

REACH THE WHOLE HERD!



WITH A NBA WEEKLY UPDATE BANNER AD
JUST \$80/WEEK
REACHES OVER 1,100 BISON ENTHUSIASTS

Email jim@bisoncentral.com to reserve, or call (303) 292-2833



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 29, 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 Launches Effort for Second Shot at COVID-19 Assistance

The National Bison Association is launching a second effort to secure access to federal assistance for bison producers impacted by COVID-19, following the release of a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for \$637 million in funds last Friday.

The notice issued by USDA “requests information on agricultural commodities not already included in CFAP, which may be negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and for which sufficient information is not currently available to USDA to include them in CFAP. If sufficient information is received and a decision is made to add commodities to the program, USDA will issue another NOFA listing the additional commodities, the respective payment rates, application dates, and any other unique information that producers will need to know for those commodities and the availability of CFAP payments.”

USDA did not include bison in the initial COVID relief package, despite the efforts by the NBA, eight Senators and the Agriculture Commissioner of North Dakota. Sources within USDA said that bison were excluded because the agency did not have sufficient market information to document that producers had suffered a five percent loss in prices between mid-January and mid-April.

Dave Carter, NBA executive director, said, “Our priority over the coming weeks will be to develop the information that will document the extent of the losses being experienced by

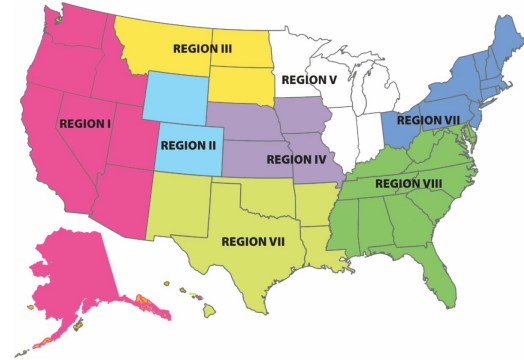
cow-calf producers, finishers, processors and farm-direct marketers so that we can file formal comments demonstrating the need to cover the bison sector. Additionally, individual producers experiencing losses exceeding five percent are encouraged to file comments separately under this NOFA."

The NBA will be developing some on-line surveys that will allow producers to provide information while protecting confidential business information.

The full NOFA is available [here](#).

New Board Regions Adopted for 2021-2026

The National Bison Association Board of Directors last night approved new boundaries for the association's eight regions, with the new map to become effective starting in 2021.



The new regions were established in accordance with the association's bylaws, which specify, "These eight regions' boundaries will be reanalyzed every five years and restructured, if necessary, in accordance with the results of that analysis. The Board of Directors will initially establish the eight regions for the January 2001 election and then every five years thereafter."

The bylaws also state, "The regions will follow state lines and will be equally divided by association membership as reasonably as possible."

Donnis Baggett, NBA president, said, "This is always a difficult process because we want to weigh other factors in addition to equal membership distribution, including ecological similarities, regional interests, and cohesion with state/regional associations."

The board considered several alternatives. The version adopted at last night's meeting reflected feedback from the state regional associations.

Regional Directors elected later this year to begin serving in 2021 will represent the new regions.

Register Now for Week of Virtual Learning

With the NBA's in-person summer conference postponed until 2021, members can still connect during the week of June 22nd for three Virtual Learning webinars.

We are pleased to be able to offer our members valuable and timely information, even though we can't get together in person," said Jim Matheson NBA assistant director. "These presentations are being offered exclusively to NBA members free of charge."



There are 100 "seats" available for the live presentation each day, on a first-come, first-serve basis. The presentations will also be recorded for later viewing on [bisoncentral.com](#). Members need to register separately for each day's seminar.

Presentations on Monday, June 22 will focus on "Serving our Customers in the Post COVID Marketplace." Keynoting the day will be Carlotta Mast, Senior Vice President of New Hope Network. New Hope conducts Natural Products Expos West and East, and specializes in market research for the natural feed channel. New Hope has been conducting research into consumer behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also presenting on June 22nd will be a panel of three commercial marketers who pivoted their business operations during COVID-19, and another panel featuring three female direct marketers discussing their experiences in connecting with customers in recent months.

Register for Day One [here](#).

