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NBA Weekly Update for April 22, 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.

Earth Day and the American Bison – A Perfect, Regenerative Fit

Westminster, CO (April 22, 2022) - On this 2022 Earth Day, as we celebrate Mother Earth and her natural majesty, the National Bison Association encourages consumers to claim bison as their clean, regenerative protein choice. Why? Because bison are “Regenerative by Nature”.™



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.

Today's bison stewards 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. As such, the National Bison Association provides a very holistic approach to herd management in its education and outreach to livestock stewards who are increasingly choosing bison to graze their pastures, and which has proven to be a profitable agricultural endeavor with bison producers in every state today.

Did you know that bison are raised without growth hormones or antibiotics and are not subjected to industrial livestock practices including artificial insemination, castration, dehorning, and branding? Further, when you purchase bison meat, you become a “Partner in Restoration”, 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 —as a bison customer—are a vital partner in that endeavor.

Learn more at www.bisoncentral.com.

NBA Receives Grant to Facilitate Regenerative Field Days



Sustainable Agriculture
Research and Education

Westminster, CO (April 21, 2022) – The National Bison Association (NBA) is kicking off its partnership with the North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCSARE) center at the University of Minnesota this month. The NBA will be working with NCSARE to facilitate two years' worth of bison field day workshops exhibiting holistic and regenerative management at working bison operations across the upper Midwest.

The funded project, the National Bison North Central Regenerative Ranching Workshop Series, will be facilitated in the summers of 2022 and 2023 and will feature six one-day workshops on bison farms and ranches in the states of IL, MN, ND, OH, SD, and WI. The field days will also include expert speakers offering first-hand knowledge on properly managing bison grazing and handling to maximize their regenerative potential as a livestock species.

The 2022 field days have been confirmed and scheduled as follows:

- June 18 – Heartland Bison Ranch – Rugby, ND
- September 10 – Antelope Creek Bison – Mission, SD
- October – date TBD - Ruhter Bison Ranch – McHenry County, IL

Bison have evolved in concert with North American grasslands for over 200,000 years. As a keystone species in the region, and when managed properly, have the potential to maintain soil health and fertility, and improve carbon sequestration through the expansion of grasslands, all the while providing a valuable livestock component to working farms and ranches across the upper Midwest.

The bison operations hosting the events encompass everything from cow-calf operations, gate-to-plate and direct marketing, to agritourism-focused farms and ranches. These operations exhibit a wide range of successful bison businesses across the North Central region. This area features the largest bison-producing states in the world, according to the most recent USDA Ag Census.

Registration will open soon at www.bisoncentral.com.

The National Bison Association is a not-for-profit trade organization that serves nearly 1,200 members across North America and beyond. Our members consist of bison farmers, ranchers, processors, marketers, conservationists, tribal groups, and the general bison-loving public and serves as an umbrella organization for all things bison.

Happy Earth Day!

It's the perfect day to support the Growth Fund, You can protect the animal and planet we love by donating today. DONATE AT - <https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-growth-fund-program/>



Photo Credit: Justin Roemer

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](https://www.grantedclothing.com/))!)

Get all the details and register at bisonconvention2022.com.



QUINN MICHAEL KAHRIG

Quinn Michael Kahrig, age 40, of Jerusalem, passed away, Wednesday April 13, 2022, as the result of a motorcycle accident south of Barnesville.

He was born May 4, 1981, in Wheeling, West Virginia, a son of Tod and Thalia (Crum) Kahrig of Miltonsburg.

Quinn worked construction for most of his career as a survey crew party chief, but his lifelong dream was to be a full-time bison farmer so he wouldn't have to travel for work. He started Kahrig Bison Ranch (KBR) in 2012 with just a few bison and proudly grew his herd to more than 50. He worked to establish a

solid customer base for KBR and was able to quit construction and become a full-time farmer in May 2021. He spent his Saturday's selling meat at the Marietta Farmer's Market. He was never happier than this past year being able to stay close to home and have more time to spend with his son Nash and his family.

Quinn's greatest passions in life were spending time with his son, Nash and his family and being outdoors. He loved farming, taking care of his bison ranch and the Crum farm, feeding his animals, and riding his Harley. He enjoyed camping, having many campfires with his family, and loved being the master griller (his bison burgers were awesome!).

He was a member of the National Bison Association, the Eastern Bison Association, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the Beallsville American Legion Riders.

He will be dearly missed but never forgotten by all his family members and friends who loved him.

Read [more](#).

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.

HELP US BUILD A STRONGER BISON MARKETPLACE



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!

DONATE NOW!

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

The impact climate change is having on the size of American bison

(From Today)

After reaching the brink of extinction, there are now half a million bison in North America – but now there are signs of trouble where the buffalo roam. In the latest installment of TODAY's Climate, NBC's Kerry Sanders reports on the efforts to save the iconic animals as their habitats face droughts. See the video [here](#).



West Virginia farmer releases bison cookbook

(From WSAZ)

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. (WSAZ) - Riffle Farms raises grass-fed and finished bison tucked in the hills of Preston County, where the grasses are cool and the snow is heavy.

