



Ranchlands is seeking additional partnerships with landowners with available land base who are/want to be engaged in bison ranching in the commercial and/or conservation contexts. We are creative and flexible in our approach, but seeking opportunities that fit the following, general parameters:

Location: Great Plains and interior western states including Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, the Dakotas, Wyoming, Montana

Stocking Capacity: Minimum 600 cows (approximately 1,000 AUM)

719-641-4489 // tess@ranchlands.com

GET MORE INFORMATION



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

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NBA Weekly Update for July 10, 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 Farm Direct Marketing Webinar Announced!

The National Bison Association is organizing a Farm-Direct Marketers' Virtual Round table, tentatively scheduled for August 31 and September 1, with presentations to include information about customer behavior at farmers' markets, maximizing social media opportunities, and developing a successful agritourism business.

The Round table is being funded through the USDA's Farmers' Market Promotion Program.

"For the past four years, we have been conducting a variety of activities through our grant from Farmers' Market Promotion Program. The round table is designed for us to share learnings from those activities, but also to provide new information that can equip farm-direct bison marketers in expanding their business and improving their profitability," said Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association.

Watch *Weekly Update* in the coming weeks for more information on the Virtual Marketing



USDA Announces COVID Aid for Additional Commodities; Will Include More in Coming Weeks

USDA this week announced that it was making dozens of additional fruits, vegetables and herbs eligible for payments under the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, and expanded benefits for some other commodities, and promised that more commodities would be included in the coming weeks.

“When we announced this program earlier this year, we asked for public input and received a good response. After reviewing the comments received and analyzing our USDA Market News data, we are adding new commodities, as well as making updates to the program for existing eligible commodities,” Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue said in a statement.

In the notice published in the Federal Register today, USDA noted that the initial list announced this week was based on readily available market data.

This document includes those commodities for which we could make decisions quickly. For other commodities, we are reviewing additional information and will provide the responses to the comments on those commodities in a subsequent announcement. Our goal is also to make the subsequent announcement as soon after the publication of this document as possible.

The National Bison Association filed extensive comments on June 21st providing specific data demonstrating that bison prices have fallen at least five percent as a result of the COVID-19 disruption.

USDA APHIS Accepting Public Comments On RFID Proposal

USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is seeking public comment on a proposal where APHIS would only approve Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) as the official ear tag for use in interstate movement of cattle or bison that are required to be identified by the traceability regulations.

An official ear tag is defined as an identification tag approved by APHIS that bears an official identification number for individual animals. Regulations allow APHIS to approve tags that can be used as official identification, and both metal and RFID tags are current options.

A transition to RFID tags would support APHIS’ ongoing efforts to increase animal disease traceability by more accurately and rapidly allowing animal health officials to know where affected and at-risk animals are located. While this would not prevent disease outbreaks, it would allow animal health officials to contain outbreaks early more quickly before they can

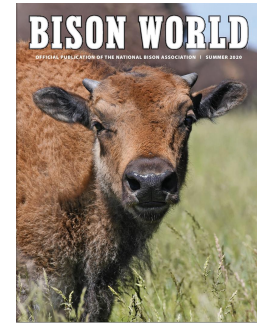
do substantial damage to the U.S. cattle industry.

The National Bison Association has proposed to APHIS, that the agency adopt an approach similar to the system in Canada, in which the association can administer the distribution of official RFID tags. Greg Ibach, USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, appeared receptive to that concept during his remarks at the National Bison Association winter conference in January.

Public comments will be accepted through October 5, 2020 at the following site: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2020-14463>. After reviewing all comments, APHIS will publish a follow up Federal Register notice. This notice will respond to any such comments, announce our decision whether to only approve RFID tags as the only official identification devices for cattle, and, if so, provide the timeline for such a transition.

Summer Bison World Magazine Now Available Online

One of the perks of NBA membership is access to the Bison World magazine before the printed copies arrive in the mail! Production on the Summer issue has wrapped up and it is now available on the website at: <https://bisoncentral.com/publication/bison-world-magazine/>. You will need to log in to the member area to access the magazine.



