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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 April 3, 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.

NBA Teams with Paleo Magazine for Bison Promo Campaign

The National Bison Association this week connected with Paleo magazine to promote the nutritional and ecological benefits of bison, and to encourage the magazine's readers to sign up for BuySome Bison, the downloadable app developed recently through assistance from USDA's Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

The association sponsored the Social Media section of Paleo over the past weekend with a post that promoted the BuySome Bison app. That post is available here: <https://mailchi.mp/paleomagazine.com/paleo-magazine-digest-friday-march-567490?e=3d333076d6>.



**Bison Meat
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Direct Marketers with the Free
BuySome Bison App

The magazine this week featured an article entitled American Bison and Paleo, A Story of Personal, Ecological and Cultural Health, written by NBA Executive Director Dave Carter

(see separate article below)

“We are exploring ways to work with digital publications like Paleo to reach more customers with our message of deliciously healthy, ecologically beneficial bison meat,” Carter said.

NBA Members Push to Make Sure Bison in in USDA Aid Package

As the U.S. cattle industry ramps up a full-scale effort to assure that beef producers are eligible for relief in the \$9.5 billion allotted to agriculture in the recently enacted \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stabilization (CARES) Act, the National Bison Association enlisted members to weigh in with their Senators and Representatives to make sure bison producers are not overlooked in the final package.

At the urging of the beef industry, 140 Senators and Representatives sent a joint letter to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue yesterday requesting “swift assistance for cattle producers with the resources provided in the recently enacted Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stabilization Act to facilitate the stabilization of farm and ranch income to producers who are facing market volatility in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic fallout.”

Lead authors on the letter were U.S. Sens. John Thune (R-SD) and Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) and U.S. Reps. Henry Cuellar (D-TX) and Dusty Johnson (R-SD).

After receiving a copy of the letter, the NBA launched a campaign to urge members to contact their senators with a request to make sure that bison received equal treatment to cattle in any assistance package. In addition to South Dakota, Texas and Nevada, NBA Executive Director sent targeted requests to members in other states with a high number of Senators and Representatives signing the letter. Those states included Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Wyoming, and Nebraska.

Elected officials from the following states signed the letter to Secretary Perdue: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, North Carolina, North Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Carter noted, “Any NBA members in these states who want to contact their Senators and Representatives should email me at david@bisoncentral.com. I’ll respond with the contact information for the key staff members in their office, along with some suggested talking points in an email to the elected official.”

Last week, the NBA Board of Directors unanimously adopted a resolution urging USDA to include bison in any livestock relief package. That resolution was sent to Secretary Perdue last Friday. Several NBA members in North Dakota have also been conveying the message to their congressional delegation.

NBA Joins Coalition Effort to Assist Local Food Producers

The National Bison Association has added its name in support of a letter sent to USDA Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue this week urging that the agricultural assistance developed in the CARES Act package also include programs to assist producers experiencing economic hardship as a result of disruption of farmers’ markets and other local/regional food networks.

The letter, signed by twelve agricultural organizations, noted, “Unfortunately, farmers who sell products through local and regional markets are suffering significant market losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“As you work through these challenging times to swiftly implement (the agricultural

provisions in) the CARES Act, we urge you to ensure that farmers and ranchers who have lost local and regional markets due to the pandemic receive financial relief, especially direct assistance, that is commensurate with their expected losses of over \$1 billion," the letter concluded.

Dakota Territory Buffalo Association 2020 Scholarship Award

Send in your scholarship applications soon!

The [Dakota Territory Buffalo Association](#) is seeking qualified applicants for its [annual scholarship award](#). One scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 will be granted to a graduating senior planning to continue his/her education at any college, university, or vocational or trade school. Although all graduating seniors are eligible for this award, an applicant must be affiliated with a current DTBA membership or be sponsored by a DTBA member in good standing.

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

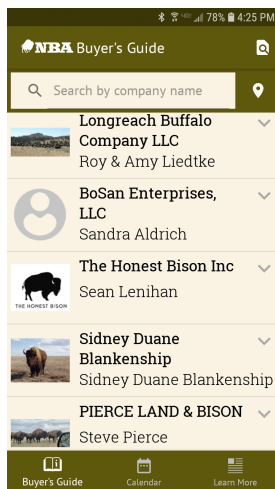
Completed applications should be sent to the DTBA Board of Directors on or before April 15.

