventing further thawing—instead "intensifying the freezing" of the permafrost, the study author's write.

Observational studies have previously shown that the depth of snow cover can be significantly reduced just by having grazing animals present. One hundred herbivores in one square kilometer of land, for example, can slash the average depth of snow in half.

Now scientists at Universität Hamburg have looked at what would happen if that was applied to the entire Arctic circle and not just Pleistocene Park in Chersky, northeast Russia, where two scientists—Sergey and Nikita Zimov—resettled bison, wisents, reindeer and horses more than two decades ago.

Computer models based on these observations as well as data on factors including snow depth, land surface temperature and ground cover were used to calculate how much permafrost could be saved. The researchers found that under a scenario where greenhouse gas emissions remain unchecked (RCP 8.5), permafrost temperatures would be expected to increase 3.8°C. But that number could be reduced 44 percent to 2.1°C if the area is repopulated with large herbivores. That, the study suggests, would be enough to save 80 percent of the permafrost around today.

The scientists considered adverse side effects of introducing grazing animals, including the destruction of cooling moss in the summer. They say the positives outweigh the negatives though point out that as a first model experiment, the study does not necessarily consider all

Herd of Icelandic ponies grazing in glacial landscape of South Iceland. Large herbivores like horses and reindeer could save the permafrost with their stomping feet, new research suggests.

The permafrost has traditionally been a carbon sink, storing vast amounts of carbon. But this could change and temperatures increase and the ice thaws, releasing that carbon into the atmosphere and accelerating climate change.

"At the moment we have a budget of CO<sub>2</sub> that we can emit to the atmosphere to stay below 2°C," lead author Christian Beer, Heisenberg-Professor for dynamics of soil processes at the Universität Hamburg in Germany, told Newsweek. The thawing of the permafrost could release a substantial amount of additional greenhouse gasses in addition to those released by human activity, using up large chunks of the carbon budget.

Read more [here](#).

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## APHIS Administrator Provides Update on Agency Operations to Protect Health and Safety of Employees and Customers

*(From USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service)*

Dear Stakeholders:

I know many of you, like me, have been closely following the news and developments related to COVID-19. Our top priority at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

(APHIS) is the safety and health of our employees and customers. At the same time, we understand our customers rely on our services and that they are important for business continuity. In the days ahead, our goal is to balance safety with service, and we will make adjustments as needed in order to adapt and continue to accomplish our mission of protecting the health and value of America's agriculture and natural resources.

As a precaution, we have made the decision to close all of our offices to visitors. This means previously scheduled meetings may move to conference calls or be rescheduled altogether. We will discuss these options with you to best meet your needs. We will also be looking for ways to conduct business electronically-fortunately many of our services, such as ePermits, are already available online.

These are unique times, and we expect the current situation to continue to evolve based on the latest information from public health experts. With this being the case, we ask for your continued patience and flexibility as we endeavor to meet your needs and fulfill our mission.

I commit to keeping you updated until we return to normal operations. In the meantime, if you have any questions, I encourage you to reach out to your regular APHIS contacts for more information.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Shea, Administrator

[Source.](#)

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## **Can Veterinarians Prevent The Next Pandemic?**

*(From JAVMA News – Express)*

The COVID-19 pandemic marks the third novel coronavirus outbreak of the 21st century.

Unlike the viruses that cause severe acute respiratory syndrome and Middle East respiratory syndrome, which were associated with outbreaks limited in scope, SARS-CoV-2-the virus that causes COVID-19-burned across the globe in just over two months since the first case was reported last December in Wuhan, China.

Most countries, including the United States, were soon scrambling to manage the public health crisis.

On March 11, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic. At the time, the WHO stated that more than 118,000 human cases of coronavirus disease had been reported in 114 countries, along with nearly 4,300 human deaths.

"We are deeply concerned by both the alarming levels of spread and severity, and by the alarming levels of inaction," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom said.

"We have never before seen a pandemic sparked by a coronavirus."

Full [text.](#)

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## **Canada Ratifies USMCA**

*(From WNAX)*

Canada's Parliament has ratified the USMCA trade agreement approved earlier by both the United States and Mexican governments. Joe Schuele with the U.S. Meat Export Federation says they didn't expect Canada's approval that quickly but are pleased with the end result.

The U.S. Trade Representative's office is talking about a June 1 implementation date. However, Schuele says as far as the red meat industry is concerned, that precise



implementation date isn't that important.

