



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

Reprint is encouraged and permission is granted when the following credit appears:  
©National Bison Association; Westminister, CO

## ***NBA Weekly Update for April 2, 2021***

*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.*

### **NBA Files American Rescue Act Recommendations with USDA**

In comments filed with USDA this week, the National Bison Association formally recommended that the agricultural funds within the American Rescue Act enacted recently should be targeted to assist small meat processors increase capacity, restore the economic viability of farmers markets and foodservice outlets, and to expand the utilization of bison meat in federal nutrition programs and restaurants.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service requested public comments to be submitted by March 31 with recommendations on how to utilize the \$4 billion in agricultural support authorized under the American Rescue Act. The legislation specifically allocates the funds to purchase and distribute agricultural commodities; to make loans and grants to processors, farmers markets or distributors; and to make loans and grants to improve agricultural supply chain resiliency.

In comments filed on Tuesday, the NBA wrote, "As we assess the impact that COVID-19 has created within the bison business—and the overall livestock sector—we note that our rancher-members have been hit hard by the following:

1. Compounding of the constriction in the bottleneck among small meat processing

facilities;

2. Severe disruption of farmers' markets; and
3. Devastating economic fallout within the foodservice sector.

“These developments exacerbated the unanticipated buildup of market-ready bison in 2019 and were among the factors that prompted the National Bison Association to file its formal request for a \$17 million purchase of bison meat under the Section 32 Surplus Removal program.

“As we look toward the implementation of the American Rescue Act, we urge AMS and other USDA agencies to focus on resources that will help provide long-term recovery, rather than simply a short-term fix.”

Specific recommendations from the NBA included:

- Grants of up to \$250,000 to support feasibility studies for new or expanded processing facilities;
- Grants of up to \$5 million and zero interest loans of up to \$10 million for construction or upgrades of processing facilities;
- Grants of up to \$30,000 to assist in regulatory compliance;
- Grants to farmers' markets in the amount of up to 75% of documented economic losses in 2020;
- Grants of up to \$1 million for development of new consumer outreach materials for bison meat;
- Purchase of pre-cooked and shelf stable bison products for utilization in the Farm to Family Food box Program;
- Distribution of ground bison to facilities capable of pre-cooking the product to be included in the food boxes;
- Provide incentives for restaurants qualifying for assistance under the American Rescue Act to purchase bison meat to put on their menus.

---

## **Bison Priorities Included in Ag Industry Trade Request to Vilsack, Tai**

The National Bison Association's trade priorities were included this week in a 12-page series of recommendations sent to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai by the 31 members of USDA's Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee on Animals and Animal Products.

The letter contained a series of ag industry priorities, including finalizing the U.S. free trade agreement with the United Kingdom, completing trade negotiations with Japan, enforcing existing trade agreements, and improving the U.S. transportation infrastructure.

The letter also included a list of trade priorities from individual sectors of the U.S. agricultural economy.

The section offered by the NBA stated, “From the Bison Industry perspective, our top priority is to reengage the EU on restarting the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership talks in a manner that will alleviate the 20% tariff on U.S. bison meat exported to the EU (similar to the agreement negotiated by the Canadians).

“Close behind that would be for new negotiations with Japan, Taiwan and Korea to reopen markets that were closed to bison meat as a result of the BSE incident nearly two decades ago. There has never been a recorded case of BSE in bison in North America, so our business was unduly impacted when those markets closed to U.S. red meats, and again impacted when they continued to exclude bison when reopening to U.S. beef.”

---

## **USDA Issues product Specifications for the Next Round of Section 32**

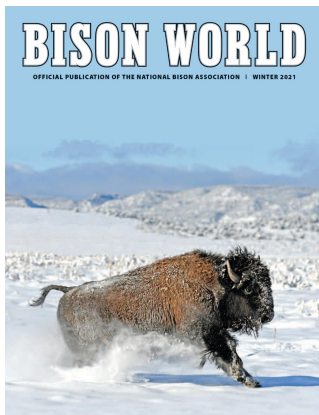
USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service yesterday released the product specifications that

will be utilized during the second round of purchase of ground bison and bison stew meat under the Section 32 Surplus Removal Program. That solicitation is anticipated in early to mid-May.

The NBA welcomed the addition of bison stew meat in the next round of solicitations. The notice specifies that the ground bison and stew meat will be packed in one-pound packages and that suppliers may utilize their existing approved retail packaging. The notice also includes some technical requirements for processors that will position the bison business to expand its ability to supply a broader range of federal food and nutrition programs.

NBA Executive Director Dave Carter urged any processor interested in participating in the next round of solicitations apply immediately to be approved as a qualified vendor. Processors may begin that process here. <https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food/becoming-approved>

The full USDA notice of product requirements is listed here. [https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/FrozenBisonSpecification\\_March\\_2021.pdf](https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/FrozenBisonSpecification_March_2021.pdf)



## **Thank You For Your Patience! 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 annual membership directory will be mailing with this issue.

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.

---

## **Spring Issue Bison World Advertising Now Available**

Production is now underway on the Spring issue of the Bison World magazine.

There are a variety of advertising options available, from 1/8 page all the way to full page. Lifetime and Active NBA members will enjoy discounted rates as part of their membership perks. Karen can work with you to tailor an advertising campaign that fits your budget and targets your message!

