

# REACH THE WHOLE HERD!



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

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



## Weekly Update



[bisoncentral.com](http://bisoncentral.com)

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 July 31, 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 and National Buffalo Foundation Seeking Director of Development**

The National Bison Association and the National Buffalo Foundation this week posted a formal job opening for a Director of Development to raise funds to support research programs and outreach efforts to benefit the U.S. bison business.

The Director of Development position is responsible for planning and implementing the NBF and NBA fundraising efforts. The job includes the development and implementation of strategies for raising money from individuals, foundations, government entities, and corporations. This position is also responsible for building relationships with members of the association and cultivating their support for specific initiatives, including exhibits, education programs, and bison health studies.

Cecil Miskin, chair of the National Buffalo Foundation, noted, "The Center of Excellence for Bison Studies has tremendous potential to conduct innovative research on bison herd health, marketing and other areas important for our business. But that research will require significant funding, and we need a professional on board to help us accomplish that."

NBA Executive Director Dave Carte added, "Our members have been incredibly generous through the years with sponsorships, donations to the Growth Fund, and other means of

support. But we have not tapped the potential level of support available from foundations, federal agencies, and wealthy donors outside of our usual network. Now is the time to move in that direction.”

The Director of Development will report to the NBA executive director, but will carry out activities based on priorities developed jointly by the NBA and NBF. The full job description can be found [here](#).

---

## **Please participate in Winter Conference Survey!**

NBA members, as we continue to gauge the COVID-19 pandemic in hopes that we will still gather in some form for our Winter Conference in January, we'd really appreciate getting your input on the matter.

As such, please take just a moment to answer this 5-question, anonymous survey that will help in our decision making. Please complete the survey by next Friday, August 7th.

Take the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3S9HJL8>

---

## **Thanks to Members for Growth Fund Support!**

Speaking of fundraising, the NBA Growth Fund continues to be a vital source of support to underwrite our efforts to introduce bison meat to new customers across the country. To date, NBA members and supporters have provided nearly \$35,000 to date this year.

The NBA wants to express thanks to the following individuals and companies for their Growth Fund support.

Bruce Anderson,  
Tobin & Julia Arnold,  
Beverly Brown & Donnis Baggett  
Tom Barthel,  
Walter (Joe)Brown,  
Casey Byrd,  
Dixie Byrd,  
John & Lane Cammack,  
John Davis,  
Diamond Tail Ranch.  
Bob Dineen,  
Domino's Farm Corp.  
Bud Jr. & Mary Lou Flocchini  
Randy Gaskill,  
Jim and Cindy Lutter,  
Jason Miller,  
Nolan Miller,  
Fred Nance,  
Dave & Deanna Nolz,  
Greg Pagan,  
Steve Perrault,  
Platte River Power Authority  
Prairie Legends Bison, LLC  
Rod Sather,  
Nathan Scott,  
Jud Seaman,  
Mark & Denise Silzer,  
Brandon & Trisha Siemion,  
Ronda Snyder,  
Rob & LeeAnn Trynoski,  
Danny and Jenie Wilkin,  
Frank Wolthuis.

To add your name to this list, click [here](#), and make a contribution to the Growth Fund.

---

## Board Nominations Due Sept. 4

Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for NBA members interested in running for election in Regions I, III, V and VII to submit nominations to the NBA office. The elections will be conducted from September 11 – 30.

According to the NBA bylaws, regional directors "shall be elected by a mail in, or electronic ballot during September of each year prior to the expiration of the regions' directors' terms. If after the initial ballot, no one person in any region has more than 50% of the ballots cast, then a run-off election will occur during November, involving the two persons having the most votes cast in the September balloting. In case of a tie, a coin will be tossed to determine the winner. Only active and lifetime members residing within a region may vote in each region's election." Regional directors are eligible to serve two two-year terms.

The directors elected in September will begin serving in January 2021.

In this election cycle, directors will be elected for two-year terms from Regions I, III, V and VII.

