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Weekly Update



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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 14, 2023

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.

Earth Day Coming up Saturday, April 22, 2023

With snow still on the ground in quite a few states, it's hard to believe that Earth Day is almost here!

We encourage members to gear up and showcase bison as the clean, regenerative protein choice. Why? Bison are Regenerative by Nature- and we've trademarked the term and the logo for you to use in your own [marketing!](#)



Regenerative agriculture practices increase soil biodiversity and organic matter, leading to more resilient soils that can better withstand climate change impacts like flooding and drought. Healthy soils promote the growth and health of the bison that graze on those plants and grasses, while restoring important carbon-capturing grasslands in the process. This is regenerative agriculture in a nutshell and bison are nature's perfect fit for this approach to sustainable agriculture. The bison's regenerative behavior can be attributed to their evolution on the North American continent over thousands of years and their resulting grazing behavior, which remains intact today as bison have never been domesticated.

Our members are the bison stewards that utilize these innate instincts to their advantage, while, in turn, restoring the species to its native landscape to produce a supremely

nutrient-dense, low-fat, delicious protein.

Bison Research Published

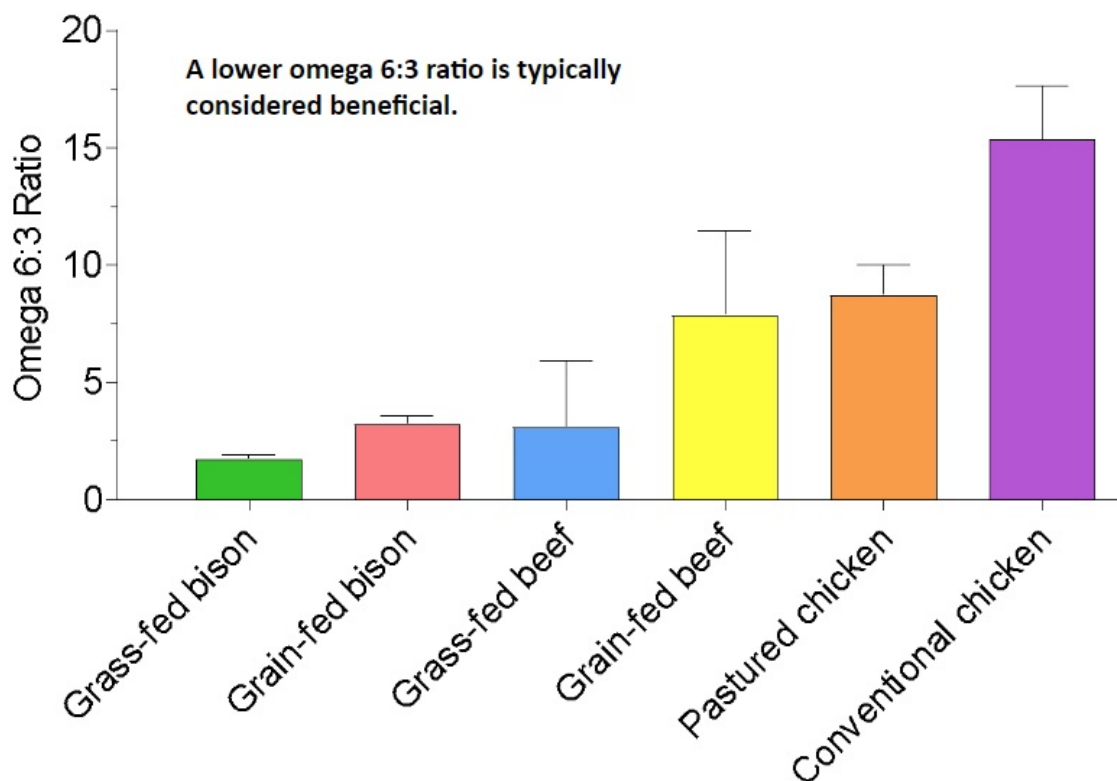
Dr. Stephan Van Vliet and Lydia O'Sullivan presented at the National Bison Association Winter Conference on the differences between grain-finished and grass-finished bison.

The final paper, "Pasture-finishing of bison improves animal metabolic health and potential health-promoting compounds in meat," was published in the *Journal of Animal Science and Biotechnology*. Click [here](#) to read the published article.

