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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 21, 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.

NBA Summer and Fall Regional Conference Registrations Now Open, Agendas Available

The National Bison Association is pleased to announce that our summer and fall conference registration has now opened! We have six events in total lined up between June and October across the United States as we work to bring our summer events closer to members. Come to one, come to all of them! Each agenda and conference is unique and features expert speakers that is sure to benefit each and every attendee. We are also keeping these conferences focused as to allow for a shorter event that won't keep you away from the busy summer season on your farm or ranch, which is in turn keeping registration fees reasonable.

Get all event details including full conference agendas at <https://bisoncentral.com/nba-conferences/>, and register online at <https://bisoncentral.com/nba-2023-events/>. Please mark your calendars and we hope to see you at one or more of these great events!

First up - June Events!

June 16 - 17 - [NBA Northern Summer Conference](#) - 777 Ranch - South Dakota

June 24 - [Regenerative Ranching Field Day](#) - Cherokee Bison Ranch - Ohio



NBA

2023 SUMMER/FALL EVENTS

JUNE

JUNE 17TH - REGION 3: 777 RANCH - SD

JUNE 24TH - REGION 7: CHEROKEE VALLEY RANCH - OH

JULY

JULY 9TH - REGION 5: SLEEPY BISON RANCH - MN

JULY 15TH - REGION 1: SHOEMAKER BISON RANCH - ID

SEPTEMBER

SEPT. 30TH - REGION 5: DOUBLE J BISON RANCH - WI

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 7TH - REGION 8: RIFFLE FARMS - WV

National Bison Association Regions



MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

WWW.BISONCENTRAL.COM/NBA-

CONFERENCES/



Celebrate Earth Day with Bison: Good for the earth and good for you!

The National Bison Association is encouraging consumers to claim bison as their clean, regenerative protein choice. Why? Because bison are "Regenerative by Nature". This is exemplified by the results of Kansas State University's published findings of over 30 years of research on bison's impact on the Konza Grasslands Biological Station in Kansas are clear: America's grasslands benefit ecologically with bison!



"Bison are the native tool for soil health regeneration in North America. Their presence on grasslands and rangelands help revitalize biodiversity and organic matter, leading to more resilient soils that can better withstand climate change impacts like flooding and drought. More robust soils lead to stronger plant growth, restoring important carbon-capturing grasslands in the process. 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," shares Jim Matheson, Executive Director of the National Bison Association.

"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," commented Chad Kremer, President of the National Bison Association.

Together we are helping to restore healthy bison to healthy American landscapes. And that's no small feat. Roughly 135 years ago, only about 750 bison remained from herds that once numbered as high as 40 million. Thanks to people like you, nearly 400,000 bison have been restored to North America, and YOU are a vital partner in that endeavor.

The National Bison Association represents nearly 1,200 bison ranchers, marketers and enthusiasts. The vision of the NBA is a community bound by the heritage of the American Bison. The mission of the National Bison Association is to bring together stakeholders to celebrate the heritage of American bison, to educate, and to create a sustainable future for our industry. More information on the association can be found at www.bisoncentral.com.



New NBA Merch Coming Soon! Hoodies, Hats, T-Shirts and More!

Production of updated National Bison Association gear and marketing materials is in full swing. We are excited to offer some great options! Here is a little sneak peak of what is coming, which will be available at <https://bisoncentral.com/bison-store/> soon.



NBA Legislative/Regulatory Committee Holds Inaugural Meeting

Monday at high noon, central time at least, eight NBA members from across the United States convened the inaugural legislative and regulatory committee meeting. The Legislative and Regulatory Committee will serve as an advisory committee to the NBA Board of Directors and provide input and utilize contacts for moving and addressing legislative and regulatory needs that impact the bison industry.

While the National Bison Association focuses on national regulatory and legislative issues, there is an increasing need for more regionalized advisement for state and regional associations, which this committee would assist with. The committee will meet quarterly depending on need and explore issues to bring to the board as needed.

"We are excited for the knowledge and insight these members will provide to support the monitoring of legislative and regulatory issues related to the bison species and the needs of the membership," said Jim Matheson, Executive Director.

The chairman of this committee is NBA Region 5 Director Adam Ulbricht - MN. Other members include Chris Bechtold - MT, Donnis Baggett - TX, Sidney Tay Tse - CO, Liz Riffle - WV, Dick Gehring - KS, and Chad Kremer - SD.

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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.

COMMERCE CITY, Colo. (KDVR) — Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge welcomed the first baby bison of the season.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife explained that a bison calf is called a “red dog,” and this one was spotted last weekend.

