

# MISSOURI BISON ASSOCIATION

in conjunction with Lolli Brothers Livestock Market



## JULY BISON AUCTION

Thursday, **July 9, 2020** - 9:00 am CDT

Lolli Brothers Livestock Market

Macon, MO

To Consign, Call:

Carol Morris: **660-998-0990**

Peter Kohl: **816-585-4779**



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

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### ***NBA Weekly Update for June 5, 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.*

## **Producers Urged to File Comments Documenting COVID Impact**

Individual Bison producers can play a vital role in convincing USDA to make bison eligible for Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) assistance by submitting date and information by June 22nd documenting at least a five percent drop in prices and/or income between mid-January and mid-April.

USDA is gathering information through June 22nd to determine which additional commodities may be deemed eligible for the CFAP assistance.

In a webinar conducted today for organizations representing agricultural producers, USDA officials stressed that they will be relying on information provided by individual producers, as well as data supplies by associations like the National Bison Association.

According to the officials on the webinar, producers should provide information for consideration if you are a producer of an agricultural commodity that you believe have either:

1. suffered a five percent-or-greater price decline between mid-January and mid-April as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,
2. shipped but subsequently spoiled due to loss of marketing channel, or

3. not left the farm or remained unharvested as mature crops.

They noted that the agency will particularly be looking for information that will document a five percent loss in the value of a commodity between the week of January 13th and April 10th. They are also requesting information about any significant market disruption that has impacted a producer's business.

Producers can submit your information the Federal Rulemaking Portal:

1. Log onto [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)
2. In the Search Box enter: Docket ID FSA-2020-0004
3. You'll be directed to the site entitled :Funding Availability: Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Additional Commodities Request for Information.
4. Click on the "Comment Now Button." You can then either type in comments or upload a document.

People can also submit comments by mail to:

Director, SND, FSA,  
US Department of Agriculture,  
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 0522,  
Washington, DC 20250-0522.

(When submitting copies by mail, please be sure to reference Docket ID FSA-2020-0004)

Additional information is available at: <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>

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## Input Sought to Document COVID Economic Input

The National Bison Association today is launching an on-line survey to help document the financial impact being felt throughout the bison business as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The information gathered through the survey will be utilized by the association as a part of its formal request to USDA to include bison producers in the next round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program late this month.

"USDA officials told us that the agency excluded bison from the original Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) because the agency "lacked sufficient market information to document that our producers have experienced a five percent drop in prices and income," said Dave Carter. "We have until June 22<sup>nd</sup> to submit information that will be used to determine eligibility for payments under the \$637 million that is being reserved for commodities that were not covered in the first round of assistance."

Carter encouraged any producer who has purchased or sold bison between 400 and 800 lbs. between January and May to participate in the survey.

"This survey is completely confidential and can be easily completed in less than 10 minutes," Carter said. "But it is vital that we get input from producers to enable us to submit sufficient market information to USDA."

Producers can participate in the survey by clicking here.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z2WCF6P>

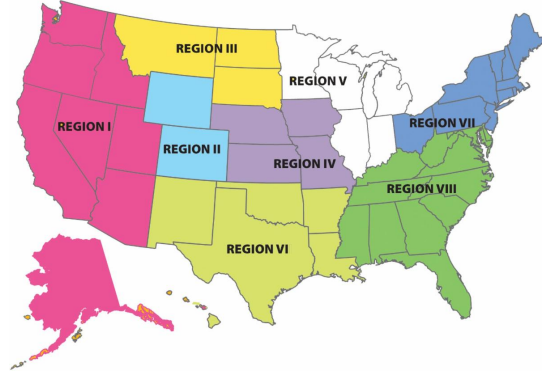
Separate surveys are being developed for bison processors and farm-direct marketers.

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## Correction: New Director Regions

As reported in last week's Weekly Update, the National Bison Association Board of Directors has approved new boundaries for the association's eight regions, with the new map to become effective starting in 2021.

