



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.

Reprint is encouraged and permission is granted when the following credit appears:
©National Bison Association; Westminster, CO

NBA Weekly Update for July 3, 2020

The Weekly Update is a service designed to provide National Bison Association members with news and information affecting bison production and marketing. Many items in the Weekly Update are reprinted from outside sources. The content of those articles does not necessarily reflect the policy position of the National Bison Association. The articles are reproduced here only as a means to keep our membership informed as much as possible of all information and opinions relating to bison that is circulating publicly.

Happy July 4th from the National Bison Association

Two hundred forty four years ago tomorrow, 56 delegates assembled in Philadelphia, affixed their signature to a document boldly declaring “that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

This weekend, as we enjoy time with our families—even while observing all safety precautions—let’s celebrate the vision and determination of those who have helped found this nation, and all who have sacrificed and served to create that *More Perfect Union*.

From all of us at the NBA, have a happy and safe 4th of July.



It's National Bison Month. How Are You Promoting?

Backyard grills are the new culinary hot spots across America as people look for opportunities to entertain and engage without worries about exposure to COVID-19.

With National Bison Month kicking off this month, we have an opportunity to continue introducing people to the deliciously healthy, sustainably raised qualities of a sizzling bison steak or burger.

Consumer research unveiled during the NBA's recent Week of Online Learning revealed that many people tried their first taste of bison during the retail shopping sprees occurring after the national shutdown in March. In fact, More than 60 percent of the people trying bison for the first time in the past three months said that they would gladly eat bison at least once monthly.

National Bison Month gives us an added opportunity to transform those first-time-samplers into ongoing customers.

Don't hesitate to utilize any of the [marketing resources](#) available through the NBA to promote your products during national Bison Month!

National Bison Association Launches Innovative Conservation Management Plan

Plan Allows Bison Producers to Document and Improve Conservation Practices

Westminster, CO (June 30, 2020) – The National Bison Association announced the official launch of its new Conservation Management Plan (CMP) during its Virtual Bison Learning Webinar Series last week. The CMP will provide bison farmers and ranchers the ability to monitor and document their conservation practices to both improve upon and exhibit how their work positively impacts the bison, the land they're on, and the people around them.

As the CMP states, "We believe that good conservation practices provide great benefits to all involved – the bison, the land, and the people. Furthermore, we believe that good conservation practices don't cost – they pay. This program will help managers of all experience levels increase their conservation effectiveness and help them engage with a wide variety of like-minded managers and thereby take their operations to even higher levels of conservation success."

The philosophy behind this program is neatly summed up in the following three statements:

1. For millennia, bison and people have relied on the land for sustenance. Even so, these lands thrived, blossomed and sustained massive herds of bison, which in turn supported many people. We believe that through wise stewardship, many people can yet still enjoy great herds of bison living on healthy, vibrant lands. We also believe that informed and caring people are the key to this vision.

2. The purpose of this Bison Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is:
To ensure that Conservation Partners do no harm to bison, land or people.
To foster innovation and creativity to benefit and sustain healthy bison, lands and people.
3. This program is not intended to inhibit or limit citizens' freedoms or liberties but will operate only with voluntary participation and a deep respect for personal property rights and individual choice.

The CMP is exclusively available to National Bison Association [members in good standing](#) as a web-based desktop program available at <https://bison.herddogg.com/login> where you can register at no charge by entering the pilot code "NBA2020" when prompted. Not a member? Join the NBA [here](#). The CMP is also included on the NBA's newly released Bison App, which is a powerful bison field management app and is free to download to [Android](#) and [Apple](#) devices through 2020 by entering the pilot code "NBA2020". Initial CMP applications are \$250 and annual renewals are \$100. Please direct any questions to jim@bisoncentral.com, or by calling the National Bison Association at (303) 292-2833.

Alternate Plans Being Explored for 2021 Winter Conference and Gold Trophy Show and Sale

Committees for both the Winter Conference and the Gold Trophy Show and Sale (GTSS) are beginning the process of tentatively planning for the 2021 events.

With the challenge of COVID-19 looming, both committees, along with staff, are exploring various options to include a virtual only or hybrid of virtual and in-person attendance for the conference and a live or video auction for the sale offering. The GTSS Committee has the additional burden of working with construction on the new National Western Stock Show (NWSS) grounds and not knowing if pens and the sale barn will be complete, or even if the NWSS event will take place.

As the committees begin to explore various options, feedback from the membership is welcome. Feel free to share your concerns and/or suggestions about the various scenarios. Input is needed from all sectors so we can do the best job of offering content and services for our membership while giving everyone peace of mind that their personal health and safety is our utmost concern.