The Riffles believe in resilient, regenerative agriculture and community stewardship. Liz is an animal lover first and foremost, and an agent for the natural community.

She grew up as an equestrian, took lessons and trained horses across the county while working as an active duty U.S. Navy Nurse Corps nurse.

There is no shortage of work ethic for this one! She is committed to honest meat and changing the current meat processing system our Nation relies on.

See the interview featuring NBA Region VIII Director, Liz Riffle at <https://www.wsaz.com/2022/04/18/west-virginia-farmer-releases-bison-cookbook/>.

A tiny adversary threatens efforts to restore America's national mammal

(From Denver 7)

STRASBURG, Colo. — Dave Carter makes it known that his job goes beyond raising his 300 animals – he's in it to build back a symbol of America.

Just about anybody in this business will tell you, "the best thing is the animals, the second best thing is the people," Carter said.

He not only raises bison but just left his post of 25 years as the leader of the National Bison Association.

Once dwindled down from 50 million to 750 animals, the number of bison today between ranching, tribal and national park herds is 500,000.

"At the heart of it is this magnificent animal that has been part of these ecosystems of North America for thousands of years and has helped build healthy grasslands and has helped sustain indigenous people through the years, and so I think it's kind of special. We all feel like we're part of that restoration story," he said.

However, the current chapter of that story is being written by a microscopic opponent threatening the very progress he and others like him have worked so hard to make.

"As bison producers, we want our animals to only have one bad day and we want those herds to be healthy, and when you see something like that and you're really powerless to do something about it, it's devastating," said Carter.

Read [more](#).

Dozens of Canada's wood bison moved to Alaska for long-term survival

(From Reuters)

Dozens of Canada's wood bison, who live in northern Alberta and are North America's largest land animals, have been moved to Alaska to establish conservation herds to ensure their long-term survival, the Canadian government said.

Canada has listed the wood bison as a threatened species since 2003. The population has been declining across their range and are at risk of becoming endangered, extirpated, or extinct if nothing is done to protect them, according to the Canadian government's website.

In January 2020, Canada determined that wood bison were "facing imminent threats to their recovery."

Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault announced on Thursday that 40 wood bison from Elk Island National Park in Alberta were safely translocated to Alaska. Wood bison have dark brown coats with long shaggy fur on their shoulders along with large humps on their backs.

Wood bison, larger than plains bison, once ranged the boreal regions of northwestern Canada and interior Alaska. In the early 1800s, the population may have been 168,000 in Canada, according to the Canadian government.

But habitat loss and other problems took a toll. By the late 1800s, there were only a few hundred left in Canada.

The Alaska wood bison restoration project had established a wild wood bison population in western Alaska in 2015, which is currently estimated at over 100.

Within Canada, wood bison are currently found in British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Read [more](#).

'Rebirth of a nation': Chippewa Cree Tribe welcomes first bison calf in 20 years

(From The Great Falls Tribune)

The Rocky Boy Buffalo Project announced on Monday the arrival of the first bison calf born on the reservation in "over two decades."

The calf was born around 3:49 p.m., and a video shows the newborn wobbling, standing and nursing. Bison calves typically weigh between 30 and 70 pounds at birth, according to [the Department of the Interior](#).

Jason Belcourt, the tribe's sustainability coordinator, said he was "extremely proud" of the teams of people that made the birth possible. Hundreds of Chippewa Cree tribal members celebrated the [return of 11 bison to tribal lands in October](#).

The American Prairie Reserve, a nonprofit that promotes conservation and public land access, donated six bison to the tribe, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes donated five. The Chippewa Cree Tribe's buffalo board cares for the animals.

"I hope this baby buffalo brings all the good things we asked for ... health, life, spirituality and all the good things this animal offers us," Belcourt said. "With this birth, we are witnessing the rebirth of a nation. Great stuff."

Read [more](#).

Tourist Approaches Bison In Yellowstone; Remarkably Does Not Get Killed, Trampled, Or Gored

(From 9 News)

Despite the numerous warnings, gorings, trappings and de-pantsings, some tourists still are not getting the message that wild animals should not be approached in Yellowstone nor anywhere else.

It still occurs, like clockwork, and this year's newly-christened tourist season is already producing plenty of social media content.

The latest entry, less than one week after the opening of the park's west gate near Cody, comes from Sean Swetter, a more intelligent tourist visiting Yellowstone from Clifford, Pennsylvania.

Swetter saw an individual approaching a bison on Thursday on a snowy pathway in the park.

Of course, Swetter started filming.

The tourist, equipped with a camera around his neck, approached the bison from the rear until he was mere feet from the wild animal. Yellowstone officials recommend people — at the minimum — stay at least 25 yards away from bison.

Read [more](#).

Yellowstone Bison Slaughter Fails Miserably, With Just 49 Killed

(From Newsweek)

A plan to slaughter 600 to 900 bison in Yellowstone National Park has fallen far short of its target, with just 49 killed.