“If you visit the refuge this spring (or any time), view wildlife from a distance and give red dogs and their moms the space they need,” a tweet from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife said.

[Read more.](#)

Where did today's bison come from?

By Rae Yost
SiouxlandProud.com

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (KELO) — The thousands of bison that roam state and federal land in the Upper Midwest are a far cry from the millions that once inhabited the plains 200 years ago.

But, today’s bison are linked to those ancestors in an organized effort to preserve the animals. The preservation for today’s herds started in zoos or in private herds in the U.S.

Zoos such as the Bronx Zoo preserved bison in the late 1880s and early 1900s.

Ranchers were also key in the preservation of bison.

[Read more.](#)

Temperature, drought influencing movement of Plains bison

From Nebraska Today

It epitomizes the Great Plains in spirit and in form: a 2,000-pound tank on hooves, cloaked in shaggy winter-tested coat, capped by horns acting as warning and weapon. Even its scientific name, *Bison bison*, seems to conjure an echo worthy of its majesty. Still, the implacable profile of the Plains bison — the national mammal of the United States and largest on the continent — belies the vulnerability in its history, which saw its legions decimated from tens of millions to just a few hundred in the span of a few colonial centuries.

Conservation efforts have pushed its number back to roughly 20,000, and its status from endangered to near-threatened. [But a recent study led by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Nic McMillan](#) hints that the ongoing conservation of the Plains bison will demand accounting for the climate — especially the number of scorching days and powdery landscapes — it encounters moving forward.

McMillan and colleagues at Oklahoma State University have found GPS-backed evidence that temperature and extreme drought can drive movement among herds of Plains bison. Continued increases in both, combined with the fact that most bison herds are now confined to fractions of the land they once roamed, could pose challenges to managing the iconic species, McMillan said.

“When we think about reintroducing bison or any large animal to a landscape, the landscape that the animal is inhabiting is potentially a lot smaller than it was historically,” said McMillan, assistant professor of agronomy and horticulture at Nebraska. “In 1491, if there was a drought in northeastern Montana, the bison had the entire Great Plains to escape that drought. They could move as far as they needed to.

[Read more.](#)

Texas Dairy Explosion: What caused fire in South Fork Dairy farm this week, how many cows died, what happened? [edited]

By Alex Nelson, Nationalworld.com

April 14, 2023- The deadliest barn fire in American history has claimed the lives of more than 18,000 cows after an explosion and fire at a family dairy farm in west Texas. According to pictures and statements from the Castro County Sheriff's Office, firefighters managed to save one employee from the South Fork Dairy in Dimmitt on Monday (10 April) as flames tore through a building and into holding pens.

The Castro County Sheriff's Office said a report of a fire at the farm was made at approximately 7.21pm on Monday (12.21am GMT Tuesday). Its photos show a massive column of black smoke rising from the scene. One trapped person had to be rescued and rushed to hospital in a critical condition when police and emergency workers arrived on the scene.

Sheriff Sal Rivera told local news outlet KFDA that the majority of the cattle had been lost after the fire spread to an area in which the animals were kept before being transported to a milking station and then a holding pen.

Though the cause of the fire is yet to be confirmed, authorities believe that the facility's machinery may have set methane gas ablaze. Rivera said a "honey badger" - a machine which he described as a "vacuum that sucks the manure and water out" - may have been the cause.

[Read more.](#)

Kansas Beef Cattle Ranchers Scavenging for Feed Sources Amongst Droughtansas

From KSN-NBC

WICHITA, Kan. (KSNW) - In a typical year, green pastures would be flourishing throughout Kansas. But the ongoing drought has left dry grounds for beef cattle to graze. The issue hits western Kansas the hardest, where the U.S. Drought Monitor lists exceptionally dry conditions. The pastures do not contain enough proteins to maintain healthy cows.

"We're getting into a situation where producers will be looking into some other feeding options, they may not be able to turn out cattle onto some of those pastures, or really needing to delay turning out onto those pastures," said Kansas State University Extension Beef Cattle Expert Justin Wagner.

With tons of ranchers searching for hay and failed milo to source as feed, shortages are now an issue.

"It was very difficult to find forage bales to feed our cattle this year," said Annette Grusing, a beef cattle rancher in Kendall, Kansas.

The prices of the forage are also much higher than usual.

"Right now, a ton of cake is anywhere from four to six hundred dollars. And that adds up when you're feeding two pounds every other day or every day per cow, that dwindles it down very rapidly," explained Grusing.