The advertising deadline is April 15. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time but will also be subjected to the April 15 deadline for the Spring issue.

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

---

## **What are Your Plans for Earth Day?**

As Earth Day continues to grow as a day of awareness of the importance of environmental stewardship, bison producers have an opportunity to educate the public on the powerful role America's National Mammal is playing in restoring ecological health to North America.

Earth day this year is April 22, so members have three weeks remaining to help spread that word.

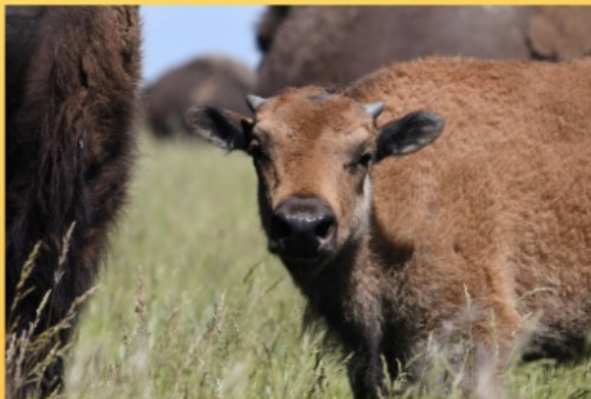
What story do you have to tell? Share it with the NBA and we'll incorporate it as a part of our Earth Day Social Media blitz surrounding Earth Day 2021.



---

***Editor's Note: The following news stories were distributed by organizations not affiliated with the National Bison Association. They may not reflect the opinions or the positions held by the NBA on matters such as genetic integrity, animal management, and other issues.***

---



**REACH THE WHOLE HERD!**

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



---

## **Indiana: Where the Bison Roam**

*(From the Seymore, IN Tribune)*

Their big heads and large brown bodies stood out against the grass as rulers of the landscape, even on a cloudy, gray day.

Bison, America's national mammal, a throwback animal to a wilder and different time in the younger years of the country, clustered in groups of five or even a dozen.

Merely a few minutes gazing upon the seemingly confident beasts that can grow to 6 feet at the shoulder and weigh up to 2,000 pounds serve as a reminder why they have played such an iconic and symbolic role in the United States for so long.

Most astounding is the passing thought that bison, better known in common vernacular as buffalo, exist in the state of Indiana. And for those whose thoughts dwell longer on the topic, it is remarkable bison escaped the fate of the passenger pigeon and mastodon, avoiding extinction.

Somehow. What was once an egregious crime against a species in the interests of political expediency turned into one of the greatest conservation efforts in scientific history.

"It is really amazing how close they came to extinction," said Chip Sutton, an Indiana Nature Conservancy marketing manager.

Yet they live on, roaming in protected wildlands like Yellowstone National Park, in private herds or on ranches, these days in some number in all 50 states.

For all of Indiana's industrialization, disappearance of prairie land, agricultural and big-city development, from Indianapolis to Fort Wayne, from Gary to Evansville, it is possible to visit and see bison in the flesh just 175 miles north of Seymour today.

Read more [here](#).

---

## **Custer State Park Welcomes First Bison Calf Of 2021**

*(From KEVN TV)*

Custer State Park is welcoming its first bison calf of the year.

This morning, the park announced the birth of the new bison calf. The calf is around 40 lbs. and can grow to be anywhere from 800 lbs. to 2,200 lbs. as an adult.

The gender of the calf is unknown, park officials said.

"The park tends to be hands-off for calving as they are wild," Lydia Austin, interpretive programs manager said. "We let nature do its thing and encourage our guests to view from a distance."

[Source](#).

---

## **Cheney Bill Would Open Markets for State-Inspected Meat**

*(From Meatingpace.com)*

U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) has introduced [legislation](#) that would allow state-inspected meat to be sold across state lines.

Cheney, the House Republican Conference Chair, said the Expanding Markets for State-Inspected Meat Processors Act would empower producers to meet increased demand for meat and access new markets, while boosting competition and giving Americans more meat choices.

"The economic ramifications of COVID-19 resulted in processing interruptions and decreases in the amount of meat getting to market, leading to shortages across the country. As we recover from the challenges posed by the pandemic, we must be doing everything possible to expand opportunities and open markets that will allow livestock producers to increase their economic activity," Cheney said in a press release.

Twenty-seven states, including Wyoming, currently have inspection programs certified by USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS).

Cheney introduced similar legislation in 2020. The new bill is supported by the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Wyoming Department of Agriculture and R-CALF USA.

The congresswoman's bill differs from [another proposed act](#) aimed at helping small processors that would increase USDA's share of costs for state inspection programs and federal funding for the Cooperative Interstate Shipment program, which currently has only eight participating states. That bill, called the Strengthening Local Processing Act, was reintroduced in February in both the U.S. House and Senate and is endorsed by the American Association of Meat Processors.

---



**REACH THE WHOLE HERD!**

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



---

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

- 4/09/2021 - Minnesota Bison Association's Annual Education Conference - MN
- 6/11/2021 - Montana/Western Bison Association Summer Conference - MT
- 6/27 - 29/2021 - National Bison Assn. Summer Conference - Cheyenne, 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](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com) and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

---

**Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events**

---

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

