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

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NBA Weekly Update for April 1, 2022

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.

Board Set to Develop New Strategic Plan for NBA

The Board of Directors of the National Bison Association, along with outgoing Executive Director Dave Carter and Assistant Director Jim Matheson, will gather in Denver next week to develop a new two-year strategic plan for the association.

The last long-term strategic plan was adopted in 2016. The board had scheduled a strategic planning session in March 2020 but was forced to cancel the session when the COVID pandemic hit.

“This is a very important session because the marketing and production landscape has changed drastically over the past few years, and the National Bison Association will be going through a significant transition as our Executive Director steps down. Your Board of Directors will come out of this strategic planning with a road map for the next 2 years, as with any map, however, there are different routes that we can take. My hope is we cover those foreseeable routes and reach our destination!” said Chad Kremer, NBA President.

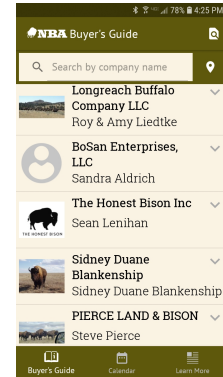
Over the past few months, the NBA has conducted a series of surveys of members, past members, and leadership to identify some key topics and concerns. Tara Kuipers of Tara Kuipers, L.L.C., will facilitate the session, which kicks off at 8 a.m. on Wednesday and

continues through noon Thursday.

NBA Buyer's Guide and Buysome Bison App Refresh – Please Update Your Profile

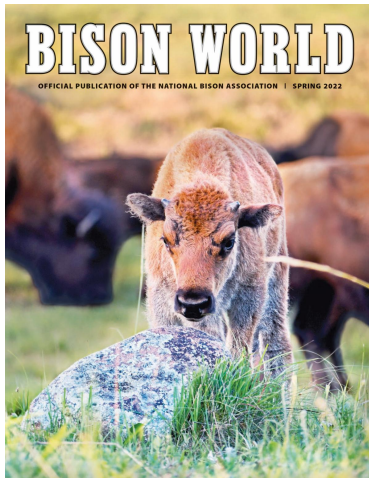
The NBA recently updated its online Buyer's Guide user interface in an effort to simplify the signup process for members. The NBA wants to further populate not only the buyer's guide, but also the corresponding Buysome Bison consumer app.

The NBA sends the many consumers that reach out to them in search of all things bison to the online Buyer's Guide and Buysome Bison app. Download the app at no charge on Android and Apple devices at [Buying Bison Meat - National Bison Association \(bisoncentral.com\)](https://bisoncentral.com/buying-bison-meat).



Listings on the Buysome Bison App is available exclusively to Active and Life members and is a great way to market your bison business to the general public. The app allows users to locate local bison using the map function, or view a master list of NBA members and their services.

Login at <https://bisoncentral.com/my-account/> to review your profile, upload your logo, business card, or photo, and update any new fields that are applicable to your business. Please send along any questions to jim@bisoncentral.com.



Advertising Opportunities in the Summer Issue of Bison World

Production is underway on the Summer issue of the Bison World magazine.

Within the pages of the Summer magazine, there are a variety of advertising options available, from 1/8 page to full page. Lifetime and Active NBA members will enjoy discounted rates as part of their membership perks and contract holders will receive a 5% discount for pre-paid advertising. Karen can work with you to tailor an advertising campaign that fits your budget and targets your message!

The advertising space reservation deadline is Monday, April 11 with final materials being due by Monday, May 2. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time but will also be subjected to the same deadline for the Summer issue.

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

International Bison Conference Early Bird Registration Extension (From the Canadian Bison Association)

Recognizing that COVID guidelines and travel restrictions are relaxing, we wanted to ensure you have an opportunity to get the best prices to attend the IBC 2022.

The Early Bird Registration deadline has been extended to April 30.



- Full Conference Registration*: \$350.00 (Early Bird price until April 30, 2022); \$420.00 (Starting May 1, 2022)
- Full Conference Family Registration*: \$850.00 - Ticket includes admission for three persons (16+) in the same family

Includes access to all convention sessions and Tuesday reception, Wednesday Banquet and Thursday Banquet

And for even more excitement: All those registered by April 30 will be entered to win a \$500 package from Granted Sweater (Official Canadian Wildlife Federation - Bison Sweater - GSC (grantedclothing.com)!