Presentations on June 24th will focus on Bison Management and Production Tips. The sessions that day are being sponsored by 777 Ranch. Ray Archuleta, Certified Professional Soil Scientist with The Soil Academy, will conduct a session on regenerative agriculture, followed by the official launching of the NBA's Conservation Management Plan." The day will also feature a panel discussion "Selecting Breeders and Feeders" - A panel discussion on animal selection. Speakers TBD


Register for Day Two [here](#).

June 26th presentations, sponsored by Insure My Forage, will center on An Introduction to Bison Management. NBA Executive Director and Assistant Director will kick off the day with an overview of "Why Bison Are Best." Following that presentation viewers will hear "Bison Start-Up Stories and Tips" from Craig Fischer of Sleepy Acres Bison Ranch, and John and Jen Graves, pending bison ranchers. That day's presentations will conclude with the NBA general mid-year membership meeting.

Register for Day Three [here](#).


Feel free to contact Matheson at jim@bisoncentral.com for more information.

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



Watch: Bison are Back at Belwin

(From St. Croix 360)

For Belwin Conservancy, bison are an integral part of our prairie restoration work. They are as much a part of the prairie as are the grasses and wildflowers. They work the landscape with their hooves, forage out unwanted plants and spread seeds in a way that cannot be replicated. Prior to 2008, Belwin Conservancy had long sought to restore bison to our land. Since their reintroduction, we have seen marked differences in the prairie's makeup.

One of the other motivations behind bringing bison to Belwin Conservancy is education. Although they have largely disappeared from this area, bison were once an integral part of

this landscape. As might be expected, bison are extremely well-suited to this environment and, with very little assistance, they thrive given only native prairie.

We firmly believe that bison raised on native prairie is one of the most sustainable and beneficial varieties of agriculture. The bison need almost nothing from us to thrive and at the same time, they do good for the prairie. This helps many other native wildflowers and birds that depend on the prairie to thrive.

Bison meat raised in this manner is also some of the healthiest meat available anywhere. Located on Division Street is a 20-foot tall observation platform that is freely open every day from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. so long as the bison are present. From this vantage point, visitors are afforded a panoramic view of the prairie and the bison wherever they may be at the time. In addition to viewing the bison, the observation platform is a great spot for birdwatching and admiring the seasonal prairie wildflowers below.

The bison move about the prairie throughout the day and sometime are quite distant from the observation platform. *Don't forget to bring binoculars!*

Read more [here](#).

KDWPT Donates 2,000 Pounds Of Elk, Bison Meat To Food Banks

(From The Hays Post)

PRATT – In a time when “every little bit helps,” the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism’s (KDWPT) Public Lands Division has found a big way to help those in need. KDWPT’s Public Lands staff donated 2,137 pounds of elk and bison meat to seven food banks across the state. The meat – delivered in five-pound boxes containing 20 one-quarter pound patties each – came from elk and bison herds managed at the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge in Canton and the Sandsage Bison Range near Garden City.

“We typically harvest one to two bison and a few elk annually at Maxwell and Sandsage,” Stuart Schrag, Director of KDWPT’s Public Lands Division, said. “This helps maintain an optimum herd size for available habitat, which keeps the herds healthy, and allows us to do disease testing. We then have the meat professionally processed and utilize it for education and outreach efforts throughout the year, but this year we decided to donate everything we had. It was our way of helping out our neighbors in need.”

As many Kansas food banks experience an increase in demand, donations such as this can go a long way. KDWPT’s donated elk and bison will feed approximately 8,500 people. “We try to have a protein or meat item for every household, but access to meat is difficult,” Joe Seitz, Director of Our Daily Bread Food Pantry, a Wichita-based ministry of Catholic Charities, said. “One of these boxes is perfect for a family, so we’re very much appreciative of this.”

Read more [here](#).

The History Of The Oklahoma Bison

(From The Oklahoma 100)

Great herds of bison once roamed North America between the Appalachian Mountains on the east and the Rockies on the west, making Oklahoma a prime location to find these massive creatures grazing on open plains.

In the late 1800s bison were threatened with extinction, with fewer than 1,000 left. Oklahoma then stepped into action and the first national preserve for bison (which later became the [Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Reserve](#)) was founded in Cache in 1907.

In 1972, the bison was named the official state mammal of Oklahoma, and even became the national mammal of the United States more recently in 2016.

Read more [here](#).

