

Bison - Longhorns Dispersal Auction - May 13



BRADEEN
REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS
605-673-2629

Rudy "Buffalo Butch" Stanko - Gordon Nebraska Selling 292+-
Head of Buffalo & Longhorns- Live Public Auction with Online
Simulcast Bidding Available on MAY 13th 1:00 PM MDT
BID ONLINE at www.bradeenauction.com

Bison available for inspection at 6738 South State Highway 27 on
the south edge of GORDON, NE. Auction held at 108 East Second
Street, GORDON NE, watch for signs.

- Selling: 25 Long Yearling Bulls - Approx. 675-700 #
- 50 Yearling Bulls - Approx. 486 #
- 86 Long Yearling Heifers - Approx. 650-685 #
- 86 Yearling Heifers - Approx. 435 #
- 15 Longhorn Heifers - Approx. 650-700#
- 30 Longhorn Bulls & Steers - 650-700#
- 1 Longhorn Pair



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; Westminster, CO

NBA Weekly Update for May 1, 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.

Secretary Responds with Hope, But No Specifics, on Bison Request

A letter sent to North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring from U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue yesterday offers optimism that bison producers will be included in the USDA's forthcoming agricultural assistance package, but provides no specifics on the level of aid.

Perdue's letter was sent in response to a request that Goehring had delivered to the Secretary on April 16th on behalf of the National Bison Association and North Dakota Bison Association.

"Using the funding and authorities provided in the CARES (Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security) Act, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, and existing USDA authorities, CFAP (Coronavirus Food Assistance Program) will facilitate direct payments to qualified producers and include additional commodity purchases to provide certainty to farmers and consumers," the Secretary wrote.

"The program will provide \$16 billion in direct support based on actual losses for producers where prices and market supply chains have been significantly impacted. The program will also assist producers with additional adjustment and marketing costs resulting from lost demand and short-term oversupply for the 2020 marketing year caused

by COVID-19,” he wrote.

National Bison Association Executive Director Dave Carter noted, “The Secretary’s mention of ‘qualified producers,’ indicates that payments will go out to sectors that have suffered documented losses. The information that we have provided to USDA over the past month clearly documents the impact being felt throughout the bison business.”

Carter noted that Bruce Summers, administrator of USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service, told the USDA National Organic Standards Board earlier this week that USDA was working to assure that all ag sectors would be eligible for assistance under the package.

Carter noted, “While the Secretary announced the intent to provide assistance on April 17th, it looks like the details are still being worked out internally within the agency. We’ will continue to try and keep bison on the table as they develop the specifics.”

Bison Processor Now Selling Everything But the Squeal

The shutdown of restaurants and other foodservice outlets has been particularly devastating to bison processors and farm direct marketers who rely on those customers for their business survival.

One of those processors is Western Buffalo Co. in Rapid City, SD.

“We are almost 100 percent a restaurant business, so this shutdown was killing us,” Bruce Anderson, owner of Western Buffalo Co. and former President of the NBA, explained.

Anderson knew that--if he wasn’t in a position to make lemons into lemonade--he could at least transform his bison processing plant into making bacon.

“There are some hog farmers around here that had pigs ready for market when the Smithfield Plant closed in Sioux Falls because of COVID-19. They had the ability to sell some of those hogs to local customers, but nowhere to get them processed,” Anderson explained.

Anderson checked with his producers who supply bison, and most agreed that they could hold off delivering for 30-45 days. He then threw out the welcome mat for area hog farmers looking for a processor.

“We’re still doing about 10-15 head of buffalo a week, but are running about 80 head of hogs through the plant each week,” he said.

“I’m in the buffalo business, but right now, you do anything possible to keep going,” he said.

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



Spring Has Sprung In South Dakota's Custer State Park, A Prime Destination For Wildlife Viewing

(From Forbes)

In the midst of such a constant negative news cycle, one can take partial solace in the fact that many of the world's wild species are doing just fine. Just take a look at Custer State Park, the largest and oldest wildlife preserve in South Dakota - this sprawling expanse of land just welcomed a new generation of bison calves, with the adorable tiny ungulates on full display through the park's newly-released [virtual introduction](#). While Custer State Park is best known for its bison, this iconic preserve is also renowned for its rich history and diverse array of species scattered across its grounds.