However, the map published in last week's Update, mistakenly listed the new Region VI as Region VII (in addition to the correct Region VII, which encompasses the northeastern states).



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."

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

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## Speakers Added to Virtual Learning Seminar

The NBA is pleased to announce that the Virtual Bison Learning Seminar, planned for June 22, 24 and 26, has added another speaker for its Wednesday, June 24th session. Tim Goodnight is the ranch manager of the McMurtrey Ranch in Nebraska. This Turner Enterprises, Inc. operation includes a large scale grassfed bison program, in which Tim will educate attendees on how and why he selects animals for that program as they do. The NBA is also working on a 2nd speaker for this session to discuss animal selection for a grain-finished operation.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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

**The NBA 2020 Virtual Bison Live-Streaming Learning Seminar**  
June 22, 24, 26 - Free to Members

**Monday, June 22nd - 1 pm MDT**  
**The Bison Marketplace and COVID-19**

- What the Future Holds - with Carlotta Mast, Senior Market Analyst, Informa Markets
- Pivoting with the Market - Panel Discussion
- Direct Marketing during a pandemic - Panel Discussion

**Wednesday, June 24th - 10 am MDT**  
**Bison Management & Production Tips**

- Regenerative Ranching with Ray Archuleta, Certified Professional Soil Scientist and Farmer
- Conservation Management Plan - Ken Klemm, The Buffalo Guys/Beaver Creek Buffalo
- Selecting your feeders and breeders - Panel Discussion

**Friday, June 26th - 1 pm MDT**  
**Introduction to Bison Management**

- How I started my bison herd - Panel discussion
- The Bison Advantage - Dave Carter & Jim Matheson, National Bison Association
- NBA General Membership Meeting

Please email questions to [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com)



"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](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com) for more information.

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

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## Bison: The American Icon

*(From WHBL [WI])*

One of the things that I love about Wisconsin is how many different sides of agriculture exist in the state. We have dairy, beef, hogs, sheep, chickens, we even have bison.

Pat and Rebecca Ries own Ries's Tall Grass American Bison and have been raising bison since the mid-90s on a 40-acre farm in Illinois. Before that, they raised Polled Herefords, but it wasn't very profitable for them. They've always been interested in bison, so they decided to take a chance and go from beef to bison. Fast-forwarding to 1998, they wanted to expand, but with all of the grain farmers in Illinois, there was no land for sale. That's when Pat and Rebecca moved 40 of their bison to Mount Calvary.

For Pat, this was nice because he's originally from Sheboygan. I asked Rebecca about the whole process of moving the bison from one state to the next and she said, "it was a circus". It took five semis to move all of the animals to the new farm. They had to separate the cows, the bulls, and the calves before loading them up. Rebecca said that once they let the animals off the trailer in Wisconsin, it was a pretty cool sight. "It was almost spiritual, the sun was coming down, the cows were in the back of the pasture, the calves ran toward them, and the big animals formed a perfect circle around them. It was beautiful," Rebecca said.

I don't think it's a huge stretch to say that in Wisconsin a lot of people don't know too much about bison. That's why I asked Pat what I would need to know about the animals before raising them. "Well, not a heck of a lot, it's pretty easy to raise up the animals, especially a grass finishing operation...you have to have fences, and you have to have a handling facility..." Pat explained. He said the nice thing is that you don't need barns or any of that, they like being outside. A bison's hide acts as an insulator when it's cold and almost has a cooling effect when it's hot out. You just need to make sure that they have a water supply and plenty of grass.

Read [more](#).

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## **First Nations celebrate bison birth at park**

*(From The Western Producer)*

The first bison born on the First Nation ancestral land at Saskatoon's Wanuskewin Heritage Park was welcomed on Earth Day, April 22.

The calf is active and adjusting well, said a park spokesperson.

Her arrival marks the first birth in the area since the species almost went extinct more than 150 years ago.