The flipbook version of the magazine can be viewed right on your computer. Handy links allow you to open it into a new window, make it larger, magnify certain features and even print pages if desired. The realistic page turning sounds make it feel like you are reading the printed version of the magazine.

The hard copy magazine is currently being printed and will mail shortly.

Advertising Opportunities in the Fall Issue of Bison World

Production is underway on the Fall issue of the Bison World magazine. This issue is one of our larger ones and typically features production-oriented content.

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

The advertising deadline is August 1. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time but will also be subjected to the August 1 deadline for the Fall issue.

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

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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Switching To Bison Saved Their Ranch

(From Successful Farming)

Shaggy beasts file nose to tail on prairie high ground, stark figures against a dark morning sky. Their hooves pillow dust as their silhouettes one by one merge into the blood-red rising sun. Monster bulls in rut belch out guttural pronouncements as they lumber beside bison cows and scampering calves. It is breeding season on the South Dakota prairie, and this herd of 1,000 buffalo is intent on one thing – following a rumbling feed truck that creeps along in the shadow of Slim Buttes.

Rancher Sandy Limpert's big hands dwarf the steering wheel of the feed truck as his head, topped with a black cowboy hat, swings left then right, eyes watching carefully in the dim light. With gears grumbling in low range, the truck crawls among the scattering herd. Limpert ranches buffalo with his wife, Jackie, his son, Brody, and his daughter-in-law, Samantha. He's betting that, in time, his four grandchildren will become buffalo ranchers as well.

"It's a wonderful time to be in the bison industry," says Sandy. "The demand is huge, and we raise a quality product that people want. It's a fun business."

He wrenches the big truck around for another slow crawl through the herd. The Limperts used to raise beef and sheep on this vast stretch of ground. But no more.

"Selling cattle and sheep when they were priced high, and going into buffalo when they were low was a bit of a scary thing," Sandy admits. "But Jackie and I knew what we were doing was not sustainable."

Read [more](#).

Taking a Page From Bison, A Farm Adds Carbon To The Soil

(From Yale Climate Connections)

Jim Munsch raises beef cattle in western Wisconsin. And his herd has something in common with the wild bison that once roamed the area – they never graze in the same place for long.

Munsch moves his cattle through a series of pastures. They eat the grass in one area for a few days and then move on so it has time to recover.

Called rotational grazing, the practice can build soil carbon over time. As the animals graze, manure and plant material get worked into the ground. Munsch says over the 40 years he's had cattle on his land, "just by rotationally grazing, we've built organic matter twofold."

That's good for the climate and the farm. Soil rich in organic matter holds more moisture, so Munsch's pastures are more resilient to droughts.

“Three years ago, when we had this six-week dry period, I never took cattle off pasture,” he says.

And during heavy storms, healthy soil absorbs rain instead of washing away.

“We’ve had a number of 100-year rains in the last decade,” he says. “On our farm, when you went out and walked on the pastures, it was like walking on a wet sponge.”

So, he says rotational grazing is a way for farmers to reduce carbon pollution and adapt to climate change.

[Source.](#)

Cut Fence Creates Bison-Size Chaos

(From Western Producer)

DALMENY, Sask — In the early morning hours of June 28, 13 strands of thick wire fence were cut, which allowed 52 bison to escape their home pasture.

More than a week later, the motives still mystify owners Mark and Diane Pastoor. The act has caused the death of two bison and much of the herd remains at large. As well, the couple have been having to cope with the stress.

“We assumed wrongly when we woke up and got the phone call at 7:15 that the fence had gone down or something had happened, although we knew that we spent a lot of money putting up a good fence. That’s highly unlikely, but we just didn’t expect that anybody would actually cut the fence,” said Diane.