"Custer State Park formally became the first state park in South Dakota in 1919, but the idea for a state park was born before that. Peter Norbeck (former State legislator, Governor and U.S. Senator of South Dakota), often referred to as the Father of Custer State Park, had an idea of conservation and preservation before that type of thing was really being talked about," states Kobee Stalder, Visitor Services Program Manager at the park.

"As Norbeck progressed in his political career, becoming Governor of South Dakota in 1917, he knew just creating a preserve and state forest was not enough. He urged legislators to pass a bill to create a state park, and at the governor's request they obliged. On March 1st, 1919 they passed legislation for Custer State Park and on July 1st, 1919 the park was officially sanctioned as such."

As an early mover within the nationwide conservation movement, Peter Norbeck was instrumental in reintroducing some of the region's most iconic species, with bison, bighorn sheep, and elk now thriving within the park due to his efforts. His legacy lives on today through the reserve's continued conservation efforts, with one creature in particular experiencing unprecedented success: the black-footed ferret.

Read [more](#).

U.S. Bison Association Asks For Financial Aid

(From The Western Producer) [CAN]

On the positive side, more consumers are buying bison meat at the grocery store. But almost all of it is ground bison, which sells at a lower price.

If restaurants remained closed or partially open for much of 2020 because of COVID-19 restrictions, the bison industry will take a hit.

"If marketers are unable to capture the value of rib-eyes, strips and tenderloins, wholesale carcass prices could fall between US\$30 – \$50/cwt," the National Bison Association said. "That would erase roughly \$250 in the value of a dressed bison carcass."

On top of shuttered restaurants, a weak economy could have a lingering impact on the bison industry for a year or two.

That's why the National Bison Association is asking the U.S. government for financial aid. "That package proposes compensation of \$210 for bison cows and bulls, \$252 for finishing stock weighing between 400–800 lbs., and \$294 for finished bison weighing more than 800 lbs.," the Association said.

The situation is different in Canada's bison trade, but the American market has a massive influence on bison marketing and prices.

Read [more](#).

How Bison, Moose And Caribou Stepped In To Do The Cleaning Work Of Extinct Mammoths

(From The Conversation)

The extinction of one species can create ripples that transform an ecosystem. That's particularly true for so-called "ecosystem engineer" species. Beavers are one example – they dam rivers, creating ponds and channels that [offer refuge for spawning fish and small mammals](#).

Large herbivores such as [elephants, horses and reindeer](#) are engineers too – they break down shrubs and trees to create open grasslands, habitats that benefit a wealth of species.

We know that their ancestors – such as the woolly mammoth – shaped the world around them in a similar way, but what happened to those ancient ecosystems when they died out?

Our [new research published in the journal Quaternary Research](#) studied the extinction of mammoth, wild horse and saiga antelope towards the end of the last ice age in interior Alaska, analyzing fossilized [dung fungal spores](#) recovered from the bottom of lakes and [ancient bones recovered from buried](#) sediments.

We wanted to know how ancient ecosystems responded to these species dying out so that it might teach us more about mass extinctions today. What we discovered could offer hope for modern ecosystems facing biodiversity loss.

The late-Quaternary extinctions occurred towards the end of the last ice age. In North America, they saw the loss of large herbivores and carnivores, whose relatives still roam other continents as elephants, wild horses and tigers. This was a period of rapid climate change and growing pressure from humans.

Read [more](#).

Climate Crisis: Releasing Bison, Reindeer And Horses Into The Arctic Would Slow Warming, Say Scientists

(From The Independent)

Releasing herds of animals into the [Arctic](#) could help tackle the [climate crisis](#), researchers say.

A computerized simulation of conditions at the polar region found that with enough [wildlife](#), 80 per cent of the world's permafrost soils could be saved, preventing a vicious circle of environmental catastrophe.

Half of all permafrost areas – ground that is permanently frozen – are on course to thaw by the year 2100 at current rates of [climate change](#), scientists say.

This is caused by rising emissions of [greenhouse gases](#) such as carbon dioxide, which are predicted to push up frozen land temperatures by 7F.

But experts in Germany calculated that if herds of [horses](#), [bison](#) and [reindeer](#) repopulated the tundra, ground temperatures would rise by only 4F, protecting most of it from melting. In exceptionally cold areas such as the Arctic, the air is even colder than the earth, and thick blankets of snow act as insulation on land, protecting it from the air and keeping it milder.

But grazing animals can keep the ground cool by dispersing snow and compressing the land, according to the study, published in the nature journal Scientific Reports.