"We encourage our members to take time and read the findings from some great research by Dr. Van Vliet and colleagues. What stands out to me is that bison is a healthy protein source grass finished or grain finished. The different finishing methods result in different vitamins and chemicals in higher amounts. Not good, or bad, just different! Bison is proving yet again that it is healthy, nutrient-dense, and the perfect protein," said Lydia Whitman, Program Manager.

The National Bison Association is working with Dr. Van Vliet to create [marketing tools](#) for members to use that will feature these new findings.

Omega-3 fats



National Bison Association Invited to Indian Agriculture Summit

The National Bison Association has been invited as a guest to the Indian Agriculture Summit coming up in early summer in South Dakota, which NBA president, Chad Kremer, will attend and represent the association.

"You are receiving this invitation because your organization has been recognized as assisting agriculture and natural resource management in Indian Country," Darrel DuVall, Outreach Coordinator with USDA NRCS.

The National Bison Association values the longstanding friendship and collaboration with

the InterTribal Buffalo Council and associated groups. The two organizations collaborate to continue to restore bison herds across North America, and in the diets of the American people.

"We have a lot of strength being here together. Buffalo are what bring us all together. We appreciate the collaboration and understanding between our groups as we continue to collectively restore the bison species from its near extinction," said Kremer at the MOU signing ceremony in January 2023.

Bison Summer Job Opportunities

Several job opportunities have been advertised this week by National Bison Association Members. Share the word or get your resume ready!

National Buffalo Museum in Jamestown, North Dakota: Hiring part-time staff. To apply email Pat at shop@buffalomuseum.com

The Mammoth Site in Hot Springs, South Dakota: Hiring Interpreter I, Interpreter II, Bistro Supervisor. Learn more at their website: www.mammothsite.org/hiring.

Remote Wilderness Alaska: A member is seeking ranch hands to prep for bison set for March 2024 arrival. Text 832-953-8895 if interested. Full ad on the [NBA Trading Board](#).

The Trading Board is a great way to get the news out, with information emailed out to membership, posted on the NBA Facebook Member's Only Group, and live on the website. NBA members can advertise for on \$100. Non-member rate is \$250. [Click](#) to purchase and create your Trading Board Ad.

Bison Events Calendar

Do you have an upcoming buffalo-related event that you would like to include on our Bison Events Calendar on www.bisoncentral.com and at in the Weekly Update?

Click [here](#) to submit your event information!

The National Bison Association connects with producers and consumers alike across multiple social media platforms. Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/nationalbison>! Make sure you "like" the NBA and share the great content across your feeds.

Instagram: @nationalbison

LinkedIn: National Bison Association

YouTube: @nationalbisonassociation3992

Facebook: @nationalbison

Join the Official National Bison Association Members Group- just Facebook message Lydia Whitman or Jim Matheson to get added.

◆ NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION PRESENTS ◆

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Scan QR Code to purchase raffle tickets today!

Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase raffle tickets; all values are approximate; raffle begins April 1, 2023 at 8:00 am MST and ends October 1, 2023 at 11:59 pm MST; drawing will be held via Facebook Live on October 2, 2023 at 12:00 pm MST on Facebook Live; winner will also be contacted directly.

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.

A small group of bison has been maintained in Sulphur for nearly 100 years. Last week, the herd was moved to a new pasture for the first time.

On a cool spring morning at the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, park ranger Megan Wilkins said there's no telling how long the day's work will take. It all depends on how cooperative 10 giant land mammals are feeling on this particular morning.

Luckily, most of the National Park Service's smallest herd of bison are feeling cooperative. Nine of them are loaded onto a trailer, taken across the recreation area, and unloaded into their new pasture in about an hour. The more stubborn bison will join her herd when she's ready.

It's the first time the herd has been moved since 1934, when the first group of bison was brought to what was then called Platt National Park.

Wilkins said over the years, woody overgrowth has begun to take over the original pasture. Since the bison can't graze on that, the park rangers needed to find them somewhere new. They settled on a 42-acre plot of land on the other side of the recreation area.

"The new pasture's like half the size of the old one, but it's got more grass for them to graze on. So we'll be able to get into that old pasture and start doing some prairie restoration work and get some more grass growing in there," Wilkins said.

This move was several years in the making. Plans started in 2016, but the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the bureaucratic processes needed to approve the project. Wilkins said the most recent setback was also due to unforeseen circumstances.

[Read more.](#)

Bison Herd Coming to Grand Portage as Food Sovereignty Effort Continues

From North Shore Community Radio (MN)

Bison will be brought to the Grand Portage Reservation this week, part of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's continued effort to create a healthy, affordable and local food option for the community.