“When we got there and saw that the fence was cut we knew that it was premeditated and there was somebody out there who has a problem with either us or our animals,” she said. The Pastoors own 500 acres near Dalmeny, where for four years they have raised a cow-calf bison operation and grown organic grains.

After rallying friends and calling the police, they soon found many of their bison about five kilometers north at a neighbor’s feedlot mingling with the beef steers, but not before stampeding through crops, acreages and fence lines along the way.

Later that day, they managed to coax seven bison back home, but a pregnant cow died of exhaustion and injury.

Read [more](#).

Bison from Wilmington Prairie To Be Featured In Online Programs

(From The Chicago Tribune)

Oh, they give them a home where the buffalo roam on the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Wilmington.

July is National Bison Month, cause for celebration for the U.S. Forest Service, which operates this first national tallgrass prairie designated in the country and only federal tallgrass preserve east of the Mississippi River.

A growing herd of bison thrive on 1,200 of the preserve’s 20,000 acres, of which more than 7,000 are open. Thirty miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding are open from 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. Lakes and ponds for fishing and vistas for birdwatching also abound.

Two online programs at 7 p.m. on Thursday will allow viewers to see the bison of Midewin

and learn about their release and ranging behaviors. Adventurer Darley Newman, TV producer and host of the PBS series “Travels with Darley,” will throw a Facebook Watch Party featuring Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie for National Forest Week.

“What’s so interesting about Midewin is that it’s so close to Chicago, but it’s a site along old Route 66 that is so surprising to see, a grassland prairie with bison,” Newman said.

Read [more](#).

Friends Find Bison Jump In Carbon County

(From Rocket Miner)

BAGGS – It all started in 1991.

Well, really, it all started 1,500 years ago.

For Curt Ogburn and Wade Golden, the journey to the excavation of the Ogburn-Golden Bison Jump near Baggs began almost 30 years ago, when the two high school students first found an old bison skull on state land.

“Wade and I were like brothers,” Ogburn said. “We found all kinds of stuff out in the desert, and it was our playground.”

One day in 1991, Ogburn and Golden were out in the hills, doing the thing so many Wyoming teenagers do: scaling rocks, climbing hills and exploring.

“We were hiking around the Red Desert west of Baggs, and found a buffalo skull,” Golden said. “We thought, ‘Wow, this is cool,’ so we picked it up and took it back to the high school science lab where we gathered around and looked at it... That was it.”

In about 2008, Golden started wondering — could he find that site again?

“As I was hiking in, I started finding artifacts. I found a lot more buffalo skulls and a lot more bones all around,” Golden said.

Golden said that after a few attempts to contact the Wyoming State Archaeologist, Spencer Pelton, who took the job in November, agreed to investigate.

“I get a lot of calls, but this one seemed promising,” Pelton said, adding that the two first headed to the site in late June.

Read [more](#).

European Bison To Be Introduced Into Kent Woodland

(From the BBC)

Bison will be introduced to UK woodland to restore an ancient habitat and its wildlife, conservationists have said.

The £1m project, led by Kent Wildlife Trust and the Wildwood Trust, is aimed at helping to manage Blean Woods near Canterbury.

A wild herd of European bison, the continent's largest land mammal, will be in their new home by spring 2022.

The breed is the closest living relative to ancient steppe bison, which once roamed Britain. The charities will be preparing over the next 18 months, including creating a fenced enclosure.

The bison will be within a wider 500 hectare (1,200 acre) area with other grazing animals

such as Konik ponies, to create varied and healthy habitat, the conservationists said.

Read [more](#).

CDC Says 9% Of Meatpacking Plant Workers Have Been Diagnosed With Covid-19

(From CNBC.com)

About 9% of workers at meat and poultry processing facilities across 14 states have been diagnosed with Covid-19, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Meatpacking plants, which were under pressure to produce enough food for U.S. consumers, became early hot spots for the coronavirus pandemic. In April and May, the country's largest meat producers, such as Tyson Foods and Cargill, were forced to close some facilities due to outbreaks. Total production of federally inspected red meat and poultry fell 8% in April and 13% in May, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Lags in production led many farmers to slaughter their livestock themselves. President Donald Trump signed an executive order in late April under the Defense Production Act to compel meatpacking plants to stay open.