Bison Shot And Killed In Seymour, Deputies Investigating

(From WATE – ABC)

SEYMOUR, Tenn. (WATE) – An investigation by the Sevier County Sheriff's Office is underway after a bison was shot and killed in Seymour.

Sevier County deputies responded to a property on Dinkins Road around 9 a.m. Monday. The victim stated someone had shot his bison and tried to cut its head off.

Neighbors reported seeing someone driving a black Toyota in an out of the area and parked in the same area where the bison was shot. Neighbors also reported hearing a loud gunshot Sunday morning around 4:36 a.m.

The owner said he last saw the bison in the field on Friday, May 22.

The animal was described as a buffalo in a Sevier County Sheriff's Office incident report, but while the terms buffalo and bison are used interchangeably, they are different animals. Buffalo vs. Bison

Bison are native to North and South America whereas buffaloes are native to Africa and Asia, according to a statement from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Caped Buffalo is native to Africa, and the water buffalo is native to Asia, according to the Veterinary Medicine school. Bison are native to the Americas and are what people in the United States are most familiar seeing.

Buffaloes are oftentimes larger and heavier animals than bison. They both have dark brown to black hair coats but bison tend to have much longer and thicker hair than buffalo, according to UT. Also, the bison has a nice thick beard whereas the buffalo do not have such features.

The horns of bison are short and curved whereas horns in buffalo tend to be long and rounded. "It is extremely easy to confuse these two terms because most people in the Americas grow up hearing the term buffalo when people are actually talking about bison," UT said.

Red more [here](#).

Yellowstone Is Doing Just Fine Without Us, Thank You Very Much

(From the Boston Globe)

You wouldn't know it from the headlines, but not everyone is having a bad year. The bison are calving in Yellowstone National Park's Lamar Valley — unmolested, for the first time in decades, by nosy bipeds holding expensive cameras to their faces. Glacier lilies are blanketing the meadows, boldly popping up in yellow tufts where people would have otherwise trod.

Even in the highlands, where it can snow on any given day in any given month, the animals have all left their burrows to enjoy the brief but glorious summer. The black bears and grizzlies lumber down from the mountains, looking for the elk and bison that didn't survive the snows. Winter culls out the oldest ungulates, and they in turn pass their stored energy to the predators and their broods.

As we've sheltered in place, the rest of the biosphere has been coming out to enjoy our absence. Carbon emissions are down an unprecedented 17 percent; Venetians can actually see fish swimming in the canals.

I generally go to the mountains in the summer. I'm a Westerner by birthright, but got trapped in Boston by circumstance. I have no complaints, at least until the summer comes along and my heart seeks a higher elevation. We have mountains here too, of course, but it's a wizened, worn-down topography, their vistas long since eroded by wind and rain. I grew up hiking in the Cascade Range of Oregon and Washington, where you can spend days above the tree line and the trout are wild and plump.

Read more [here](#).

New Institute To Help Address Complex Food-Energy-Water-Land Challenges

(From Penn State University)

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — The seed for Penn State's [Institute for Sustainable Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Science](#) was planted well before the COVID-19 outbreak. The concept had been growing in the [College of Agricultural Sciences](#) for about two years when the pandemic emerged.

The aim of the institute — referred to as SAFES — is to convene expertise at Penn State to address complex, interconnected food-energy-water-land challenges, such as food security, supply chain disruptions, bioenergy production, biodiversity, changing land uses, environmental degradation and climate volatility. With the havoc wrought by the pandemic, these issues have emerged as urgently critical.

“We have conducted research on food and agricultural systems, water quantity and quality, environmental systems, and nutrient management in the college for years, and the institute will unify and coordinate these efforts, while increasing collaboration among our researchers,” said Gary Thompson, associate dean for research and graduate education. But the establishment of this institute and its vision could not have come at a more appropriate and necessary time, Thompson added.

“Now that COVID-19 has revealed serious weaknesses in our agricultural systems — such as supply chain disruptions, processing facility closures, interrupted production practices and threats to food security in vulnerable communities — the institute will be critical in our efforts to ramp up the effectiveness of our science to deal with these unexpected and unprecedented challenges.”

The interdisciplinary institute will integrate research, education and outreach to address complex, landscape-level challenges by channeling scientific research into solution-oriented policy, business and practical innovations, Thompson explained. It will provide a synthesizing science-to-practice platform for a collaborative community of researchers, students and stakeholders in discovering responsible and sustainable policy options, business management solutions and best practices.