The Grand Portage Environmental Department has been working toward the creation of a bison ranch within the reservation for more than a decade. The bison are scheduled to arrive to Grand Portage on Tuesday, April 11.

"The Bizhikiwag project has been in the works for several years, we're very excited that the day has finally arrived," Tribal Chair Bobby Deschampe told WTIP April 10. "This will be the start of a sustainable healthy food source for our community."

In 2010, several meetings with the Grand Portage Tribal Council and the Grand Portage Trust Lands office indicated a positive interest in developing a bison ranching project in Grand Portage, according to a document titled "Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa: Creative Solutions for a Changing Environment."

Subsequently, the Grand Portage Environmental Department submitted a proposal for a grant to help fund startup of the bison ranching project. The bison arriving April 11 will be kept at the Grand Portage Bizhiki Ranch on Old Highway 61. They will be kept inside the ranch with an electric fence. Cameras will be on site for added security, according to tribal officials.

[Read more.](#)

Scientists are Trying to Clone the Extinct Siberian Bison

From ExtremeTech

When a group of locals in the Verkhoyansk District of Russia's Sakha Republic stumbled upon part of an 8,000-year-old Siberian bison carcass last year, it was like winning the lottery: The extinct animal's head, forelimbs, and chest were well-preserved in the Arctic Circle's permafrost. Now scientists at Russia's North-Eastern Federal University (NEFU) are capitalizing on that find by attempting to resurrect the species via cloning.

After taking microbiological, histological, and radiocarbon samples from the carcass, NEFU partnered with researchers at the UAE Biotechnology Research Foundation in Abu Dhabi to extract the bison's DNA. They hope that samples from the animal's brain, muscles, skin, and wool will contain enough genetic information to facilitate the cloning process, which would entail transferring Siberian bison DNA into an "empty" egg and implanting the egg into a surrogate.

[Read more here.](#)

'One in a million' white bison born in Southern Utah

From The St. George News

ST. GEORGE — Southern Utah welcomed a "one in a million" white bison calf to the Zion White Bison Resort and Zion Nature Park.

The female calf was born on March 31 at 7 p.m. to the resort's 5-year-old female bison, Marshmallow, and BraveHeart, a 4-year-old white bull.

"A white bison is a rare animal that is revered and held sacred to Native American tribes," McKell Davis, a spokeswoman for the resort, told St. George News. "If that happened, they had a ceremony; it was this very special thing."

Davis said her online research shows the birth of a white bison happens in only "one in a million" births. The name for the calf has yet to be chosen.

When the resort initially opened in September 2021, it was called Weeping Buffalo Resort and had brown bison. But after the owner brought in a white bison and heard from local Native Americans that the white bison was sacred, he decided to bring in Marshmallow, BraveHeart and the newborn calf's grandmother Ghost, an 8-year-old white bison.

[Read more.](#)

'One in a million' white bison born in Southern Utah

From The St. George News

SOUTH PARK, Pa. (KDKA) — There's a new arrival at the South Park Game Preserve.

Allegheny County Parks says at the beginning of the month, they welcomed a new baby bison.

They're encouraging everyone to join in on the fun by visiting the reserve and snapping some pics.

Bison have been roaming at the South Park Game Preserve since the 1920s.

South Park encompasses over 2,000 acres in Bethel Park and South Park Township.

[Read more.](#)

Livestock Identification Bill Signed Into Law (WA)

From Columbia Basin Herald

OLYMPIA - Thursday, a bill sponsored by Sen. Judy Warnick (R-Moses Lake) was signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee, coincidentally on Beef Day at the Capitol.

"It was almost like somebody planned that," said Warnick. "The Governor mentioned that when he signed the bill; he said 'And it's Beef Day today.'"

The purpose of Senate Bill 5439 is to support livestock identification efforts. The legislation will remove fees and make other sustainability improvements to the program by removing the \$20 call-out fee for inspections performed by veterinarians or field livestock inspectors and moving the required annual report date from September to November.

It passed both the state House and Senate unanimously this session. Its effective date July 23 of this year.

[Read more.](#)

Biden Makes Decision on WOTUS Resolution Veto

From Meating Place

President Joe Biden elected Thursday to veto a bi-partisan resolution to overturn his administration's Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule.

The bipartisan resolution, which was introduced by Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), passed with a vote of 53-43 on March 29.