Please contact Dave Carter, dcarter@bisoncentral.com; Jim Matheson, jim@bisoncentral.com or Karen Conley, Karen@bisoncentral.com to share your thoughts about our 2021 events.

Throlson American Bison Foundation Scholarship Now Accepting 2020 Applications

Westminster, CO (July 1, 2020) - The National Bison Association (NBA) has announced the 2020 Throlson American Bison Foundation Scholarship amid continued growth in consumer demand for healthy, natural bison meat.

The Throlson American Bison Foundation is named after its founder, Dr. Ken Throlson, DVM, a pioneer of the modern bison business and awards outstanding college students with an interest in the burgeoning bison industry.

"The Throlson American Bison Foundation Scholarship program has been established to recognize, encourage and promote leadership among future bison industry professionals," said Dave Carter, executive director of the NBA.

In November 2020, the Throlson American Bison Foundation will award scholarships totaling, but not limited to, \$10,000 to outstanding college junior, senior or graduate students studying fields related to the bison industry.

A minimum of \$2,000 of the \$10,000 amount will be awarded in the memory of Richard Zahringer to a student pursuing a degree in agriculture economics, agribusiness, or

accounting. Ideally this student will have future interest in livestock and specifically bison.

The online scholarship application is available online [here](#) and must be submitted by October 1, 2020, which also requires [this form](#) to be completed by the student's department head, as well as a letter of recommendation from faculty. Award announcements will be made no later than Nov. 5, 2020. For more information, contact the NBA office at (303) 292-2833, or jim@bisoncentral.com.

The NBA also has a Junior membership for individuals ages 21 and younger that are interested in learning more about the bison business. NBA Junior Members can access member information on the website, receive discounted conference rates, consign animals to the Gold Trophy Show & Sale held in Denver in conjunction with the National Western Stock Show, and receive a subscription to Bison World and the NBA newsletter, The Weekly Update. The Junior Membership is \$50 annually, join at <https://bisoncentral.com/nba-membership-options/>.

USDA Reports Progress in Development of MCF Vaccine

USDA's Animal Disease Research Unit has made significant strides in developing a vaccine for Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) in bison in the past few months, according to information relayed to the National Bison Association this week by Dr. Cristina Cunha, veterinary medical officer with the Unit, who had previously provided an update on their work at the January Winter Conference in Denver.

"I'm really excited with the results we had so far with the rabbits, all 3 vaccine protocols tested were able to protect animals from MCF upon exposure to a lethal dose of OvHV-2. In 2 trials over 70 percent of the animals were protected," she wrote in an email to the NBA this week. "We still have 10 vaccinated rabbits alive and we plan to challenge them again to have an idea on the duration of protection."

Dr Cunha said that she was unsure when the new challenge will occur, because the labs are largely closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Regardless of the delays, the data we have so far allows us to conclude that our vaccine worked on rabbits and we are very optimistic that it will work well on bison as well."

Researchers will soon conduct a pilot vaccine experiment in bison.

"Researchers at USDA's Animal Disease Research Unit have demonstrated exceptional persistence in working to develop an MCF vaccine for more than a decade, so this news is very encouraging," said Dr. Dave Hunter, chair of the NBA Science and Research Committee. "Soon, bison producers may have yet another important tool to protect the health of their herds."

Reading the COVID Assistance Tea Leaves

(NBA Blog by Dave Carter)

It's been a little over a week since producers and organizations that were excluded from the initial round of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program were able to file comments with USDA requesting that they be covered in the second round of assistance.

NBA Assistant Director Jim Matheson and I have fielded numerous emails and phone calls since then from members wondering if bison are going to be included.

The short answer: We don't have a clue.

In federal policymaking, though, public comments often provide some "tea leaves" that indicate how the final rule will be issued. In this case there are 1,749 tea leaves, because that is the number of comments filed. So, I put on my reading glasses, poured a big cup of coffee, and began sorting through the on-line record of comments.

I didn't read all 1,749 comments. Most comments listed on regulations.gov include a headline, summary, and the name of the person submitting. Others commenters simply uploaded a file without any indication of the contents. I skipped over those.

I was looking primarily for answers to two specific questions:

1. What commodities weighed in with requests; and
2. How do we stack up in the process?

The answer to question No. 1, is *a lot*. I counted requests covering at least 45 commodities. Some represented major sectors, including potatoes, poultry, eggs, cotton and hard red winter wheat. But there were also requests for assistance for microgreens, maple syrup and Brussels sprouts. There was one request for beefalo assistance and two for aid to snapping turtle producers. And, what the heck is mamey? I don't have a clue, but a grower in Florida insists that it needs to be included.