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

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

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

If you have any questions please contact the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association at Info@DakotaBuffalo.com or call (605) 430-0532.



Take Advantage of NBA's New Direct Marketing Resources

Explore the NBA's many Direct-Marketing Resources today at www.bisoncentral.com/marketing-resources/

As mentioned in the NBA Blog last week, COVID-19 is impacting everyone these days and the bison business is not immune. As we work through this period of uncertainty, we can learn from the bison: face into the storm, keep moving forward, and lower our metabolism. We don't have to face this challenge alone. With that said, the NBA is pleased to announce it's revamped [Online Marketing Resources](#) section available exclusively to NBA members. You will find the new webpage stocked with professionally edited images, brochures and fliers aimed wholly at

consumer bison education and promotion. As restaurants and retail temporarily shutter and direct marketing comes into focus for many businesses, help bring the consumer directly to you by taking advantage of these NBA member services.

Are You Listed on the Buysome Bison App?

Are you included on the NBA's New and Improved [Buysome Bison app](#)? The new consumer-focused app replaces the NBA's Bison Finder app and links directly to members' NBA [Online Buyer's Guide](#) listing. Utilize this member service to help sell all things bison, from quarters and halves to hunts and breeding stock sales. Check your listing by logging in to your account [here](#).

Printed Bison-Specific Marketing Materials To Go

Shop the [NBA's Bison Store](#) for Cost-Effective Marketing Materials.

The NBA offers cost-effective, bison-specific marketing materials that are printed on quality stock and offered at near cost to NBA members. From cookbooks to brochures to posters, the NBA has your printed point of sale materials covered. Shop the NBA Bison Store today.

Participate in the NBA Product/Service Survey by Tuesday

The National Bison Association Board of Directors' plans to conduct a strategic planning retreat in mid-March have been postponed for the indefinite future.

In the meantime, the NBA staff would like your help in evaluating our current services and programs so that we best serve you and your needs.

The following 16 question survey lists the primary programs currently offered through the NBA. Please take just a few minutes to give us your anonymous feedback by completing the survey by April 7th at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VTYSKCK>

Your input is extremely important to us, please participate.

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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American Bison and Paleo, A Story of Personal, Ecological and Cultural Health

(From Paleo Magazine)

Most people know at least some parts of the rich history of American bison. Vast herds of bison, numbering more than 40 million animals, roamed North America and sustained native cultures from before the beginning of recorded time. Fresh bison meat roasted over a fire formed a ceremonial and spiritual celebration. Dried and mixed with tallow and berries, it formed wasna, a traditional food that warriors carried into battle and indigenous people ate to survive the long, cold winters. Bison hides provided shelter and clothing, and

even the bones and bladders were used as tools and storage containers.

Lesser known are the chapters that explain the inextricable connection between bison and the grassland ecosystems that comprise nearly 40 percent of North America's landmass. The ancestors of today's bison that traveled across the land-link between Siberia and North America roughly 200,000 years ago were massive beasts, weighing more than two tons. They became even larger as the Ice Age intensified.

As the climate began to warm, though, and as humans and other predators learned to hunt in packs, size was no longer advantageous. Species evolved or moved toward extinction. Ancestral bison evolved. The woolly mammoth did not.

The bison we know today evolved in concert with the emergence of the North American grasslands. Buffalo grass, bluestem, gramma, and hundreds of other species of grasses and plants carpeting these ecosystems evolved through continuous interaction with bison and other grazers. Bison hooves stirred the soil and buried the seeds, manure and urine provided nutrients for healthy growth, wallows formed depressions to capture rainfall, and the grazing action and migratory patterns of the herds enabled these plants to thrive.

As these plants thrived, they sequestered carbon and built healthy soils. In fact, grasslands should be considered North America's rainforest in terms of carbon sequestration. The University of California at Davis documented this role in a 2019 report entitled, *Grasslands More Reliable Carbon Sink than Trees*.

Read [more](#).

Brazos Valley Ranchers To Serve On National Bison Association Board

(From The Bryan, TX Eagle)

Two Brazos Valley bison ranchers recently were selected to serve on the board of directors for the National Bison Association.

Board president Donnis Baggett and secretary/treasurer Joe Graham tend to bison on ranches in Bryan and south of College Station, respectively. In an interview with *The Eagle* earlier this month on Baggett's Lucky B Bison Ranch in Bryan, the two men expressed gratitude for the chance to serve — and a reverence for the animals they work so regularly with.