Get all the details and register at bisonconvention2022.com.

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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Your voluntary contributions help support the ongoing mission of the National Bison Association. Marketing, outreach, promotion and teaching are just a few of the projects supported by donations to the Growth Fund. Any amount is welcome!

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Learn more at <https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-growth-fund-program/>

USDA to Provide Payments to Livestock Producers Impacted by Drought or Wildfire

The U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) this week announced that ranchers who have approved applications through the 2021 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) for forage losses due to severe drought or wildfire in 2021 will soon begin receiving emergency relief payments for increases in supplemental feed costs in 2021 through the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) new Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP).

"Producers of grazing livestock experienced catastrophic losses of available forage as well as higher costs for supplemental feed in 2021. Unfortunately, the conditions driving these losses have not improved for many and have even worsened for some, as drought spreads across the U.S.," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "In order to deliver much-needed assistance as efficiently as possible, phase one of the ELRP will use certain data from the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), allowing USDA to distribute payments within days to livestock producers."

ELRP Eligibility – Phase One

To be eligible for an ELRP payment under phase one of program delivery, livestock producers must have suffered grazing losses in a county rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor as having a D2 (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks or a D3 (extreme drought) or higher level of drought intensity during the 2021 calendar year, and have applied and been approved for 2021 LFP. Additionally, producers whose permitted grazing on federally managed lands was disallowed due to wildfire are also eligible for ELRP

payments, if they applied and were approved for 2021 LFP.

As part of FSA's efforts to streamline and simplify the delivery of ELRP phase one benefits, producers are not required to submit an application for payment; however, they must have the following forms on file with FSA within a subsequently announced deadline as determined by the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs:

- CCC-853, Livestock Forage Disaster Program Application
- Form AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet.
- Form CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan for an individual or legal entity.
- Form CCC-901, Member Information for Legal Entities (if applicable).
- Form FSA-510, Request for an Exception to the \$125,000 Payment Limitation for Certain Programs (if applicable).
- Form CCC-860, Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning and Veteran Farmer or Rancher Certification, if applicable, for the 2021 program year.
- A highly erodible land conservation (sometimes referred to as HELC) and wetland conservation certification (Form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification) for the ELRP producer and applicable affiliates.

[Read more.](#)

US Approves Bison Grazing on Montana Prairie Amid Criticism

(From Associated Press)

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — U.S. officials on Wednesday announced approval of a conservation group's proposal to expand bison grazing on prairies in north-central Montana as part of a vast nature reserve over objections from some ranchers and elected officials.

The decision allows the American Prairie group to graze bison on U.S. Bureau of Land Management property and to remove about 30 miles (48 kilometers) of fences so the animals can roam more freely.

The Bozeman-based group already has more than 800 bison on a mix of public and private land. Its long-term goal is to piece together a 5,000-square-mile (12,950-square-kilometer) expanse that would include the C.M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge and have thousands of bison and other wildlife.

Some cattle ranches have sold property to the group as it amasses land to create the reserve, but others have fiercely opposed the effort. The critics worry that bison will displace cattle and that their agriculture-dependent communities will be forever altered. Republicans including Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen and Gov. Greg Gianforte sharply criticized federal officials after American Prairie received preliminary approval for the reserve last August.

[Read more.](#)

Gov. Evers vetoes bill to hunt farm-raised bovids

(From WBAY)

MADISON, Wis. (AP) - Gov. Tony Evers has vetoed a bill that would have allowed hunting ranches to raise bovids. That's a term for cloven-hoofed mammals, including bison, buffalo, sheep, goats and antelopes.

Republicans who introduced the bill argued that many such animals are already being raised on Wisconsin game farms.

Evers vetoed the bill on Thursday, saying in his veto message that he objects to the increasing the number of non-native species that can be raised and hunted in captivity.

He said he supports fair-chase hunting.

[Source.](#)

Buffalo Jones, Bison Were Part of The Early History of Omaha's Benson Neighborhood

(From the York News-Times)

Robbers Roost, the First and Last Chance saloon and Buffalo Jones. What's their connection? All are part of the early history of Benson, the central Omaha neighborhood that was an independent town before Omaha annexed it in 1917.