Read full blog here. <https://bisoncentral.com/blog/>

Mexican Foodies Get a Visual Taste of U.S. Bison

Followers of the popular Netflix culinary star Lady Tacos de Canasta got a visual "taste" of American bison this week as she and Ana Charúa, chef for the US Ambassador in Mexico conducted a bison-centered cooking demonstration.



According to Daniel Alvarado, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service Agricultural Attache in Mexico City, "the Ambassador's Chef Ana Charúa prepared a "four-chili *adobo*" dish and Lady Tacos de Canasta prepared a "*ropa vieja*" dish with U.S. bison meat, accompanied by a passion fruit salsa and habanero salsa, respectively; also, a cactus salad."

Alvarado added that both dishes "were amazing," and that he will provide the NBA with the recipes once they are translated.

Mexico officially opened for imports of U.S. bison meat last month.

Virtual Learning Sessions Now Available On-Line

Members who missed last week's Virtual Learning Seminars, or who want to review some of the information presented during those sessions, can download all of the presentations for free

The sessions from Monday, June 22, focusing on developments in the consumer marketplace, are available at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/1Y9QJKrw9mdLeJXutXD5VKstQdXCeaa80ykfrPUeM/R6Fj5PrvSj6cslmpt3VQuZ>. Follow the link and use the password, 8y=!!=IK

Wednesday's sessions, centered upon soil health and conservation management, are available here. https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-pJxNejbzjNLSaPG-EuPAZY8HY7rX6a81ygYqPsJnU_8FjfGgbFUEiXXEUgr6Nh3. Use the password, 5d%2\$.Cs

And, Friday's sessions, covering the continued bison advantage, are available here: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/35cqaLPuyWdOULPP60zTQ4QeAp3IT6a8gyAX_vpexEo1j83YhmJ5yyRn9qR7nO2G. Follow the link and use the password 2B+&=3rs.

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



Bison: a different kind of farm animal

(From kpcnews.com)

If you've ever driven around the back roads in northeast Indiana, chances are you've seen farms with cows and chickens and other normal farm animals.

But up in Wolcottville, you may see another kind of animal roaming the countryside. Bison.

Cook's Bison Ranch, located at 5645 E. C.R. 600S in Wolcottville, dates all the way back to 1939 when the farm was purchased by Everett Cook, grandfather to today's owner, Peter Cook.

Peter grew up in Wolcottville, but after multiple trips out to Yellowstone National Park, he became fascinated with the animal.

In 1998, they got their first bison and from there, they kept adding to their collection. Trisha was engaged to her husband Peter when he had the idea to start raising bison. "We already had the land, which is the biggest thing you need," Trisha said.

Land requirements differ from state to state but in Indiana, Trisha said farmers are allowed to have one bison and one calf per acre.

Trisha said even though their farm can support more animals than they have, they don't want to be at full capacity so their field isn't overgrazed.

Full story [here](#).

Bison Health Concerns Have Pretty Short List

(From [Western Producer](#))

Lots of comparisons can be made between raising bison and cattle. Some things are easier, some things are harder.

But every year, I hear of new issues in the bison herds, involving animal deaths, loss of productivity or reproductive failures.

One very good thing about the bison industry is it is a close-knit group of producers many of whom are cow-calf to finishers.

With the bison industry being young, sharing of information on health, animal welfare, fencing, handling, handling facilities, feeding and marketing is common.

There is good mentorship available from existing breeders and that leads to ideas on marketing.

There are only a handful of bison marketers in Canada so a close group has developed. There are also only a few veterinarians that do more than a handful of bison work but they generally are located close to where a lot of bison are raised.

Bison generally don't have a long list of health concerns and that is evident by the fact that clostridial and anthrax vaccines are the only ones routinely administered, and the latter vaccine only where anthrax is endemic. Some producers may add respiratory pathogen vaccines as their veterinarians see fit to protect against pneumonia.

The other main health issues bison have been internal parasites, which need a strategic deworming program.

Malignant catarrhal fever from close association with sheep can be an issue. Bison can also be very susceptible to mycoplasma pneumonia. This is especially evident if mycoplasma gets into a naïve herd but once there has been natural exposure, bison seem immune in subsequent years.

Read more [here](#).