"There's a lot to admire about them," Baggett said, looking out on his ranch at several bison as they grazed. "The durability of this animal and the history behind ... it is magnetic to some of us."

The American bison was named the national mammal of the U.S. in May 2016. Graham said that bison, once nearly extinct, are now most prevalent in the Great Plains, particularly in the Dakotas, and there is also a relatively small, robust bison community in Texas.

Baggett, a former publisher and editor of *The Eagle* who is currently executive vice president for the Texas Press Association, said Thursday that amid the COVID-19 pandemic, bison sales to restaurants are down, but retailers are "asking bison processors for as much buffalo meat as they could send their way."

"The run on virtually all meat products in supermarkets has also led to sellouts of our product by the stores that sell bison meat," Baggett said. "We think some consumers who haven't tried bison decided they'd give it a try when the beef supply ran out, and we feel it will result in growth in retail bison sales in the longer term."

Read [more](#).

Stock Your Freezer with Healthy, Eco-Friendly American Bison from Beck and Bulow

(From Edible San Diego)

Partners John-Paul Bulow and Tony Beck are working hard to keep New Mexico-based bison meat company Beck and Bulow alive and well.

Bulow and Beck started selling buffalo meat (American Bison) two years ago when they realized that sharing this delicious, nutritious, environmentally beneficial meat could build demand that would enable many more American Bison or buffalo to survive and thrive.

The pair took over a ranch that had been in operation for 20 years in an area perfectly suited to this magnificent creature. A native to our continent, when allowed to practice its natural behavior, American Bison regenerate the soil, contributes to carbon sequestration, increases biodiversity, and improves the local watershed.

When sold at local farmers markets, Beck and Bulow are amazed at how many vegetarians make the exception to eat their very special meat, which is off the charts when it comes to vitamin B-12 and Omega 3s.

The company uses humane standards to raise the bison, the butcher is Amish, and they age the meat to perfection with zero gaminess and tons of flavor as they sell pretty much everything “nose to tail” in the form of ground, patties, stew meat, organ meats, tongue, tenderloin, ribeyes, filet mignon, roasts, short ribs, other slow cook items, bratwursts, jerky, and more. It is their small way of reducing food waste and honoring the animals.

To Bulow and Beck, the buffalo represents a more balanced and heartfelt way of life, and they respect the ancient ways of the people who lived in New Mexico long before they did, and appreciate learning from them.

Read [more](#).

Yellowstone slaughters wild bison to shrink park's herds

(From The Idaho State Journal)

Yellowstone National Park is done capturing wild bison for the year after rounding up almost 550 of the wild animals and sending most to slaughter as part of a population control program, park officials said.

The culling is carried out under a legal agreement between federal and state officials aimed at preventing the spread of an animal disease to cattle.

In addition to those captured, about 270 bison have been killed by Native American tribal hunters as the hulking beasts migrated outside the park to graze at lower elevations in Montana, according to figures released Friday.

The annual slaughter of an iconic animal that's featured on the National Park Service logo has long drawn criticism from wildlife advocates and some members of Congress.

Officials insist the program is necessary to prevent cattle in the Yellowstone region from being infected with brucellosis, which can cause abortions in pregnant animals.

Park officials had sought to reduce Yellowstone's approximately 4,900 bison by 600 to 900 animals this year. At least 822 animals have been killed or removed, according to figures provided by park officials.

Read [more](#).

Lawmakers Call For ‘Targeted, Temporary’ Relief For Cattle

Producers

(From AgriPulse)

(See related story at top of Weekly Update)

More than 140 members of Congress are calling on the Department of Agriculture to offer “swift assistance for cattle producers” with some of the \$9.5 billion authorized to assist farmers and ranchers hit by the effects of the coronavirus.

In a bipartisan letter, more than 40 members of the Senate and 100 members of the House acknowledge they do not currently know “the full market impact” for various commodities but say “there is an immediate need for assistance for our cattle producers.”

“We request that USDA consider data and estimates available from the Office of the Chief Economist and implement a program that would directly respond to the negative effect on producers caused by COVID-19,” the letter says. “This program should deliver targeted, temporary equitable relief to cattle producers in a manner that limits market distortions and negative effects on price discovery.”

The recently passed coronavirus recovery bill included \$14 billion to replenish USDA’s Commodity Credit Corp., the fund used to issue Market Facilitation Program payments the last two years – and another \$9.5 billion to issue emergency relief for livestock producers and specialty crop growers.