When permafrost melts, it releases heat-trapping gases that have been buried for tens of thousands of years back into the atmosphere, so accelerating the climate crisis.

Last month [scientists discovered](#) the polar ice caps are melting six times faster than they were in the 1990s.

Read [more](#).

Bison Tours Now Available To Get You Out Of The House While Staying Safe

(From WETM – NBC)

SAVONA, NY (WETM) -The stay at home order has been in place for almost a month now, and people are getting bored at home. So, mud creek bison ranch found a creative way to entertain the community.

“We were getting so many calls from people just asking if they can come is and drive is and look at animals,” said Co-owner of Mud Creek Bison Ranch Michael Comstock. “We decided to open it up so that they could drive through, stay safe in their vehicles and still get a look at three-hundred-bison.”

The tours are free to the public with the option to give a donation at the end.

“We feel until the Coronavirus is over people just don’t have the money so it is free to the public and all we ask is stay in your cars and enjoy it,” said Comstock.

They have plans to expand the experience for their visitors.

“We do have a F-M station recorder coming in and there will be a loop, it will be educational for the kids and stuff at the end of the month,” said Comstock.

Many people have already visited the ranch, sometime driving through twice in one day. “We get roughly eighty, fifty to one-hundred cars a day that come through and they are able to buy bison meat and everybody has a smile with they leave,” Comstock shared.

[Source](#).

First Baby Bison Of The Year Born At Fermilab

(From Fermilab Press Release)

On April 28, baby bison season officially began. The first calf of the year was born in the late morning, and mother and baby are doing well.

Fermilab is expecting between 12 and 14 new calves this spring.

Fermilab’s first director, Robert Wilson, established the bison herd in 1969 as a symbol of the history of the Midwestern prairie and the laboratory’s pioneering research at the frontiers of particle physics.

And thanks to the science of genetic testing, Fermilab has [confirmed that the laboratory's herd shows no evidence of cattle gene mixing](#). Farmers during the early settlement era would breed bison with cattle in an attempt to create more tame bison or more hardy cattle.

A herd of bison is a natural fit for a laboratory surrounded by nature. Fermilab hosts nearly 1,000 acres of reconstructed [tallgrass prairie, as well as remnant oak savannas, marshes and forests](#).

To learn more about Fermilab's bison herd, please visit the [section on wildlife at Fermilab](#) on our website.

The entire Fermilab site in Batavia is closed to the general public at this time, so visits to view the bison are not currently possible. Updates will be posted on the [Visit Fermilab webpage](#). Learn more about Fermilab's science and people by following Fermilab's social media pages @Fermilab.

The Fermilab site has been designated a National Environmental Research Park by the U.S. Department of Energy. The lab's [environmental stewardship efforts](#) are supported by the Department of Energy Office of Science as well as [Fermilab Natural Areas](#).

[Source](#).

USDA To Implement President Trump's Executive Order On Meat And Poultry Processors

(From USDA Press Release No. 0234.20)

(Washington, D.C., April 28, 2020) - U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue released the following statement after President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order to keep meat and poultry processing facilities open during the COVID-19 national emergency.

"I thank President Trump for signing this executive order and recognizing the importance of keeping our food supply chain safe, secure, and plentiful. Our nation's meat and poultry processing facilities play an integral role in the continuity of our food supply chain," said Secretary Perdue. "Maintaining the health and safety of these heroic employees in order to ensure that these critical facilities can continue operating is paramount. I also want to thank the companies who are doing their best to keep their workforce safe as well as keeping our food supply sustained. USDA will continue to work with its partners across the federal government to ensure employee safety to maintain this essential industry."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the Department of Labor have put out guidance for plants to implement to help ensure employee safety to reopen plants or to continue to operate those still open. Under the Executive Order and the authority of the Defense Production Act, USDA will work with meat processing to affirm they will operate in accordance with the CDC and OSHA guidance, and then work with state and local officials to ensure that these plants are allowed to operate to produce the meat protein that Americans need. USDA will continue to work with the CDC, OSHA, FDA, and state and local officials to ensure that facilities implementing this guidance to keep employees safe can continue operating.

Additional information and details will be released soon.

[Source](#).

The Bison Calf Taking The First Step To Rewild The Canadian Prairies

(From the Guardian)

When European settlers first set their eyes upon North America's Great Plains, vast seas of bison stretched as far as the horizon. But, more than a century ago, the last of the thundering herds that stampeded across the grasslands disappeared.