The CDC's report compiles responses from 28 state health departments, five of whom did not report any confirmed cases tied to meat processing workers. As of May 31, 86 worker deaths across 23 states can be tied to Covid-19. Nearly 240 meat processing facilities had at least one confirmed case among the workers, and more than 16,200 workers across 23 states have tested positive for the virus.

The conditions of the meatpacking industry, which requires many workers to be in close contact with each other for long shifts, make social distancing nearly impossible. The CDC also noted in its report that shared transportation to and from work and congregate housing also increase workers' risk for exposure to the virus.

Some meat producers have tried to step up protections for their workers, but others fell short. In the CDC's survey, only 86 facilities out of the 111 plants with information available on their prevention efforts required all workers to wear face coverings. Sixty-nine plants out of the 111 facilities installed physical barriers between workers, and 41 offered Covid-19 tests to workers.

Read [more](#).

RAMP-UP Act Will Help Meat and Poultry Processors Access Inspection to Meet Demand

(From House Agriculture Committee News Release)

WASHINGTON (July 2, 2020) - House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson of Minnesota and former Chairman Frank Lucas of Oklahoma, joined Reps. Sanford Bishop of Georgia, Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska, Chellie Pingree of Maine, G.T. Thompson of Pennsylvania, Jim Costa of California, David Rouzer of North Carolina, Angie Craig of Minnesota and Robert Aderholt of Alabama, today to introduce the Requiring Assistance to Meat Processors for Upgrading Plants (RAMP-UP) Act.

This legislation would establish a program to make facility upgrade and planning grants to existing meat and poultry processors to help them move to Federal Inspection and be able to sell their products across state lines. The legislation will also require USDA to work with States and report on ways to improve the existing Cooperative Interstate Shipment program.

"We have seen the importance of having meat and poultry processors of all sizes in Minnesota and across the country over the past few months," said Chairman Peterson.

"The RAMP-UP Act will provide grants to help these rural small businesses meet that demand, wherever their customers live."

Read [more](#).

USDA Announces Initial Purchase of Vaccine for National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank

(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 announcing the initial purchase of vaccine for the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (NAVVCB). APHIS will invest \$27.1 million in foot-and-mouth disease vaccine, which the Agency would use in the event of an outbreak to protect animals and help stop the spread of disease.

"While we are confident we can keep foot-and-mouth disease out of the country, as we have since 1929, having access to vaccine is an important insurance policy," said Marketing and Regulatory Programs Under Secretary Greg Ibach. "Vaccines could be an important tool in the event of an incursion of the disease in the U.S, but their use will depend on the circumstances of the incursion and require careful coordination with the affected animal industries."

Vaccination helps control the spread of infection by reducing the amount of virus shed by animals and by controlling clinical signs of illness. While an outbreak would temporarily disrupt international markets, vaccination would allow animals to move through domestic production channels. Foot-and-mouth disease is not a threat to public health or food safety. It is also not related to hand, foot, and mouth disease, which is a common childhood illness caused by a different virus.

The NAVVCB is one component of a three-part program established by the 2018 Farm Bill to comprehensively support animal disease prevention and management. The new U.S.-only vaccine bank—a concept APHIS officials have long discussed with stakeholders and industry—makes a much larger number of vaccine doses available than we currently have through the North American Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank. APHIS will continue to participate in the North American Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank, and this new program adds to the nation's level of protection against this devastating disease. In the event of an outbreak, animal health officials would decide when, where and how to use the available vaccine, based on the circumstances of the outbreak.

More information about these programs is available at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/farmbill>.

[Source](#).