The regions up for election for, and the states included are:

- Region I, representing AK, AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, UT, WA. Mary Adams, the current director is eligible for re-election.
- Region III, representing MT, ND, SD. Mimi Hillenbrand of South Dakota is the current director but is term-limited and cannot seek re-election.
- Region V, representing IL, IN, MI, MN, WI, Jeremy Allemann of Wisconsin, the current director, is eligible for re-election.
- Region VII, CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT. Brian Grubb is the current director but is term-limited and cannot seek re-election.

Nominations for candidates to serve as regional director can be submitted to the NBA at [dcarter@bisoncentral.com](mailto:dcarter@bisoncentral.com).

---

## Database of USDA Voluntary Inspection Plants Now Available

The lack of available capacity in slaughter and processing capacity continues to be identified as one of the major concerns among bison producers across the country.

The National Bison Association has compiled a database of USDA inspected slaughter plants that are approved to provide voluntary inspection for processing non-amenable species of livestock, including bison.

"NBA members can utilize this database to locate plants in their area that may have some availability to process their animals," said Dave Carter, NBA executive director. "We hope this can provide a resource to help members to be able to serve the growing demand for bison meat.

The NBA Processor database can be accessed [here](#).

---

***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



---

## Western Meat School Enrollment Now Open

*(Western Meat School Press Release)*

We are excited to announce a new hybrid learning short course for meat producers and processors called the [Western Meat School](#). This is a collaborative effort of Oregon State University, Montana State University, University of Wyoming, Colorado State University, and Mesalands Community College.

Funded by Western Extension Risk Management Education grants and the Globetrotter Foundation, the [Western Meat School](#) is an innovative learning experience where farmers, ranchers, butchers, & others will learn how to direct market meat. This 6 week long course will cover key topics in production, processing, and marketing to produce high-quality meat and sell to diverse market channels. Learn new ways to manage risk in your meat business and improve your profitability.

[Expert speakers](#), both practitioners and academics, will be beaming in via Zoom for six Wednesday evenings in a row in November and December. Classes will take place in-person (COVID willing) at 12 different locations in the 5 organizing states where facilitators will help guide the discussion and we will listen to the presenters on the big screen. Or anyone can take the entire course from the comfort of their home, as long as they have a computer and a decent Internet connection. If any class sites are unable to meet due to local COVID restrictions, 100% of the course is available online. The organizers are making this short course as flexible as possible for those who want to meet and network in person or those who want to learn from home.

The Western Meat School is designed for the following audiences:

- Farmers & Ranchers with at least a couple years experience
- Meat Processors & Butchers
- Meat Buyers, Distributors, Retailers
- Agricultural Professionals, Extension Specialists, NGOs working on local livestock and meat supply chains

The livestock species covered in this course include:

- Beef & bison
- Pigs
- Sheep & Goats

We do not cover poultry, but many of the subjects could be applicable to processing & selling poultry.

[Enrollment](#) is now open. Reserve your spot today! Investment is \$120/individual or \$160 for a couple/business partners. A limited number of scholarships are available for low-income individuals and people of color.

Read [more](#).

---

## Two Bison Captured By Spokane Police After Roaming Through

## **Underhill Park**

*(From KREM-CBS)*

SPOKANE, Wash. — Underhill Park was host to two unlikely visitors Wednesday on morning: a pair of bison.

Hazel, weighing in at 1,300 pounds, and 1,700-pound Baxter escaped from their South Hill home on Wednesday morning, just off 21st Street.

The bison crossed both Freya and Thor Streets in their odyssey to Underhill Park, according to police. Police attempted to steer them to the park in order to corral them.

Once officers steered the bison toward the park, they were spooked by someone and ran off into the forest behind the park, according to a KREM reporter.

Officers were eventually able to corral the bison onto the baseball diamond, where they led them onto a horse trailer.

Cowboy Wrangler and Spokane Police Officer Lee Barker responded to the location because he has raised bison in the past, according to Spokane police Sgt. Terry Preuninger.

The owner of the bison and a local wrangler responded to the location and set up a trailer to corral the bison, Preuninger said.

Read [more](#).