Read more [here](#).

Lab Study Shows Asian Longhorned Tick Can Spread Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

(From Entomology Today)

Rocky Mountain spotted fever, a disease usually spread by native ticks in the United States, may have a new potential spreader—the Asian longhorned tick.

The tick species *Haemaphysalis longicornis* was detected in 2017 in a handful of U.S. states. Native to eastern Asia, *H. longicornis*, dubbed the Asian longhorned tick, traveled to New Zealand, Australia, and Pacific islands before its U.S. arrival. Researchers discovered that the tick's new territory also overlaps with areas of the country where the rickettsial disease Rocky Mountain spotted fever is found.

Could the new arrival take up and spread the disease? Researchers at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, led by Michael Levin, Ph.D., medical entomology

director at CDC's Rickettsial Zoonoses Branch, tested the ticks on guinea pigs to find out. Their results showed that *H. longicornis* can acquire and transmit *Rickettsia rickettsii* (the parasite behind Rocky Mountain spotted fever) very efficiently, at least in laboratory conditions. The team's work is reported in a study published in April in the *Journal of Medical Entomology*.

Full text [here](#).

Meat and Poultry Supply Chain Complications & COVID-19

(From National Sustainable Ag Coalition)

Many of us sheltering in place are seeing news reports about a failing U.S. food system as crops go unharvested, food prices rise, and grocery store shortages of meat and poultry make headlines. But the coronavirus pandemic did not create a vulnerable and unstable food system, it merely exposed it so more Americans can see it plainly. What the public is seeing is not a failing food system, but a system working exactly as it was designed to, built from the exploitation of people of color. Because it is built on an inequitable foundation, the U.S. food system will continue to fail farmers, consumers, and workers unless we work to make it more just and sustainable. Consolidation within the livestock and poultry industry further magnifies the negative impacts experienced by growers, workers, and consumers in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

It seems as if the country is facing a meat supply shortage because several large packing plants shut down due to outbreaks of coronavirus among workers. However, there is [more meat available](#) than it seems, and that is thanks to farmers and ranchers, plant workers, small plant operators, and others working throughout the food supply chain.

There is now greater public awareness and understanding of the structural problems of our current food system. With this understanding comes the possibility to decrease consolidation, provide equitable worker conditions, support more resilient local and regional markets, and ensure farmers and ranchers can earn a fair price.

While farmers and ranchers are doing their best to fill their vital role in the meat supply chain, they are suffering from the impacts of concentration intensified by the coronavirus pandemic. The significant consolidation in the livestock and poultry industries has come at a serious price for livestock and poultry growers. There are four major meat processing companies — Tyson, Cargill, JBS, and Smithfield — that account for a majority of the market share in the livestock and poultry industries — 84 percent in beef, 66 percent in pork, and 50 percent in chicken. This concentration has allowed unfair and retaliatory practices to become standard in the industry. For decades, [growers have shared examples](#) of unfair contract terms with no room for negotiation, lower pay based on factors outside of the growers' control, a diminishing open market for cattle, and increasing corporate control over animals from start to finish.

Read more [here](#).

USDA to Provide \$1 Billion In Loan Guarantees For Rural Businesses And Ag Producers

(From USDA Press Release)

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced that the Department is making available up to \$1 billion in loan guarantees to help rural businesses meet their working capital needs during the coronavirus pandemic. Additionally, agricultural producers that are not eligible for USDA Farm Service Agency loans may receive funding under USDA [Business & Industry \(B&I\) CARES Act Program](#) provisions included in the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#).

“Under the leadership of President Trump, USDA is committed to be a strong partner to rural businesses and agricultural producers and being a strong supporter of all aspects of the rural economy,” Secretary Perdue said. “Ensuring more rural agricultural producers are able to gain access to much-needed capital in these unprecedented times is a cornerstone

of that commitment.”

In addition to expanding eligibility to certain agricultural producers, the changes Secretary Perdue announced today allow USDA to:

- Provide 90 percent guarantees on B&I CARES Act Program loans;
- Set the application and guarantee fee at two percent of the loan;
- Accept appraisals completed within two years of the loan application date;
- Not require discounting of collateral for working capital loans, and
- Extend the maximum term for working capital loans to 10 years.