"This is very significant because this is the first baby born since the signing of Treaty Six in 1876, said Andrew McDonald, director of marketing and communications for Wanuskewin. "This is a wonderful story about reconciliation and about resilience."

The ancestral land at Wanuskewin near Saskatoon has been a gathering place for northern plains Indigenous peoples for more than 6,400 years.

The site's rolling hills and deep coulees near the South Saskatchewan River was used by ancient peoples for habitation, spiritual ceremonies, trading, as well as hunting and gathering.

Bison, in particular, played a significant role in the culture and once numbered in the millions across North America.

Last year, as part of its efforts to revitalize the park, a small herd of purebred Plains bison was re-established on a section of land.

Read [more](#).

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## **22 Tags Offered To Hunt American Prairie Reserve Bison**

*(From The Billings Gazette)*

The American Prairie Reserve is offering 22 hunters the chance to kill a bison from its private Sun Prairie herd this fall.

Seven opportunities will go to local residents; eight to Montana residents; five to members of the Fort Peck, Fort Belknap, or Rocky Boy communities; and two to the general public. An additional four harvest opportunities are being donated to local charities for their fundraising efforts.

"This is the fourth time we've offered bison harvests to the public since 2018, and each time we've been able to increase the number of opportunities available," said Damien Austin, vice president and reserve superintendent, in a press release. "We routinely use harvest as a bison management tool and the current size of the herd dictated the number needing to be harvested."

Last year more than 2,500 Montanans applied to the Reserve for 16 harvest slots, Austin said.

The drawing is free to enter. Registrants awarded the opportunity to harvest a bison are required to pay a nonrefundable fee of \$300. Eligible individuals must fill out and submit the form by 11:59 p.m. on June 30. The 22 recipients will be randomly selected on July 10.

To qualify for the local area drawing applicants must be age 18 and older and live in Blaine, Chouteau, Fergus, Garfield, Petroleum, Phillips, or Valley counties.

Read [more](#).

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## **SNAPPED: Bear vs. Bison**

*(From Buckrail)*

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. — Here's something you don't see every day: Mike Daus, "Chief Popperating Officer" of local business [Jackson Hole POP](#), captured a remarkable video of a young grizzly attacking a young bison in Yellowstone National Park. Then, Jackson Hole EcoTour Adventures did the public service of narrating the video to explain what's happening — and why it's so rare.

"Killing a bison is not an easy task for any animal, particularly not a grizzly," EcoTour biologist Tenley Thompson explains.

Spoiler alert and content warning: the bear wins. The grizzly eventually exhausts the bison to the point that it succumbs to its wounds. But the bison puts up a good fight, and even leads the bear into the river to try to shake it off.

Who needs NatGeo or Animal Planet when you live in Jackson Hole? Check it out: <https://buckrail.com/snapped-bear-vs-bison/>

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## **As Meatpacking Plants Reopen, Workers Terrified Of Coronavirus Risk**

*(From Politico.com)*

The number of meatpacking workers dying from the coronavirus is still rising, and employees across the country are scared to come to work.

The latest Agriculture Department figures show that U.S. meat production is returning to nearly last year's capacity, accomplishing the White House's goal of keeping the food supply steady during the pandemic.

But while slaughter lines may be up and running, lawmakers, employees and labor leaders say the federal government is failing to protect workers' safety, and they warn that death tolls will continue to rise unless the federal government expands its safety authority over the operations of the country's meatpackers.

At least 44 meatpacking workers have died from the virus and more than 3,000 have tested positive, according to the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. About 30 plants have closed in the past two months, affecting more than 45,000 workers.

A spokesperson for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the agency responsible for worker safety, told POLITICO that it has received more than 4,400 Covid-19-related safety complaints, but has issued only a single citation related to the pandemic.

Read [more](#).

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## **US Food Prices See Historic Jump And Are Likely To Stay High**

*(From ABC News)*

DES MOINES, Iowa -- As if trips to the grocery store weren't nerve-wracking enough, U.S. shoppers lately have seen the costs of meat, eggs and even potatoes soar as the coronavirus has disrupted processing plants and distribution networks.