But the birth of a wild bison calf has renewed hopes that rebuilding sustainable herds is now a step closer. On 22 April, a herd in Wanuskewin heritage park, an Indigenous-run conservation area in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan, grew by one member — the first time a calf had been born on the territory since 1876.

Hailing the new arrival as "historic", Wanuskewin's chief executive said the birth was a step in the right direction. "We feel humbled and blessed for the arrival the baby bison and for the herd that's with it," said Darlene Brander.

Brander said that after consultation with a council of elders, the decision was made to not name the calf.

"The elders told us that because bison are the brothers and sisters of many [Indigenous peoples](#) across the land, it wouldn't be appropriate to give the newborn a name," she said. "We've really been making effort to get guidance from elders on this, because their knowledge is critical to maintaining our traditions."

Read [more](#).

Agriculture Secretary Expects Meatpacking Plants To Reopen In 'Days Not Weeks'

(From The Hill)

Agriculture Secretary [Sonny Perdue](#) on Thursday said meatpacking plants will reopen in a matter of "days not weeks," citing an executive order this week signed by [President Trump](#).

Workers in slaughterhouses will start receiving additional protective gear and have access to COVID-19 testing "virtually immediately," Perdue said in an interview with [Bloomberg News](#).

Following Tuesday's [executive order](#), which cited the 1950 Defense Production Act, the Department of Agriculture has been utilized to ensure meat-processing plants remain open to reduce national shortages of beef, pork, and chicken brought on by the coronavirus pandemic.

Perdue said he expects the shortfall in meat production, which he estimated to be as high as 30 percent right now, to fall to 10 percent or 15 percent within 10 days.

However, production isn't likely to return to its pre-pandemic pace, Perdue said, as new practices are put in place in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus.

"There will be some less production, some inefficiency based on online speeds, some employees that will not be able to come back to work," Perdue said, adding that the health and safety of workers is the main priority.

"We want to assure the workers and the community of their safety," he said.

Throughout the pandemic, more than a dozen meat processing plants owned by companies such as Tyson and Smithfield have been temporarily shut down due to outbreaks.

The United Food and Commercial Workers Union reported at least 6,500 workers who had been directly affected by the coronavirus, as well as 20 deaths at meat plants across the country.

Read [more](#).

4 Bright Spots for Agriculture in the Post-Pandemic World

(From AgWeb)

The coronavirus (COVID-19) has disrupted and impacted every type of agriculture in every corner of the globe. Supply chains have snapped, consumer demand has surged and waned, and the food sector has had to shutter or dramatically transform its business model.

The future will definitely look different from the past. In the long run, what opportunities could farmers harvest? That was the topic of an [April 28 Farm Foundation virtual forum](#).

“We are navigating without a road map,” says A.G. Kawamura, owner and partner of Orange County Produce in Irvine, Calif. “Thank goodness this pandemic showed up in 2020, not 2010, 2000 or 1990.”

With today’s technology, logistics and connectiveness, he says, the agricultural industry across the globe can quickly pivot and solve problems in ways never done before.

Here are a few of the silver linings for farmers amid COVID-19.

1. Livestock prices should significantly improve later in 2020.

Net farm income could drop \$20 billion this year alone, [according to research by the Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute](#) (FAPRI) at the University of Missouri. That’s roughly 19% less than FAPRI’s estimates prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Livestock prices are expected to drop 8% to 12%, FAPRI projects.

As packing plants reduce their daily slaughter number due to COVID-19 outbreaks and social distancing protocols, a domino effect is taking place.

With less slaughter capacity, livestock producers will cut back on their placement numbers, says Dan Basse, president of AgResource. As a result, there could be a potential shortfall of meat available to consumers later this year.

“There is optimism for the U.S. livestock industry and prices in Q4 and beyond on supply shortfalls,” Basse says.

2. The return to cooking at home will create demand for ag products.

2019 was the first year Americans spent more money on food away from home versus money spent on food consumed in the home, but that’s shifting due to #COVID-19, Basse says.

“We will consume more meals in the home than pre-COVID-19 days,” he says. “The food consumption skew favors an ‘American renaissance’ with home meal preparation.” This trend of cooking at home will likely be necessary due to some of the supply chain disruptions.