Erastus Benson platted the Benson addition in 1887 along the Military Road leading west from downtown. That road was a supply route to western frontier forts and was laid out in 1857 following the ridges in Douglas County to the Elkhorn River crossing below present-day Elk City (then Elkhorn City, but that's for another column).

Military Avenue is the current name for the road and the terrain has changed little. Westbound travelers then and now encounter a steep descent toward Cole Creek. Robbers Roost was at the foot of the hill.

It was a "ranch," or roadhouse, one of many along the Military Road. There, one could get hay, water and stabling for his horses. The traveler could get lodging — and refreshment. Food and drink.

[Read more.](#)

Wild Bison, Taking Over Europe and North America, Will Once Again Roam England

(From Mongabay.com)

Each morning as the sun rises into the sky, ranger Donovan Wright stands on the outskirts of Blean Woods in the United Kingdom. The ancient woodland in southern England covers 509 hectares (1,257 acres) and is filled with broadleaf oak trees, birch and hazel. The former South African safari ranger of 20 years is welcomed by the chirping of native birds in the treetops. He might spy an inquisitive fox or rabbit darting through the undergrowth or find badger tracks dotted along the leaf-strewn pathways. Yet, as he walks deeper into the ancient woods, the atmosphere changes.

"It is surprisingly quiet," Wright told Mongabay. "If you look at an aerial view, you will go, 'Wow, it's so green and full of life.' But that richness and biodiversity is not there."

But soon a new animal, the biggest land mammal in Europe, will change everything. In May 2022, Wright and fellow ranger Tom Gibbs will be introducing a herd of European bison (*Bison bonasus*) into the primeval woods in a \$1.4 million project run by the Kent Wildlife Trust.

[Read more.](#)

EPA seeks members for its farm advisory committee

(From AgriPulse)

EPA is looking for members for its Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee, which advises the agency on environmental issues associated with agriculture.

The committee recently received a new charge from EPA Administrator Michael Regan "to

focus on advancing climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies for U.S. agriculture,” the agency said in asking for nominations by May 16.

Members may represent farmers, ranchers, and rural communities; allied industries, including farm groups, rural suppliers, marketers, and processors; academia and researchers; state, local, and tribal government; and nongovernmental organizations.

Montana Doubles its Processing Capacity

Meat processing in the state of Montana doubled from 2021 to 2022, according to a new report from the Montana Department of Livestock (DOL).

For fiscal year 2021, state-inspected processing facilities handled nearly 34,000 animals, while in fiscal year 2022, the number jumped to nearly 69,000.

Mike Honeycutt, the DOL’s executive officer, said the dramatic increase is “directly attributed to substantial investments that have been made in local processing, and greater consumer interest in buying local food.”

Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte added, in a statement: “We’ll continue to make targeted investments in local processing throughout the state to help Montana producers capture more of the tremendous value they create.”

Indeed, Sen. Jon Tester announced on March 17 that more than \$7.8 million in American Rescue Plan funds will help 17 meat processing projects in Montana, and on March 21, FSIS and Montana finalized a Cooperative Interstate Shipment agreement so that selected state-insured processors can now ship meat across state lines.

[Source.](#)

Minn. Bill Would Fund Secondary School Butcher Training

(From meatingplace.com)

A bill introduced in the Minnesota House of Representatives would appropriate \$1 million to fund education grants to secondary schools to provide instruction on meat-cutting and butchery.

The one-time appropriation would fund grants that would cover the costs of equipment required for a meat-cutting program, facility renovations to accommodate meat cutting, and training faculty.

The bill aims to address the shortage of workers in meat processing that became evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools with career and technical education programs would receive up to \$100,000 each, 10% of which could go to training faculty, according to news from the Minnesota House.

[Read more.](#)

Bipartisan bill would revive country of origin labeling for beef

(From meatingplace.com)

Congressmen Lance Gooden, R-Texas, and Ro Khanna, D-Calif., this week introduced legislation to require the U.S. Trade Representative to reinstate mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL) for imported beef.

The American Beef Labeling Act would require country of origin labels on beef purchased in grocery stores.