The letter was led by Sens. John Thune, R-S.D., and Catherine Cortez Masto, D-Nev., in the Senate and Reps. Dusty Johnson, R-S.D., and Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, in the House. In an interview with Agri-Pulse, Johnson said the support needs to find its way to producer portion of the beef value chain.

“We don’t want to make the situation worse,” Johnson said. “Right now, very little of the value of the beef being sold in stores is getting back to the cow-calf producer and the feeder, and we don’t want whatever USDA does to exacerbate that problem.”

It remains unknown at this time how that \$9.5 billion fund will be shared among the various industries claiming economic injury due to the COVID-19 outbreak. A separate letter from a dozen groups calls for “financial relief, especially direct assistance” for producers that sell directly to local and regional markets “that is commensurate with their expected losses of over \$1 billion.”

Bison in northern Yellowstone proving to be too much of a good thing

(From Phys.org)

Increasing numbers of bison in Yellowstone National Park in recent years have become a barrier to ecosystem recovery in the iconic Lamar Valley in the northern part of the park, according to a study by Oregon State University scientists.

In the valley, foraging by bison exerts 10 times the environmental pressure of elk, historically the area's dominant herbivore—that's a problem because bison are powerful “ecosystem engineers.”

Large numbers of bison disrupt species distribution across shrub steppe and grasslands. They do so via what they eat, trample and rub their horns and bodies on—i.e., tree bark. Thus, bison have tremendous capacity to limit the structure and composition of woody plant communities.

That in turn affects the character of riparian plant communities, as well as stream and river channels, altering habitats and food webs for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species alike.

The findings were recently published in the journal *Food Webs*.

Read [more](#).

WVU Extension Service veterinarian clears up confusion related to coronavirus and cattle

(From WBOY.com)

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. - A West Virginia University Extension Service veterinarian is trying to eliminate confusion related to coronavirus and cattle.

There remain several theories about where novel coronavirus originated and how it spread to humans. West Virginia University Extension Service veterinarian Darin Matlick is weighing in on one of those theories - whether or not humans can contract coronavirus from their cattle.

"Can you get coronavirus from your cattle? The short answer is no - to date, it's not been shown that cows can transmit any type of coronavirus to humans," said Matlick. "Cattle can, however, contract a strain of coronavirus that cause gastrointestinal issues, such as diarrhea, in baby calves early in life. Recent research also suggests coronavirus is involved in Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex."

Matlick explained why some of these ideas have sprung up, and it begins at the source of the virus in China.

Read [more](#).

Considerations for food animal veterinarians during the COVID-19 pandemic

(From AVMA)

Food animal veterinarians play a key role in maintaining a safe, secure, and stable food supply. Access to clients and patients is a necessary part of this responsibility, so it is critical to actively incorporate preventive measures into facility visits to decrease the risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2 for veterinarians, staff members, and others.

The AVMA provides the following considerations for food animal veterinarians during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although little is known about how SARS-CoV-2 affects animals, animals that are utilized for food and that are owned or under the care of human patients confirmed to have COVID-19 are unlikely to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to humans. At this time, there is no evidence that domestic animals, including food-producing animals, can spread SARS-CoV-2. The following recommendations are based on proven techniques that have been applied in many different disease outbreaks and are consistent with the following "hierarchy of controls" (listed from most effective to least effective):

COVID-19 Hierarchy of Controls

- Elimination
- Substitution
- Engineering controls
- Administrative controls
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)

While PPE serves an important protective function, the optimal way to prevent disease transmission is to use a combination of interventions from across the hierarchy of controls, rather than PPE alone.

Full [text](#).

USDA Proposes National List of Reportable Animal Diseases

(From USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Bulletin)

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection

Service (APHIS) is proposing a new National List of Reportable Animal Diseases (NLRAD) to further strengthen the country's ability to detect, respond to and control animal diseases. The new list will provide a consolidated, comprehensive set of guidelines to ensure Federal and State animal health officials quickly receive information about potential cases of communicable animal diseases. This helps ensure that serious diseases are reported earlier, which can help speed our response time and lessen the overall impact on producers and the economy.