Overall, the cost of [food](#) bought to eat at home skyrocketed by the most in 46 years, and analysts caution that meat prices in particular could remain high as slaughterhouses struggle to maintain production levels while implementing procedures intended to keep workers [healthy](#).

While price spikes for staples such as eggs and flour have eased as consumer demand has leveled off, prices remain volatile for carrots, potatoes and other produce because of transportation issues and the health of workers who pick crops and work in processing

plants.

In short, supermarket customers and restaurant owners shouldn't expect prices to drop anytime soon.

"Our biggest concern is long-term [food](#) costs. I believe they will continue to go up," said Julie Kalambokidis, co-owner of Adriano's Brick Oven, a restaurant in Glenwood, Iowa.

Tamra Kennedy, who owns nine Mexican-inspired fast food franchises in Iowa and Minnesota, joined Kalambokidis on a call set up by Iowa U.S. Rep. Cindy Axne and said sometimes even getting essential ingredients is difficult.

"You can pick an ingredient and I can tell you there are shortages," she said.

Read [more](#).

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## Shutdowns And Slowdowns Spur Closer Look At Meat Processing Capacity

*(From AgriPulse)*

A turbulent couple of months for meatpackers and their employees has placed a fresh focus on the industry's capacity to process the chicken, pork and beef on American dinner plates.

While factors unique to each meat category prevent a one-size-fits-all solution, the conditions brought to light by COVID-19 have served to amplify existing issues in the processing industry. Where processing capacity expansion was being considered before, it's now sorely needed; where inventory was needed to catch up to capacity before, it's now a race to build herds up to the kind of quantity to keep plants humming.

The drop in USDA's estimated slaughter numbers is not as pronounced now as was several weeks ago, when plants were forced to close as COVID-19 hit their workforce.

At one point, experts estimated protein processing was operating about 40% short of maximum capacity. In recent days, USDA's [daily livestock slaughter figures](#) show a loss of closer to 10% to 15% of capacity as plants come back online. On Monday, USDA estimated the nation's daily beef slaughter at 110,000, about 90% of the 122,000 head slaughtered on the same day a year ago. The pork sector offers a similar story; Monday's estimated slaughter was 403,000, about 85% of the 465,000 slaughtered the previous year. The sheep industry is a little further behind, harvesting 8,000 head compared to the previous year's 10,000.

But as facilities open their doors and turn on the complex machinery needed to make a modern-day packing plant work, it's anyone's guess how long it will take to achieve the kinds of output measured just a few months ago.

"The popular view of the marketplace has been that we could get to 85% to 90% of slaughter, and beyond that, with these changes in the spacing requirements, it's going to be a tough go from there," Don Close, a senior animal protein analyst with Rabo AgriFinance, tells Agri-Pulse. But he also sees some reason for optimism that the numbers could creep a little higher.

"Those processors, and it doesn't matter the species, what they are absolute masters of is driving efficiency into a system," he added. "I think as they get ramped up with staff, they see what their obstacles are for product flow and human flow, they're going to work that problem out."

According to Close, "the argument was already in place that (the beef industry) probably needed more" slaughter capacity, something the COVID-19 pandemic further emphasized. But the virus has also led to calls for a reshaping of the very sector that supplies the nation's beef and pork.

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## **Bipartisan Bill Aims To Jump-Start Ag Carbon Markets**

*(From Agri-Pulse)*

A new bipartisan Senate bill that has the backing of leading farm and environmental groups aims to address climate change by directing the Agriculture Department to play a key role in overseeing the operation of agricultural carbon markets.

The [Growing Climate Solutions Act](#) being introduced Thursday is designed to provide legitimacy and transparency to ag carbon trading by establishing a USDA-run system for certifying third-party verifiers and technical service providers. The third-party verifiers will in turn certify the credit-generating farm practices.