"I just vetoed a bill that attempted to block our Administration from protecting our nation's waterways — a resource millions of Americans depend on — from destruction and pollution," the president [wrote in a tweet](#) on Thursday. "Let me be clear: Every American has a right to clean water. This veto protects that right."

Last week, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell publicly sided with resolution, and issued a statement saying, "If the President vetoes it, Americans will need to hope the Supreme Court makes it clear that these EPA bureaucrats are way outside the authority that Congress actually provided in the Clean Water Act."

In March, a federal judge [halted the WOTUS rule in Texas and Idaho](#) a day before the ruling went into effect.

[Read More.](#)

North Dakota court halts WOTUS rule in South Dakota, 23 other states

From The Argus Leader

A federal court is blocking the Biden Administration's Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, halting interpretations of what constitutes a body of water for South Dakota and 23 other states.

On Wednesday, the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota issued a preliminary injunction against the new rule, which interprets definitions for U.S. waters consistent with definitions set during the Obama administration, according to the EPA. "The agencies are reviewing the decision and their options. The agencies continue to believe the rule ... is the best interpretation of the Clean Water Act," EPA told the Argus Leader in an e-mail.

The injunction stems from pressure by attorneys general from 24 states, including South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley, who jointly filed a lawsuit against the EPA and USACE in February. Idaho and Texas were previously granted an injunction in March, according to the Associated Press.

"Today's ruling is a tremendous win for our farmers and ranchers and for the premise that the States are better positioned than a distant Washington to protect the environment within our own State," Jackley said in a statement.

[Read more.](#)

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Brucellosis and Bovine Tuberculosis: Importation of Cattle and Bison

From The Federal Register

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Docket No. APHIS-2023-0025

Notice of Request for Extension of Approval of an Information Collection; Brucellosis and Bovine Tuberculosis: Importation of Cattle and Bison

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Extension of approval of an information collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's intention to request an extension of approval of an information collection associated with the regulations governing importation of cattle and bison, specifically with regard to classification of regions at designated status levels for bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis, and establishing conditions for the importation of cattle and bison from regions with the various classifications.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before May 30, 2023.

Full text: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-03-31/html/2023-06720.htm>

Register Today for a Free Webinar on the ERP 2 Application

From USDA Farmers Gov Delivery

The Emergency Relief Program Phase 2 (ERP 2) is a revenue-based program that relies on tax and financial records instead of the production history FSA programs usually require. Join USDA and members of the National Farm Income Tax Extension Committee for a discussion on completing the ERP 2 application form and guidance on where advanced tax and accounting knowledge may be required. Join us for this free webinar:

USDA Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) presents the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) Phase 2 Application

Monday, May 1, 2023, 2pm Eastern

[Register here.](#)

Value-Added Producer Grant Program

From USDA

Electronic applications are due May 11, 2023, and paper applications are due May 16, 2023.

USDA's Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers enter value-added activities to generate new products, create and expand marketing

opportunities, and increase producer income.

Independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer- or rancher-cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures can apply for matching planning grants up to \$75,000 or matching working capital grants up to \$250,000.

Priority is offered for beginning, small, and socially disadvantaged producers, among others.

[Read more.](#)

farm crisis center

Even in the best of times, farming can be an incredibly high-stress occupation. Unpredictable weather, crop disease, volatile markets, heavy workloads, and social isolation are just a handful of the challenges that farmers may face.

These conditions force many family farmers and ranchers to make tough financial decisions that will impact their families, communities, and the entire country.

National Farmers Union compiled resources to help farmers through stressful times. Find them at:

<https://farmcrisis.nfu.org/>

National Suicide Hotline - 800-273-TALK (8255)



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Save the Date!

- 4/27/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 5/25/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 6/10/2023 - Texas Bison Assn. Spring Conference - Waco, TX
- 6/17/2023 - Montana Bison Association Summer Meeting - MT

- 6/17/2023 - NBA Regional Conference - Rapid City, SD
- 6/21/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 6/24/2023 - NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day - Thornville, OH
- 7/09/2023 - NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day - Sleepy Eye, MN
- 7/15/2023 - NBA Regional Conference - New Plymouth, ID
- 8/9/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 9/13/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 9/30/2023 - NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day - Baldwin, WI
- 10/7/2023 - NBA Regional Conference - Terra Alta, WV
- 10/13/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 11/8/2023 - Antelope Island State Park Production Auction - Webcast
- 11/10/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 12/6/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 1/1/2024 - Prairie Legends Bison Auction - Webcast

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

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