The proposed list spells out exactly which animal diseases need to be reported to Federal and State officials, how quickly they need to be reported, who needs to report them, and to whom they need to report them. It will have sections for notifiable diseases/conditions as well as monitored diseases. Notifiable diseases include foreign animal diseases, newly identified diseases and some serious endemic (found in the U.S.) diseases. Monitored diseases include endemic diseases of interest. This proposal does not include the reporting of notifiable diseases in wildlife. However, APHIS welcomes public comment regarding how the occurrence of notifiable diseases in wildlife should best be addressed within the NLRAD, especially when reservoirs of a notifiable disease are determined to exist in wildlife within a State.

Diseases on the notifiable list must be reported immediately to both State and Federal officials. This ensures timely response actions can be taken. Monitored diseases would be reported through periodic summary reports. The proposed rule will also expand the list of people required to report these diseases beyond just veterinarians and laboratories to include other animal health professionals who may encounter them, including veterinary medical professionals, diagnostic laboratorians, biomedical researchers, public health officials, animal health officials, trained technicians, zoo personnel, and wildlife personnel.

Having this comprehensive, national list will also help APHIS better meet international reporting obligations. Current U.S. reporting requirements only require accredited veterinarians to report some of these diseases, and do not cover the entire range of diseases necessary to meet international reporting needs. The United States must submit reports to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) on the status of certain diseases of livestock, poultry, aquaculture, bees and, in some instances, wild terrestrial and aquatic species. APHIS currently relies on voluntary reports for many endemic (diseases found in the U.S.) and emerging (newly discovered) diseases, which makes it more difficult to provide this information to the OIE.

APHIS is seeking public comment on this proposed rule for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register*. All comments will be considered before moving forward.

[*See Fed. Reg. 4/2/20: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-04-02/html/2020-06697.htm>]

[Source.](#)

USDA Invites Public Input on Ag Innovation Agenda

(From ATTR)

USDA announced it is seeking public and private sector input on the most important ag innovation opportunities to further its work on the Agriculture Innovation Agenda. Using input provided, USDA will identify common themes across the agriculture customer base to inform research and innovation efforts in the Department, the broader public-sector, and the private sector. USDA is accepting public comments and written stakeholder input through August 1, 2020.

Respondents are asked to identify transformational innovation opportunities for the next era of agriculture productivity and environmental conservation and propose approaches to these opportunities with an eye to the public and private sector research needed to support them. Based on this stakeholder input, USDA will develop a comprehensive U.S. agriculture innovation strategy that it intends to release by the end of this year.

Read [more.](#)

American Farmland Trust Farmer Relief Fund

(From ATTRA)

To help directly support farmers impacted by the current crisis, American Farmland Trust (AFT) is launching a Farmer Relief Fund. A full 100% of donations to the fund will go directly to farmers. AFT's Farmer Relief Fund will award farmers cash grants up to \$1,000 each to help them weather the current storm of market disruptions caused by the coronavirus crisis.

Initially, eligible applicants include any small and mid-size direct-market producers. These are defined as producers with annual gross revenue of between \$10,000 and \$1 million from sales at farmers markets and/or direct sales to restaurants, caterers, schools, stores, or makers who use farm products as inputs.

Applications are due by April 23, 2020.

Read [more](#).

Emergency Mini-Grants for Livestock and Poultry Farmers

(From ATTRA)

Food Animal Concerns Trust is accepting mini-grant applications up to \$500 from livestock and poultry farmers who are experiencing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mini-grants will be awarded on a rolling basis to eligible farmers until funding is depleted, then farmers will be placed on a wait-list in the event that additional funding becomes available.

Read [more](#).

Minnesota Makes Disaster Recovery Loans Available to Farmers

(From ATTRA)

Assistance from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Rural Finance Authority (RFA) will be available to help farmers whose operations are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A \$330 million Minnesota COVID-19 relief bill just signed into law contains provisions expanding the use of funding for the RFA to open up the Disaster Recovery Loan Program for loss of revenue due to human contagious disease. Governor Tim Walz recently signed a bill into law allocating \$50 million to the RFA, replenishing the funds available to offer Minnesota farmers affordable financing and terms and conditions not available from traditional lenders.

Read [more](#).

Meat Sales Surge Even Higher, Up 91% YOY

(From Meatingplace.com)

The past few weeks have seen incredible spikes in grocery sales as the nation hunkered down amid the growing number of confirmed COVID-19 cases. According to IRI, meat has been the leading sales driver for the perimeter, up by 91% for the week ending March 22, with volume sales up 78%. This is on top of the 7% dollar increase for the week ending March 8 and the 77% surge the week ending March 15.