Not All “Meatless Meats” Are Good For Your Health Or The Environment

(From Forbes)

Science-backed claims that plant-based meats are healthier for both humans and the environment have sparked a global wave of veganism that shows no signs of slowing down. Consumers have become increasingly conscious about doing better by their bodies and the environment, and fast food joints like McDonald's [MCD](#), Burger King and KFC are catering to the growing demand. These trends, coupled with recent COVID-19 meat shortages, have contributed to 17 per cent projected growth in the global market for meat alternatives, from 3.6 billion in 2020 to 4.2 billion in 2021. (MarketsandMarkets)

The upsurge in consumer demand for meatless meats has been timely, given the Food and Agriculture Organization's recent estimate that animal agriculture accounts for 14.5 per cent of global greenhouse emissions, with 65 per cent of those emissions coming from beef and dairy cattle— but plant-based advocates have questioned whether processed “fake meats” are the best alternative.

Sarah Galletti, the founder of vegan frozen food brand, [Tattooed Chef](#), suggests that many vegetarian “meat” products aren't as clean as consumers would like.

Some brands make great efforts to mimic meat, using scientifically engineered textures, smells and flavours, with ingredients such as soy leghemoglobin, made from genetically modified yeast, which is used to give the appearance of blood. Products such as these are not necessarily very healthy.

Take Burger King's Whopper, for instance, and compare it to the meatless Impossible Whopper. The all-beef burger only has 30-more calories than the meat alternative, one more gram of saturated fat and 270 mg less sodium. White Castle's original meat slider, on the other hand, actually has 70 fewer calories, 4 fewer grams of fat and 170 fewer milligrams of sodium than its meatless counterpart.

Full story [here](#).

Is E-Commerce The Key To Breaking State Inspection Logjam?

(From AgriPulse)

A long-running fight to ship state-inspected meats outside their own regulatory borders could have an ally in a new and innovative technology: the internet.

A new bill introduced Tuesday would allow for meat processed at certain state-inspected facilities and sold via e-commerce to be shipped across state lines. The bill's supporters say it would unlock a host of direct-to-consumer opportunities for producers while still maintaining traceability and recall requirements necessary to keep food safety and trade agreements in check.

"I think we have seen through COVID-19 the frailties in our food supply system, and I think we understand that there could be a larger role for small processors to play," Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-S.D., said in an interview with Agri-Pulse.

Johnson, along with Texas Democrat Rep. Henry Cuellar, introduced on Tuesday the Direct Interstate Retail Exemption for Certain Transactions Act, or [DIRECT Act](#). The bill would grant interstate shipping authorization to state meat and poultry inspection programs deemed by the federal government as "at least equal to" standards enforced by USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service for products sold through e-commerce.

The issue of state-inspected facilities being limited in their sales potential is not a new one, but it took on a new level of importance in light of the coronavirus pandemic. Shuttered packing plants and supply shortages led many producers and consumers to pursue a direct-marketing model to stock their freezers with meat, only to realize that their efforts would be constrained by state borders.

The issue has previously been bogged down by food safety, recall, and trade concerns, but Johnson said he thinks the bill "strikes the right balance in providing flexibility for interstate sale direct-to-consumer." He specifically cited the meat processing facility at South Dakota State University, which has taken on additional volume during the COVID-19 pandemic but is limited in its sales potential since it is only state inspected.

Yellowstone Bison Gores California Woman

(From the Billings Gazette)

A California woman was gored several times by a bison June 25 in Yellowstone National Park after apparently approaching the animal to take its photo.

The 72-year-old walked within 10 feet of the bison several times near her campsite at Bridge Bay Campground, according to a park news release. Park regulations require visitors to remain 25 yards from bison and elk.

Rangers provided immediate medical care to the woman who was flown via helicopter to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center.

The goring came two days after a Missouri hiker was knocked to the ground by a female grizzly protecting its cub near Old Faithful.

The incident prompted Yellowstone officials to remind visitors to keep their distance from wild animals, including at least 100 yards from bears and wolves.

[Source](#).

Yellowstone To Reconsider Controversial Bison Plan

(From Buckrail.com)

LIVINGSTON, Mont. (AP) – Federal officials plan to reconsider how they manage Yellowstone National Park's famous wild bison herds following longstanding complaints over thousands of the animals that have been killed by hunters and agencies as they attempted to migrate into Montana.

Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly outlined the plans in court documents filed Wednesday. The move came in a lawsuit challenging a federal-state agreement that has governed management of the animals, also known as buffalo, since 2000.

A new analysis of bison management could result in an expansion of where the animals are permitted to roam freely, [The Livingston Enterprise reported](#). The work would involve the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service, which has jurisdiction over much of the land surrounding Yellowstone.

Jared Pettinato, who represents Neighbors Against Bison Slaughter, applauded the agencies' decision to reevaluate bison management. "We think it's long overdue," he said.

Read more [here](#).



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!

- 7/09/2020 - Missouri Bison Association July Bison Auction - MO
- 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](https://www.facebook.com/nationalbison)