Schuele says what is important is USMCA provides more trade stability for the U.S. and shows we're a reliable trading partner with both Canada and Mexico. He says that's critical due to competition for those markets.

Schuele says last year, U.S. pork exports to Canada were nearly 215,000 metric tons, with an export value of more than \$800 million. He says U.S. beef exports to Canada topped \$650 million.

[Source.](#)

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## **Coronavirus Hitting Livestock Markets Especially Hard**

*(From The Aberdeen News)*

The spread of coronavirus has hit agriculture markets hard, especially livestock sectors that fear weak demand as restaurants close in response to the pandemic.

As the stock market reels, the commodity sector also has been a casualty of the COVID-19 outbreak. The cattle futures have been the most sensitive as traders perceive a slowdown in demand for beef with the possible global recession and the cancellation of many events, such as the NCAA men's basketball tournament, which hits the restaurant and food service sector.

On Monday, March 16, live cattle, feeder cattle and lean hog futures all hit new contract lows and many contracts closed limit down under expanded limits.

Minnesota on Monday ordered the closure of restaurants across the state as part of the attempt to slow the spread of the coronavirus and the COVID-19 illness that it causes. Other cities and states have limited hours of operation for restaurants or mandated take-out-only restrictions.

However, the other fear is that COVID-19 will result in the slowdown or shutdown of meat processing at packing plants, which would cause a backup of this perishable product. The weekly pork export report on March 12 provided evidence of a slowdown in United States sales as it showed a cancellation of pork to be shipped to China, which resulted in a weekly record low for export sales. For the week ending March 13, April live cattle were down \$10.18, March feeder cattle dropped \$17.70 and April hogs were off \$9.55.

Full [text](#).

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## **U.S. Under Pressure To Keep Slaughterhouses Open During Virus Outbreak**

*(From Reuters)*

CHICAGO (Reuters) - The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking to reassure meat producers it will keep slaughterhouses staffed with federal inspectors as fears about potential shutdowns due to the new coronavirus hammer livestock prices and fuel concerns about food supplies, meat industry groups said on Monday.

Livestock markets have been hit hard as the spread of the virus threatens workers that companies rely on to process and inspect meat.

Prices for cattle and hogs could fall further if coronavirus cases force companies like Tyson Foods Inc ([TSN.N](#)) or WH Group's ([0288.HK](#)) Smithfield Foods to close slaughterhouses. Shutdowns would remove markets for farmers to sell their animals and could temporarily tighten meat supplies.

The USDA said it would use its authority and "all administrative means and flexibilities to address staffing considerations" during the outbreak.

Agency officials told the National Cattlemen's Beef Association that the USDA will ensure it has replacement inspectors ready to staff slaughterhouses if necessary, said Colin Woodall, chief executive of the trade group. Farmers and industry groups said there were no confirmed shutdowns.

"We need to make sure that we're keeping the beef flowing," Woodall said.

American shoppers have picked grocery store shelves clean on products ranging from beef and chicken to disinfectants due to the outbreak.

Read more [here](#).

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## **White House Requests New USDA Funding, Legal Authority To Cope With Pandemic**

*(From AgriPulse)*

The White House is asking Congress for \$45.8 billion to cover the rising cost to the Agriculture Department and other departments and agencies of responding to the coronavirus pandemic.

The administration also is seeking new legal authority from Congress, including authority for USDA's Farm Service Agency to extend the repayment period for marketing assistance loans. The requested funding includes \$161 million earmarked for USDA, much of it needed to make up for an expected reduction in user fees.

The request is separate from the proposed economic stimulus package now being developed in the Senate.

"The unprecedented mobilization the administration has achieved has forced agencies to incur unanticipated costs. These costs must be met with a legislative response to ensure full operational capacity," according to a 118-page letter detailing the request.

The largest request for USDA is for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which needs \$55 million to make up for a loss of user fees due to the slowdown in air traffic, according to the letter.

Also, to make up for reduced user fees, the Agricultural Marketing Service would get \$45 million to cover salary costs associated with commodity grading, inspection, and audits.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service needs \$33 million, according to the request, to cover the cost of supporting temporary and intermittent workers, temptation relocations of inspectors and inspector overtime. The meat industry is concerned that the loss of FSIS inspectors to illness could force plants to shut down. Packing plants can't operate without FSIS inspectors on site.

In addition to the authority to extend the marketing loan repayment period, FSA also needs \$3 million to cover staff costs associated with an increased volume of loan servicing and new applications, the letter says.