Meat sales among regional and independent grocers were particularly strong this week, with consumer demand often exceeding the offering. "Our demand on orders has been as

high as 600% over the norm for some of our independent grocer customers,” said the meat and seafood director for a large wholesaler. “We ran at double the sales volume and could have tripled it if we had had product and selection time. The attendance in our warehouses was excellent and stores are getting caught up.”

Meat sales rose along with consumer anxiety levels during the week of March 22. IRI found that 58% of consumers were extremely concerned about COVID-19, up from 38% the prior week. This resulted in all meat and poultry moving at unprecedented volumes, whether fresh or fully cooked items.

The inflection point in shopping behavior was the week of March 1, when non-edibles started to gear up, but meat sales gains at the time were still much in line with trends seen in 2019, ranging from -5% (pork) to +1% (lamb). Meat sales started to rise the following week, ending March 8, with increases between 4% (lamb) and 10% (turkey).

More People Buying Food Directly From Farms During Virus

(From Capital Press)

VENETA, Ore. — New unemployment claims in Oregon catapulted nearly 1,500% the last week of March, according to the Oregon Employment Department. But for Brandon Huff and his wife, Phaedra, owners of Ambrosia Farm in Veneta, Ore., this is their busiest season yet.

Industry leaders say more people are buying directly from farms to avoid grocery store crowds, shorten the supply chain and secure a reliable food source at a time when store shelves are often empty.

"Everyone's getting laid off and talking on social media about chillin'," said Brandon Huff. "And over here, I'm busier than ever. It seems like agriculture is full speed ahead."

Experts say subscriptions to CSA — Community Supported Agriculture — have spiked the past few weeks. CSA is a partnership between a farmer and customer in which a customer pays for a membership share in exchange for a weekly box of fresh produce, meat or other farm goods.

Ambrosia Farm runs a CSA program. Members pay a share price at the start of the growing season and receive weekly boxes of colorful cabbage, peppers, strawberries, spinach and more. The farm offers both delivery and pickup options.

"We're seeing a major uptick in CSA memberships," said Holly Hutchason, executive director of the Portland Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition, or PACSAC.

In the past two weeks, RJ Ewing, operations manager for Deck Family Farm in Junction City, Ore., said the farm's number of CSA members has leapt from 80 to 125.

Kelly Crane, executive director of the Oregon Farmers Markets Association and former owner of a 50-member CSA, said people may be seeking farm-direct food for a sense of stability.

Read [more](#).

Biology Researcher Receives NSF CAREER Award To Measure Soil Microbe, Grazer Interactions

(From Kansas State University News Release)

MANHATTAN — A Kansas State University researcher aims to understand the depth of nature's social circle.

Lydia Zeglin, microbial ecologist and assistant professor in the Division of Biology, was

awarded nearly \$650,000 from the National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development Program to research interactions between the tallgrass prairie's largest species — bison and cattle — and the smallest — soil microbes.

"The College of Arts and Sciences is very proud of Dr. Zeglin not only for receiving this prestigious NSF CAREER award, but also for the societal and economic impact her work will bring to Flint Hills life and the Manhattan community," said Amit Chakrabarti, dean of the college.

The interactions between grazers and soil microbes are important for prairie biodiversity and may affect how soil can remediate nitrogen pollution.


"We know how important grasslands are for carbon storage, but intact prairie ecosystems are also sponges for nitrogen," Zeglin said. "This is in part because the soil microbes can pick up nitrogen quickly and help keep it in the soil for a long time, even after plant tissue has decomposed."

Plants need nitrogen — a building block of proteins, DNA and other essential molecules — for healthy growth, but plants can only use so much. According to Zeglin, if it wasn't for soil microbes, anything extra could leach out of the soil and pollute groundwater, streams, rivers and lakes.

"There may be a balance between the plant uptake and the microbial activity that regulates good plant growth versus potential for pollution," Zeglin said. "There's a concept called nitrogen retention, which is sort of the beneficial ecosystem service that we are interested in making sure we are measuring and sustaining."

Zeglin's preliminary research suggests that cattle and bison may provide a service to the ecosystem by helping microbes spread their good deeds around the prairie.

Read [more](#).



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Save the Date!

- 4/6/2020 - Carllson Bison Online Only Auction - NE
- 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 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 | 303-292-2833 | bisoncentral.com
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