U.S. cattle ranchers are being undercut by foreign competition because current labeling

standards allow imported beef to be marked as made in the United States if it is only packaged here, Gooden said in a statement.

"Our trade policies should promote American-made beef and put the hard-working cattle ranchers in the United States first," he said.

American consumers should be able to make informed decisions about the meat they buy from labels at the store, said Khanna. "Right now, consumers and producers are hurting from a lack of transparency in the marketplace. I'm glad to partner with Rep. Gooden on this bipartisan bill to reinstate common-sense mandatory country of origin labeling," Khanna said.

The U.S. Cattlemen's Association and Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA) expressed support for the bill.

Congress repealed COOL in December 2015 after Canada and Mexico convinced the World Trade Organization that the rule discriminated against their livestock and violated international trade laws.

[Source.](#)

Coloradans celebrate Meat-In Day for second year

(From Meatingplace.com)

Colorado held its second annual Meat-In Day last weekend, with businesses offering discounts on beef and free hamburgers [in Grand County](#) and other locations.

The Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) is working with the non-profit [Beef Sticks for Backpacks](#) and contributing funds to distribute beef sticks statewide.

The group wants to help "end food insecurity in Colorado and support efforts to promote and protect agriculture and food production in our state, Steve Wooten, CCA's president, [told a](#) Fox News affiliate.

The now yearly event comes as part of a backlash to Colorado Gov. Jared Polis' championing of a statewide MeatOut Day a year ago to encourage less meat consumption.

After joining governors and mayors in 40 other states and cities in a national movement to encourage Americans to go meatless for a day, Polis [dismissed the criticism](#).

"We do hundreds of these proclamations. We'd love to have Colorado beef appreciation day," he told a news conference. "I would put my brisket against anybody's brisket in the state," he added.

[Read more.](#)

Plant-based food sales growth cools in 2021

(From Meatingplace.com)

New retail sales data from SPINS, released by the Good Food Institute and Plant Based Foods Association, shows that the U.S. retail plant-based food industry grew 6% in 2021 to \$7.4 billion, a slower pace than the year before.

In 2020, total U.S. retail plant-based food sales grew 27%, to \$7 billion.

Plant-based meat sales remained steady in 2021, with \$1.4 billion in sales. That compares to a growth rate of 45% in 2020.

Plant-based eggs were the fastest-growing plant-based category in 2021, with 42% dollar sales growth. Plant-based milk dollar sales grew by 4% to reach \$2.6 billion.

[Read more.](#)

USDA Extends to May 11 the Application Deadline for Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program Funding

(From USDA)

Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the Department is extending to May 11, 2022, the application deadline for the [Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program](#) (MPPEP), which provides funding to expand meat and poultry processing capacity.

The decision to extend the deadline comes after Rural Development heard directly from applicants about challenges with System for Award Management (SAM) registration, which must be completed prior to filing an application.

“Strengthening our food supply chain is a top priority of the Biden-Harris Administration,” Vilsack said. “The new deadline should ensure that all interested and eligible meat and poultry processors have ample time to complete their applications.”

Background: MPPEP

USDA Rural Development is making \$150 million of American Rescue Plan Act funding available through the MPPEP. USDA is offering grants of up to \$25 million each to expand processing capacity through a variety of activities, including but not limited to construction, expansion of existing facilities, and acquisition of equipment.

USDA encourages applications that benefit smaller farms and ranches, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, Tribes and tribal producers, socially disadvantaged producers, military veteran producers and underserved communities.

For additional information, applicants are encouraged to visit the MPPEP website: www.rd.usda.gov/mppep. Questions may be submitted through the website or sent to MPPEP@usda.gov.

All application materials can be found at www.rd.usda.gov/mppep or at www.Grants.gov. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 11, 2022, through www.Grants.gov.

[Read more.](#)



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Save the Date!

- 4/08/2022 - Illinois/Indiana Bison Association Spring Meeting - IN
- 4/21/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online

- 5/26/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 6/03/2022 - Texas Bison Association Spring Conference - CO
- 7/12/2022 - International Bison Conference - Saskatoon, SK
- 7/18/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - OK
- 11/9/2022 - Antelope Island State Park Bison Auction - UT
- 11/14/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - OK

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 | [@nationalbison](https://bisoncentral.com)