USDA's rural development program would get \$7 million to provide loans totaling as much as \$2.5 billion because of the outbreak's impact. USDA also wants authority to forgive principal and interest for 120 days on loans made under the Business and Industry program and the Rural Energy for America Program.

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## **FDA Suspends Routine Domestic Food Facility Inspections**

*(From AgriPulse)*

The Food and Drug Administration is suspending routine surveillance inspections of U.S. facilities, citing concern for its staff and the state contractors who conduct the plant

checks, the agency announced Wednesday as the COVID-19 crisis worsens across the United States.

“These are facility inspections the FDA traditionally conducts every few years based on a risk analysis,” FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn [said](#). “Importantly, all domestic for-cause inspection assignments will be evaluated and will proceed if mission-critical.” The inspections are typically conducted by employees of state agencies under contract with FDA.

“A ‘for-cause’ inspection [investigates] a specific problem that has come to FDA’s attention,” [according to](#) FDA.

FDA also said facilities would temporarily not be subject to unannounced inspections. FDA officials discussed what the agency has been doing to address food safety issues, on a teleconference Wednesday with stakeholders such as food companies.

“The U.S. food supply remains safe and there are no food shortages,” said Frank Yiannas, FDA’s deputy commissioner for food policy and response. Yiannas also said “there is no evidence of food or food packaging being associated with the transmission of COVID-19. This is not a foodborne, gastrointestinal virus.”

Without minimizing the need for food manufacturing or distribution facilities to continue to engage in safe practices such as the cleaning of food contact surfaces, Yiannas said the virus is more likely to be transmitted person-to-person rather than by touching a surface or object that may contain the virus.

“This is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads,” he said, adding that he does not anticipate food products would need to be recalled or withdrawn from the market because a worker in a food operation has contracted the virus.

Susan Mayne, director of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, said facilities should “redouble their cleaning and sanitation efforts to control any risk that might be associated with workers who are ill, regardless of the type of virus or bacteria.”

Yiannas reaffirmed what others [have told Agri-Pulse](#), that “retail supply chains remain strong” and there is no need to hoard food. Empty shelves do not indicate shortages, but an increase in demand, he said.

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## **FSIS Aligns Its Definition Of 'Healthy' With FDA**

*(From Meatingplace.com)*

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) said it will allow companies to use the implied nutrient content claim “healthy” on labels that are not low in total fat, but have a fat profile makeup of predominantly mono and polyunsaturated fats.

Also, products that contain at least 10% of the Daily Value (DV) of potassium or vitamin D per reference amount customarily consumed can be labeled “healthy,” the regulator said. FSIS said the policy sets consistent requirements for food labels by allowing the same uses of the claim “healthy” for meat and poultry products as allowed for food products under the Food and Drug Administration’s jurisdiction.

FSIS said it has reviewed many proposed labels referencing FDA’s “healthy” notice, and most have contained errors and needed correction. Companies that want to use FDA's “healthy” claim will first need to submit at least one label sketch for approval.

The agency is seeking comments on the notice.

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## **Analysis: Shutdown Of Local Food Markets May Cost Nearly \$700 Million In Sales**

*(From AgriPulse)*

Local and regional agriculture and food markets stand to lose up to \$688.7 million in sales through May because of the shutdowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to analysts familiar with the sector.

A reduction in sales of that magnitude would lead to a payroll decline of \$103.3 million, and a total loss to the economy of up to \$1.32 billion, according to [a paper](#) prepared by the analysts and circulated on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers are negotiating a \$1 trillion stimulus package to offset the outbreak's impact.


The paper recommends that Congress explicitly make local food and farm businesses eligible for assistance targeted to small businesses and require "dollars flowing to communities to support local farm and food businesses."

Congress or USDA should waive limitations on the ability of feeding programs to procure locally and regionally produced foods, and farmers should be encouraged to integrate online ordering and sales into their businesses, the paper says.

The experts who prepared the estimates and policy proposals included Debra Tropp, a consultant and former deputy director of the local food research and development division in USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service; Sarah Low, a University of Missouri economist formerly with USDA's Economic Research Service; and Colorado State University economists Dawn Thilmany and Rebecca Jablonski.

"Local distancing measures such as the closure of universities, schools, restaurants, and local food markets (e.g., farmers markets, farm stands) will result in significant shifts in where food is sold or acquired, and subsequently, markets for farms and ranches," the paper says.

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

- 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
- 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.

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**Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events**

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