---

## **Genetics Program For Badlands Bison**

*(From The Minot Daily News)*

They used to roam the continent by the millions and almost became extinct, but today small herds of bison survive at several places in the United States. Included on the list of locations is both the North and South Units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park,

It is there, in the protective setting of a national park, that visitors can observe and photograph the great animals that are an enduring symbol of the Old West. Rugged, powerful, sometimes ornery, bison are symbols of survival too.

When bison numbered in the millions genetic diversity was a given. Today though, with herds of limited size isolated from other bands, it takes a special effort to insure a herd is as diverse as possible.

"In recent years we've embarked on research to understand how we can develop meta-population management," said Blake McCann, wildlife biologist, T.R. National Park.

The bison herd in the T.R. North Unit usually numbers about 300. When it exceeds that number, considered to be the carrying capacity of the park, a round-up is held to remove excess bison and distribute them to Native American tribes and certain conservation partners of the National Park Service. However, managing the herd goes far beyond just making sure the population doesn't get too large.

Read [more](#).

---

## **Texas Ranchers, Activists And Local Officials Are Bracing For Megadroughts Brought By Climate Change**

*(From the Texas Tribune)*

Arthur Uhl III has been ranching for 30 years and routinely has the same lament: "It doesn't rain enough."

Uhl, who works on his family's San Angelo-area ranches, needs the rain to grow the grass

that feeds his livestock. But in a region that's prone to megadroughts, he's had to make changes for sustainability's sake.

"We meter all of our groundwater posts, for one thing," he said. "We've enclosed most of our tanks. We use precision irrigation systems. And we reuse water when we can."

The situation has been tough, but it's about to get a lot worse — for Uhl and ranchers all across the state. This century, Texas could face the driest conditions it has seen in the last 1,000 years, according to a new [study](#) from a team of Texas A&M University and University of Texas at Austin researchers.

The study highlighted a slew of looming problems for the state's water supply. First, climate change will lead to even more megadroughts. In the latter half of the century, those droughts are likely to be worse than any of those previously on record.

"Our study shows that the drier conditions expected in the latter half of the 21st century could be drier than any of those megadroughts, depending on how you measure dryness," lead researcher and A&M professor John Nielsen-Gammon wrote in a press release.

Read [more](#).

---

## **USDA Investigates Packages Of Unsolicited Seeds From China**

*(From USDA)*

USDA is aware that people across the country have received suspicious, unsolicited packages of seed that appear to be coming from China. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, other federal agencies, and State departments of agriculture to investigate the situation.

USDA urges anyone who receives an unsolicited package of seeds to immediately contact their [State plant regulatory official](#) or [APHIS State plant health director](#). Please hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until someone from your State department of agriculture or APHIS contacts you with further instructions. Do not plant seeds from unknown origins.

At this time, we don't have any evidence indicating this is something other than a "brushing scam" where people receive unsolicited items from a seller who then posts false customer reviews to boost sales. USDA is currently collecting seed packages from recipients and will test their contents and determine if they contain anything that could be of concern to U.S. agriculture or the environment.

USDA is committed to preventing the unlawful entry of prohibited seeds and protecting U.S. agriculture from invasive pests and noxious weeds. Visit the [APHIS' website](#) to learn more about USDA's efforts to stop agricultural smuggling and promote trade compliance.

---

## **APHIS Launches Animal Welfare Act Licensing Rule Website and Videos**

*(From USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Bulletin)*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has launched a new website to help the regulated community and other interested stakeholders understand and implement the new licensing and veterinary care requirements set forth in our recent Animal Welfare Act regulatory changes.

Announced on May 12th 2020, these changes aim to promote compliance, reduce licensing administrative burdens and strengthen safeguards to ensure humane care for animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act.

The new website includes detailed information about changes to the licensing process, watering standards, and veterinary care standards for dogs. To help visitors navigate the

new requirements, the website includes tech notes and videos.

We recommend that customers continually check our website for the most up-to-date information and additional resources that are coming soon. If you have questions or need more information, please feel free to contact our office by calling 970-494-7478 or emailing us at [AnimalCare@usda.gov](mailto:AnimalCare@usda.gov).