In a sign of ag's growing role in climate policy debates, the bill's lead sponsors include two Republicans, Senate Agriculture Committee member Mike Braun of Indiana and Lindsay Graham of South Carolina, as well as Debbie Stabenow, Senate Ag's top Democrat, and Rhode Island Democrat Sheldon Whitehouse, one of the Senate's most prominent voices on climate policy.

The bill's introduction comes as many companies and groups are developing protocols for calculating the reductions in carbon emissions provided by agricultural practices ranging from no-till farming to methane capture. Multinational corporations are expected to increase their demand for the credits as they try to meet commitments for reducing their carbon footprint.

The organizations and companies supporting the bill include the American Farm Bureau Federation, National Farmers Union, National Corn Growers Association, National Milk Producers Federation, Environmental Defense Fund, National Wildlife Federation, World Wildlife Fund, McDonald's and Microsoft. Also supporting the bill is the Ecosystems Services Market Consortium, a coalition that is researching and testing protocols for carbon markets.

Brent Bible, an Indiana farmer who is an adviser to the Environmental Defense Fund, says in [an op-ed for Agri-Pulse](#) that "the cost and complexity of certifying credits has kept many farmers from participating in greenhouse gas markets. ... The Growing Climate Solutions Act would simplify and standardize the certification process for generating credits and help farmers realize more returns on their investments in credit-worthy practices."

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## **USDA Grants Available to Spur Innovation Technologies in Montana**

*(From USDA)*

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for grants until June 22, 2020, to fund Montana projects that could stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. [Conservation Innovation Grants](#) (CIG) generally fund pilot projects, field demonstrations and on-farm conservation research.

Tom Watson, NRCS state conservationist for Montana, said \$225,000 is available for the state-component CIG this year. He said applicants can request up to \$75,000 for projects lasting one to three years.

Watson said projects should address one or more of the three resource concerns identified for this program: soil health, water quality and quantity, and range health. All projects need to result in technology or methods that can be used to augment agency technical guidance; be designed with an understanding of NRCS practice standards, pertinent assessment tools, and planning criteria. Information about CIG and the application process is available online at [grants.gov](#).

Applications must be submitted electronically through the [grants.gov](#) website by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on June 22, 2020. In addition, a PDF of the complete



Source. [USDA Grants Available to Spur Innovation Technologies in Montana](#)

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## Farm-To-Table Dining Takes On New Meaning Amid Pandemic

*(From Associated Press)*

Eric Pray is used to shipping seafood all over the country. But since the coronavirus took hold, he has shifted his focus closer to home — selling lobsters from a homemade tank in his garage.

Pray, of Portland, Maine, is one of hundreds of fishermen, farmers and food producers who have shifted to a direct-to-consumer model amid the virus outbreak. The pandemic has stressed and sometimes disrupted supply chains, shuttered restaurants and changed the way consumers buy food, leaving some producers scrambling for a new way to reach their customers.

The farm-to-table movement in the United States has grown in recent years, as consumers have increasingly demanded locally sourced food. But in the past several weeks, the movement has grown out of necessity because some producers can't rely on the complex web of processors, distributors and middlemen to get food to customers.

For some, the challenges have turned into opportunities — and new customers. “When restaurants reopen, we’ll probably keep doing home delivery, because we’ve got a good base of customers,” Pray said.

But it’s not good news for many of America’s food producers. In late April and early May, U.S. beef and pork processing capacity was down 40% from last year, according to Jayson Lusk, head of the department of agricultural economics at Purdue University. Plants are now mainly back online but at reduced capacity with beef and pork plants running about 10% to 15% below last year, he said.

Some sectors have also suffered reductions in value, in part because the restaurants they normally rely on are closed. Live, 1.25-pound lobsters were worth \$6.74 per pound in the Northeast in April, which was 13% less than a year ago and 37% less than two years ago.

Read [more](#).

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### **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](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com) and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

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[Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events](#)

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