[Read more.](#)

USDA Announces Grassland Conservation Reserve Program Signup for 2023

WASHINGTON, April 17, 2023 The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin signing up for the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) starting today and running through May 26, 2023. Among CRP enrollment opportunities, Grassland CRP is a unique working lands program, allowing producers and landowners to continue grazing and haying practices while conserving grasslands and promoting plant and animal biodiversity as well as healthier soil.

"Grassland CRP clearly demonstrates that agricultural productivity and conservation priorities can not only coexist but also complement and enhance one another," said Zach Ducheneaux, Administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). "The strength of this program lies in its many benefits - through annual rental payments, the program helps producers and landowners produce and maintain diverse wildlife habitat, sequester carbon in the soil, and support sound, sustainable grazing. These benefits help keep agricultural lands in production while delivering lasting climate outcomes."

More than 3.1 million acres were accepted through the 2022 Grassland CRP signup from agricultural producers and private landowners. That signup "the highest ever for the program" reflects the continued success and value of investments in voluntary, producer-led, working lands conservation programs. The current total participation in Grassland CRP is 6.3 million acres, which is part of the 23 million acres enrolled in CRP opportunities overall.

[Read more.](#)

USDA Takes Steps to Prevent Illegal Child Labor in Food Supply Chain

From National Hog Farmer

April 17, 2023 - Since 2018, the U.S. Department of Labor has seen a 69% increase in children being employed illegally by companies. In the last fiscal year, the department found 835 companies it investigated had employed more than 3,800 children in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

In February, DOL announced that one of the nation's largest sanitation services providers for food processors had employed at least 102 children in hazardous occupations and had them working overnight shifts at 13 meat processing facilities owned by nine different companies. While this issue is not unique to the food industry, it cannot be ignored that it is a problem, and USDA is standing with our federal partners to combat it.

That is why today [April 17] USDA is sending a letter to the 18 largest meat and poultry processors, representing approximately 70% of meat and poultry production by volume, and requesting that all actors in the food supply chain take important precautionary steps to prevent or eliminate illegal child labor. These steps include determining whether illegal child labor is being used anywhere in their supply chain, including strong language in contracts, and adopting standards that will better guard against the use of illegal child labor.

[Full Text](#)

Congress Votes on Biden's Veto of WOTUS Resolution

From Meating Place

The U.S. House of Representatives failed to override President Joe Biden's veto on a resolution that would have blocked the administration's new Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) regulation, which expands the waters and wetlands that can be governed under the federal Clean Water Act.

The House fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to overturn the veto, with a vote

of 227-196, including all but one of the Republicans present and 10 Democrats in favor. The Senate passed a resolution to overturn the WOTUS ruling earlier this month, but was met with the presidential veto a week later.

While the executive and legislative branches have weighed in, battles are ongoing in the judicial branch. Earlier this month, a North Dakota Federal judge granted a preliminary injunction to halt the "Waters of the U.S." (WOTUS) rule from taking effect in 24 states. In March, a Texas judge halted the ruling taking place in Texas and Idaho, making the ruling inactive in more than half the country.

Both judges said the states would likely prevail on the merits of the case, and would face a "substantial threat" that they would suffer "irreparable injury" without an injunction.

[Read More.](#)

USDA Announces Funding Availability to Expand Meat and Poultry Processing Options for Underserved Producers and Tribal Communities

USDA-Rural Development News Release

WASHINGTON, April 19, 2023 - Today, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the availability of up to \$125 million through two new grant programs that will create more options for meat and poultry farmers by investing in independent, local meat and poultry processing projects that increase competition and enhance the resiliency of the food supply chain.

These new grant programs, the Indigenous Animals Harvesting and Meat Processing Grant Program and the Local Meat Capacity Grant Program, are part of the broader \$1 billion American Rescue Plan investment by the Biden-Harris Administration to expand processing capacity for small and midsized meat and poultry processors.

"This is the latest step in USDA's transformational work to fill gaps and help small and underserved producers market their products, support thriving local and regional food systems by investing in processing capacity that's closer to farms, and alleviate major bottlenecks in food and agricultural supply chains," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Importantly, we're also taking steps to increase the overall availability of protein from indigenous animals like bison, reindeer and salmon, which have been the backbone of tribal food systems for generations."

The Local Meat Capacity Grants will fund both expansion and equipment-only projects through a competitive grant process. USDA encourages applicants to engage with livestock producers, especially small and underserved ranchers.

More information is available on the Agricultural Marketing Service's Local [MCAp webpage](#). Applications will be accepted through July 19, 2023.

[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
- 9/29/2023 - Eastern Bison Association Fall Conference - Varysburg, NY
- 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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