“I expect you’ll see bigger poundage of meat at stores – brisket, ribs, etc. – because of the way that processing is going on,” Basse says. “Consumers may have to do more processing at home.”

Read [more](#).

Amy Mitchell is Nevada's New State Veterinarian

(From The Elko Daily)

SPARKS -- Nevada Department of Agriculture announces Dr. Amy Mitchell as the new state veterinarian. Mitchell will be stationed at NDA's Las Vegas office and travel throughout the state to oversee Nevada's animal health programs, regulatory procedures and NDA laboratories.

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Mitchell join our team as the new state veterinarian," said NDA Director Jennifer Ott. "Her skills and experience will be a great asset to our team and animal industry throughout Nevada."

Mitchell joins the NDA from the private industry where she managed a veterinary relief services business. She brings with her 18 years of experience in various aspects of veterinary medicine, including private practice and teaching. Her background includes large and small animal medicine, as well as herd health management.

Mitchell studied at the University of Kansas and the University of Georgia, prior to earning her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Kansas State University, College of Veterinary Medicine.

[Source.](#)

Environmentalists challenge new WOTUS

(From AgriPulse)

Environmental groups including the National Wildlife Federation and Defenders of Wildlife are [challenging](#) the newly published Navigable Waters Protection Rule, calling it "an unlawful interpretation that contradicts the very purpose of the Clean Water Act."

The [rule](#), hailed by a broad collection of industries including agriculture, does not include an analysis of its effects on water quality, the groups said. Nor, they said, did EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers give the public a meaningful opportunity to comment. The rule replaces the Obama-era "waters of the U.S." rule, best known as WOTUS.

"The agencies provided just 60 days for public comments despite proposing a definition that reverses more than 40 years of protections for waters across the country, discards the agencies' long-standing interpretations of Supreme Court case law, and introduces complex definitions that require technical expertise to analyze," the lawsuit said.

Costa Addresses Health, Safety Of Meat Inspectors With USDA

(From The National Hog Farmer)

On Friday House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture Chairman Jim Costa of California sent a letter to United States Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue in the wake of the second death of a USDA meat inspector due to COVID-19. Costa raised concerns about a directive issued on April 9 requiring federal inspectors to find or make their own masks and face coverings, and is committed to working with Secretary Perdue to support the health and safety of the 8,000 USDA meat and poultry inspectors.

"At a time when our meat and poultry workers and inspectors are having to weigh their own safety and their livelihoods, it is a time for us to work with USDA to ensure that we protect our food supply in a way that also prioritizes the safety of our workers. I am committed to working with Secretary Perdue to do all that we can to make sure we can continue inspection in the safest way possible," says Costa.

In the letter Costa writes, "Our frontline food and agriculture workers, including inspectors, farmers, farm workers and plant and supply chain workers are critical to the health, safety and security of our country. We know without healthy inspectors and workers, plants cannot operate, farmers have no place to market their animals, and consumers miss out on an affordable and safe food. We must do everything we can to protect those frontline workers during this public health emergency.

"We share the goal of keeping USDA employees and all frontline workers safe, but I am

troubled by the directive issued on April 9, 2020, requiring federal inspectors to find or make their own masks and face coverings. Shortages of personal protective equipment are well known and given the Vice President's April 16th public pledge to ensure every frontline food worker has a mask, I hope this directive is no longer needed."

[Source.](#)

USDA Offers Assistance For Producers Unable To Process Their Livestock

(From AgriPulse)

The Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Inspection Service is creating a National Incident Coordination Center to help producers who cannot take animals to market as meat processing facilities close due to COVID-19.

USDA's coordination center will assist producers in identifying potential alternative markets if a producer cannot move animals, and officials would provide advice and assistance on depopulation and disposal methods if action becomes necessary. The move comes after several beef, pork, and poultry plants have closed in recent weeks as more employees contract the coronavirus.

The closings have left pork producers like Mike Paustian of Walcott, Iowa nowhere to take their finished hogs.

"It's definitely a scary situation for producers," he told Agri-Pulse [earlier this week](#). "Everyone's kind of holding their breath right now to see how this is all going to shake out."

APHIS also is working to mobilize and deploy National Veterinary Stockpile assets needed along with securing services of contractors the help supply additional equipment and personnel like it did during the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreak of 2015. The Natural Resources Conservation Service will also provide cost-share assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program according to guidelines for disposal.