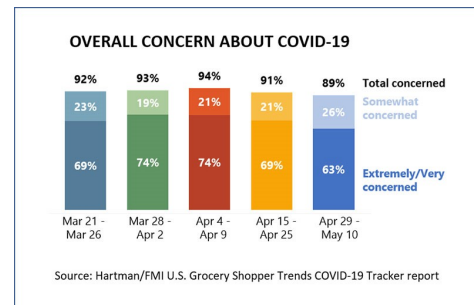
B&I CARES Act Program loans must be used as working capital to prevent, prepare for or respond to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. The loans may be used only to support rural businesses, including agricultural producers, that were in operation on Feb. 15, 2020.

Read more [here](#).

Covid-19: Half Of Consumers Still Worried About Food Supply Chain

(From the Hartman Group)

From the outset, it was evident that the coronavirus pandemic would not be a short-lived event. It has profoundly changed our world — and continues to shape attitudes and behaviors in ways unimagined. The “normal” we once thought we knew is gone.



In the weeks and months over which the crisis chased Americans into self-isolation and working from home, we have had some time to process events, observe consumers’ changing attitudes and behaviors, and watch trends emerge and evolve.

While our post-COVID-19 future is quite uncertain, we have gained deeper insights into evolving areas of concern, evaluation and priorities expected from grocery retailers and other changing patterns, all rooted in the broader public situation through routine tracking surveys that The Hartman Group and FMI have been fielding since late March 2020.

Here are three key findings from the latest Hartman Group/FMI [U.S. Grocery Shopper Trends COVID-19 Tracker](#) report: April 29 – May 10, 2020.

Consumer concern about COVID-19 and its impact on food for the home continues to decline from its peak level measured in early April, even as many Americans remain worried about disruptions to their access to food and groceries.

The pandemic has prompted an evolution in the habits and skills of urbanites, especially younger adults, more dramatic than those of suburban or rural residents.

An overwhelming majority of Americans expect some of their COVID-19 shopping habits to continue to some degree once the pandemic becomes less of a concern. They especially intend to continue to cook more than they had been.

Trade Officials Prepare For Next Round Of U.S.-U.K. Trade Talks

(From meetingplace.com)

Efforts to craft a new free trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom will continue next month under similar arrangements established during the most recently concluded round of negotiations earlier this month.

U.S. Trade Rep. Robert Lighthizer and the U.K. Secretary of State Elizabeth Truss and their associates met virtually for two weeks in May and covered trade issues to set the

framework for what was described as a “comprehensive” trade pact. The United States is the United Kingdom’s largest trade partner and the two-way trade between the countries already is worth about \$269 billion annually. Neither side has announced the status of talks following the May round of negotiations.

Both sides are scheduled to resume virtual talks — prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic — in the weeks of June 15 and June 22. They are expected to again involve more than 200 staff from U.S. and U.K. government agencies to discuss trade terms covering a number of issues. These include market access for products and agriculture, according to a release from the U.S. trade representative’s office.

Senate Dems Seek \$8B For Food Supply Chain Improvements, Commodity Distribution

(From AgriPulse)

Senate Democrats, setting the stage for a new COVID-19 relief bill, are proposing to spend \$8 billion to bolster the food supply chain and to redistribute surplus commodities.

The Food Supply Protection Act, led by Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., the top Democrat on the Senate Agriculture Committee, includes funding for protective equipment for farmworkers and processing plant employees. The bill also would help food banks expand their cold storage and fund new partnerships with restaurants to feed needy Americans.

The bill’s cosponsors include Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and every Democratic member of the Agriculture Committee.

Farm groups that are supporting the bill include the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Farmers Union, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, National Milk Producers Federation, National Pork Producers Council, United Egg Producers and U.S. Cattlemen’s Association.

“The COVID-19 crisis has tested the strength of our nation’s food supply chain, creating a ripple effect that’s harming our families, farmers and workers,” said Stabenow. “This bill will help strengthen our food supply by redirecting food to families and helping farmers and processors retool their operations.”

The bill includes \$5.5 billion for grants, loans and loan guarantees to provide protective gear and COVID-19 testing capability for workers and to help farm co-ops and small to medium-scale processors to respond to the crisis by various means, including retooling processing facilities, purchasing new equipment and developing new product lines. Labor contractors also would be eligible for the assistance.



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!

- 6/22, 24, 26/2020 - NBA Virtual Bison Learning Seminar - Online
- 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
[@nationalbison](#)