[Source](#).

---

## **Booker Introduces Bill to Boost Safety and Protect Meatpacking Workers From COVID-19**

*(Insider NJ)*

U.S. Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) this week introduced the Safe Line Speeds in COVID-19 Act to protect worker, consumer, and animal safety by suspending all current and future USDA waivers and regulations that allow companies to increase production line speeds at meatpacking plants during the COVID-19 pandemic. Reps. Marcia L. Fudge (OH-11), Rosa DeLauro (CT-3), and Bennie Thompson (MS-2) have introduced companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

Across the country, many meat processing plants have become COVID-19 hotspots. To date, more than 30,000 meatpacking workers have tested positive for COVID-19 and more than 168 have died, according to the Food and Environment Reporting Network.

The bill text for the Safe Line Speeds in COVID-19 Act is available here:

<https://www.booker.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/The%20Safe%20Line%20Speeds%20in%20COVID-19%20Act.pdf>

Read [more](#).

---

## **Vesicular Stomatitis Continues Spread, Now In 22 Kansas Counties Featured**

*(From KVOE.com)*

Over 20 counties now have cases, including Lyon, Chase, Coffey, Greenwood and Morris counties in the KVOE listening area. Nearly 90 so-called premises are currently in quarantine. Lyon County currently has three confirmed premises and two either suspect or pending premises. Area stats are online at KVOE.com.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture says most of the cases are in horses, but some cattle have been affected. KDA encourages cattle ranchers to watch their herds for symptoms, which can include lesions on the muzzle, lips, ears, coronary bands or ventral abdomen. Infected animals can also have fevers and other blister-like lesions on the mouth, dental pad, tongue, lips, nostrils, ears and hooves.

It can take five to seven days for the virus to subside, however, it can take an additional week for the affected animal to fully recover.

Read [more](#).

---

## **Meet Cosmo, a Bull Calf Designed to Produce 75% Male Offspring**

***Scientists Use CRISPR Technology to Insert Sex-Determining Gene***

*(From UC Davis News)*

Scientists at the University of California, Davis, have successfully produced a bull calf, named Cosmo, who was genome-edited as an embryo so that he'll produce more male offspring. The research was presented in a poster today (July 23) at the American Society

of Animal Science meeting.

Using the genome-editing technology CRISPR, researchers can make targeted cuts to the genome or insert useful genes, which is called a gene knock-in. In this case, scientists successfully inserted or knocked-in the cattle SRY gene, the gene that is responsible for initiating male development, into a bovine embryo. It's the first demonstration of a targeted gene knock-in for large sequences of DNA via embryo-mediated genome editing in cattle.

"We anticipate Cosmo's offspring that inherit this SRY gene will grow and look like males, regardless of whether they inherit a Y chromosome," said Alison Van Eenennaam, animal geneticist with the UC Davis Department of Animal Science.

Van Eenennaam says part of the motivation to produce more male cattle is that male cattle are about 15 percent more efficient at converting feed into weight gain. They are more fuel-efficient than females. Additionally, they tend to be processed at a heavier weight.

It could also be a win for the environment, with fewer cattle needed to produce the same amount of beef. "Ranchers could produce some females as replacements and direct a higher proportion of male cattle for market," said Joey Owen, a postdoctoral researcher in animal science who is leading the project with Van Eenennaam.


Read [more](#).

---



**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!***

- 08/31 - 09/01/2020 - NBA Direct Marketing Webinar Series - ZOOM.US
- 10/17/2020 - Texas Bison Association Fall Meeting/Ranch Tour - Bryan, TX
- 12/04/2020 - Western Bison Association Meeting and Show/Sale - Ogden, UT
- 1/08/2021 - Montana Bison Association Winter Conference - Great Falls, MT
- 1/20/2021 - National Bison Association Winter Conference - Denver, CO
- 1/23/2021 - National Bison Association Gold Trophy Show/Sale - Denver, CO
- 6/27/2021 - National Bison Summer Conference - Cheyenne, WY

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.

---

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