The [suit](#) was filed in federal court in South Carolina.

As The Coronavirus Pandemic Continues New Software Helps Small Farms Shift To Online Sales

(From Forbes.com)

Before the coronavirus pandemic, [Fisheye Farms](#) sold the majority of its produce, herbs and flowers to local restaurants. But with many of its customers closed for business, the Detroit-based farm has transitioned to selling to nearby residents.

Working with [Steward](#), a platform for investing in sustainable farms, the farm set-up an e-commerce platform, transitioned to online orders of pre-packaged [farm boxes](#), and are working towards providing a CSA.

"With the e-commerce platform provided by Steward, we have been able to meet a surge in consumer demand and are now selling more product to area residents than ever before," said Andy Chae, an owner of Fisheye Farms.

Steward, recently, announced the launch of a new suite of software tools designed to help small, sustainable farmers pivot to direct to consumer sales.

"Demand for the direct purchase of local and sustainable farm products is exploding and in many cases replacing lost sales to restaurants and other businesses, which until recently were a key source of revenue for many small farmers," said Dan Miller, CEO of Steward.

Read [more](#).

As More Consumers Cook At Home, American Food System Looks For New Ways To Sell Food

(From AgriPulse)

There's no doubt consumer behavior has changed since the coronavirus outbreak began shuttering schools, cafeterias, and restaurants in mid-March. But that change in consumer behavior has also forced changes in supplier behavior as food companies of all sizes adapt to selling food in new ways and to new customers.

Consumers had been eating more and more of their food outside the home in recent years, with restaurant sales outpacing grocery store sales for the first time in 2016, [according to CBRE](#). But now, consumer options are severely limited. Many restaurants that have remained open have done so with limited menus and restricted themselves to takeout and delivery orders, forcing hungry consumers back to a familiar, but somehow a little foreign, place: the grocery store.

But the conversion from restaurant to retail also presents challenges for producers and suppliers across the food system.

"It's not as easy as just flipping a switch and converting from food service to retail," Tom Super, a spokesman for the National Chicken Council, told Agri-Pulse. "There's a lot of frozen product in cold storage — a lot — that we would love to just send to the supermarket, but a lot of those products are in huge 40-pound-plus boxes."

Chicken serves as a case study of the drastic difference in consumers' behavior when they're called upon to cook food for themselves. Chicken wings, a staple of bars and restaurants across the country, still sell, but not at the same clip as breasts and thighs.

But having the product and being able to sell it are sometimes not one in the same, and companies are forced to — pardon the pun — wing it.

A spokesperson for Perdue Farms Inc. said the company has "shifted much of our total production to accommodate the variation in demand" and "simplified the mix of products we're producing at this time," a decision that emphasizes production capacity for breasts, thighs, drums, and nuggets. The company has also added additional Saturday shifts at some production facilities to keep up and created a new direct-to-consumer website.

USDA To Offer 30-Year CRP Contracts Beginning This Summer

(From AgriPulse)

The Department of Agriculture will start offering some landowners and farmers a chance to enroll in 30-year Conservation Reserve Program contracts starting in July.

Landowners in the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay region who have expiring water-quality practice CRP contracts will be able to enroll in the CLEAR30 pilot program.

"Through CLEAR30, we can decrease erosion, improve water quality and increase wildlife habitat on a much longer-term basis," USDA Farm Service Agency Administrator Richard Fordyce said.

In order to participate, producers must have expiring Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers initiative contracts along with CRP cropland contracts with water-quality practices or marginal pastureland CRP contracts. The contracts must be devoted to riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers, or wetland buffers.

Traditional CRP contracts last anywhere from 10 to 15 years, but Fordyce said the longer contracts will help make sure practices stay in place for three decades to reduce sediment

and nutrient runoff and prevent the formation of algal blooms.

Landowners who enroll in CLEAR30 will have an annual payment rate equal to the Continuous CRP annual payment rate, including an inflationary adjustment of 27.5% because the contract is longer than a traditional one, according to USDA.

FSA will also help producers maintain acreage on the CLEAR30 contract. Producers will be able to sign up for the program from July 6 to Aug. 21.

The pilot program will be available in the following states:

- Delaware
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- New York
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin



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!

- 5/02/2020 - Jack Auction Group May Video Bison Sale - SK
- 5/13/2020 - Bison & Longhorn Online Dispersal Auction – NE
- 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