Farmers And Animal Rights Activists Are Coming Together To Fight Big Factory Farms

(From Vox.com)

About a year before Sen. Cory Booker officially ran for president, he took a trip through the Midwest, meeting voters in the states he knew he'd need to win. One visit, in particular, sticks in his mind. It was in the home of a Republican farmer, a man who told Booker's team he wasn't sure he wanted to host the senator because "this is a Christian household." Booker is Christian, but he knew what that meant: He's vegan, liberal, an African American Democrat from Newark, New Jersey. Booker wasn't the kind of politician this farmer saw as his own.

Booker tried to loosen the guy up with dad jokes. "I told him his cows were udderly amazing," Booker recalls. Nothing.

The breakthrough came when the farmer began telling Booker about "the hell" he and his

neighbors found themselves in. They used to sell their cows to five different companies, which meant if a buyer didn't give them a good price or demanded practices that compromised their cows or land, they could go to another. But the industry had consolidated. Now there was one buyer, and that buyer controlled everything. The farmers had been reduced from entrepreneurs to serfs. Here, finally, was common ground. The farmer hated what his business had become, and so did Booker.

This was a story Booker heard again and again. And it carried the seed of an idea. Booker is vegan, and so he knows, better than most, how unpopular veganism is — in [one survey](#), only people with drug addiction were viewed more negatively. Asked during a September CNN town hall whether he thought others should become vegan, Booker said “no,” before pivoting to discuss the problems of factory farming. In an MSNBC interview, he laughed off the idea of a “radical vegan agenda,” reassuring voters he doesn't think “government should be telling Americans what to eat.”

Read [more](#).

Roundtables For Small Meat Plant Operators Scheduled

(From Meatingplace.com)

Oregon State University is launching two virtual roundtables designed to generate feedback from small or very small meat processors on USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) inspection guidance materials.

The goal is to measure the effectiveness of existing FSIS materials and tools designed to help small meat processors meet established guidelines. The roundtables are part of the 2018 U.S. Farm Bill, and will be conducted as part of the Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network (NMPAN) at Oregon State. The school is offering access to [a draft study of the roundtable goals](#), even as the COVID-19 pandemic has forced organizers to hold virtual sessions starting next week instead of the planned in-person meetings.

The sessions require advance registration by small plant operators, employees or owners and are scheduled to begin next week. Additional information for the July 15 session is available [here](#) and the July 16 meeting information is available [here](#).

(Updating to reflect that the sponsor of the roundtables is not FSIS, which will not have representatives participating in the program.)

Cargill, Burger King, WWF Team To Restore Grassland

(From Meatingplace.com)

Burger King, Cargill and the World Wildlife Fund have joined forces for a new grassland restoration project that will use cattle grazing to restore ecosystems and protect wildlife.

The three-year reseeding project aims to rehabilitate formerly plowed areas and less productive soil, converting nearly 8,000 acres of marginal cropland throughout Montana and South Dakota to ecologically diverse grasslands with beef cattle as the primary grazers to maintain it. If successful, the program is projected to save the carbon equivalent of driving nearly 70 million miles in an average passenger vehicle, the partners said in a news release.

Native grasses, some with roots 10 to 15 feet deep, pull carbon from the atmosphere and store it underground. The roots also secure the plants and topsoil from being blown or washed away and pull water underground, supporting the grasslands during drought.

Cattle grazing is expected to help stimulate the growth of grasses. Cattle's hooves break through hard ground, allowing more water to be absorbed into the soil. The restored grassland can also provide a habitat to wildlife.

The progress of the project, including changes in soil carbon and moisture and the wildlife

response, will be monitored. Carbon measurement tools also will be tested to evolve best practices.

"Ranchers are some of the most important stewards of the grasslands of the Northern Great Plains. As managers of over 70% of the remaining intact grasslands within this region, they hold the key to its future," said Martha Kauffman, managing director of WWF's Northern Great Plains program.



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- 1/23/2021 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - Denver, CO

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