In February, officials announced they would cull hundreds of the animals in an attempt to keep the park population at a manageable level. "Bison from Yellowstone don't have enough room to roam outside the park," the NPS said at the time. "As the population grows, more bison migrate. This migration can cause conflict. Safety concerns include property damage and disease transmission to cattle. Our goal is to preserve bison while addressing these concerns."

There are around 5,500 bison in Yellowstone, divided by two herds. The large animals were hunted to near extinction across North America in the 18th and 19th centuries, however conservation efforts launched in the 20th century have caused their numbers to increase significantly.

Yellowstone bison populations are now at the the highest level they have been since 1872, the Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported. As the animals continue to reproduce, officials undergo an annual cull to keep the population under control.

Read [more](#).

Officials prepare to welcome bison calves at Minneopa State

Park

(From KEYC)

MANKATO, Minn. (KEYC) — Officials at Minneopa State Park are on bison watch. Pretty soon, the park will be adding new little members to the bison family.

“It is always an exciting time for the public and an exciting time for us, as well, to see those first calves being born. So we have our location here and Blue Mounds State Park, which is also expecting calves. But none as of yet, we hope soon though,” said Todd Dailey, assistant manager at Minneopa State Park.

Park staff expects new calves to be born any day now, but they are giving visitors some advice on what not to do.

“What not to do would be to get out of your vehicle inside the Bison Range, especially once we start to see new calves born. The mothers are super protective of the calves,” Dailey added.

At Minneopa State Park, bison are free to roam around the 331 acres of bison range, while visitors can enjoy driving through the range to catch a glimpse of the animals. About 30-40 bison can live in the range.

“I fell in love with this park. Very blessed to be able to see this, especially coming from the city where it is not very common,” Tammy Locken said.

“I agree, it is beautiful here, what a wonderful day to spend some time here and go for a walk,” Amy Marx added.

Read [more](#).

Kansas lands a \$650 million plant to make vaccines and fight biological threats

(From KCUR.com)

MANHATTAN, Kansas - Kansas officials announced an agreement Monday to build a \$650 million biological manufacturing plant near Manhattan that will create 500 jobs.

The facility in Pottawatomie County will develop vaccines to help combat biological threats. In addition, it will provide other manufacturing and testing services.

Gov. Laura Kelly joined hundreds of people to announce the agreement Monday with Scorpion Biological Services. The plan is for the 500,000-square-foot plant to create hundreds of jobs within seven years.

Read [more](#).

USDA names eight to senior staff positions

(From Meatingplace.com)

USDA on Monday announced several key staff appointments at the agency. Dionne Toombs was named acting director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). With over a decade of USDA service, Toombs has significantly contributed to USDA's agricultural research, education, and extension services while serving in various leadership roles. Most recently, she was director of the Office of the Chief Scientist.

Deborah Swerdlow will serve as chief of staff for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. Swerdlow comes to USDA from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, where she most recently served as deputy director of state campaigns, leading advocacy efforts for federal policies that support people with low incomes and their families, including the

Alberto Gonzalez was appointed senior advisor for external engagement for the Food and Nutrition Service. Most recently, Gonzalez worked as a senior strategist for health policy at UnidosUS, where he worked on health and nutrition policy related to federal government programs.

Alison Hard will serve as senior policy advisor for the Food and Nutrition Service. Hard most recently worked on the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor as professional staff for Chairman Robert Scott.

In addition, Mary Beth Schultz was appointed USDA deputy general counsel, Jerry Chapin will serve as senior counselor in the Office of the General Counsel, Ny Whitaker was named director of scheduling and advance in the Office of the Secretary, and Leslie Weldon will become acting chief diversity and inclusion officer in the Office of the Secretary.

11 ag groups push USDA on gene-editing rule

(From Meatingplace.com)

Eleven agricultural organizations have sent a letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack urging USDA to move forward on a rule-making process that would modernize the regulatory structure for gene editing in livestock.

Gene editing can help America's food and agricultural producers address challenges such as zoonotic diseases, climate change and a growing global population, the groups stated. Under the current approach, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) makes case-by-case decisions on gene-edited animals under agency guidance rather than through regulations, they noted. "This is an untenable way to regulate," the organizations said.

The groups said they support USDA's ongoing efforts to modernize regulations governing gene-editing technologies, as proposed under the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking for the Regulation of Movement of Animals Modified or Developed by Genetic Engineering.

Read [more](#).



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Save the Date!

- 5/26/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 6/03/2022 - Texas Bison Association Spring Conference - TX
- 6/17/2022 - Montana Bison Association - MT
- 6/18/2022 - NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop - Rugby, ND
- 6/23/2022 - Western Bison Association Spring meeting - UT
- 7/12/2022 - International Bison Conference - Saskatoon, SK

- 7/18/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - Online
- 9/10/2022 - NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop - Mission, SD
- 11/9/2022 - Antelope Island State Park Bison Auction - Online
- 11/14/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - Online
- 12/01/2022 - Western Bison Association Meeting and Show/Sale - UT
- 1/07/2023 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Simulcast Auction - SD
- 1/18/2023 - NBA Winter Conference - CO
- 1/21/2023 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - Denver, CO
- 2/11/2-23 - Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Sale Simulcast Auction - SD

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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