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Weekly Update



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NBA Weekly Update for April 28, 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.

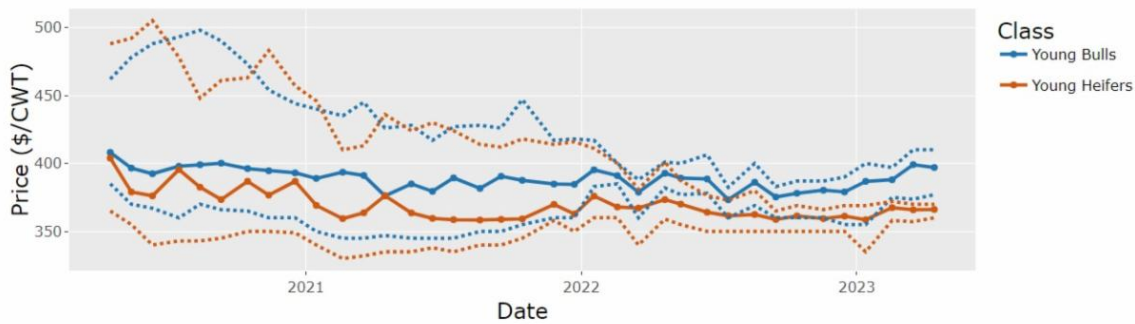
Bull? Bear? It's a Bison Market

Carcass prices remain stable for bison based on the most recent [USDA AMS Report](#) which came out April 14th. For the first time since the carcass price plummeted in 2020, young bull CWT prices are cresting \$400. Young heifers are holding very steady between \$364-\$366 CWT. Explore market data using the [Bison Economics Tool](#).

Next week the Marketer's Committee will gather virtually to review live and carcass bison report results, as well as explore outreach opportunities in the upcoming year. One such opportunity will be in just a few weeks in Chicago. Several marketers will be showcasing bison at the National Restaurant Association Show, which the NBA will also attend. This event is celebrated as the "must-attend" event for every member of the restaurant and food service industry.

"We're excited to have bison represented by several businesses, showcasing the tantalizing tastes and outstanding health benefits of bison, and connecting leading food service professionals with the top sources for North American Bison," said Jim Matheson, Executive Director.

Carcass Price (\$/CWT)



Mark your calendars and plan to join the NBA, in cooperation with Dakota Territory Buffalo Association, on June 17th at the 777 Bison Ranch in the Black Hills of South Dakota!

The 777 team is graciously opening up their bison operation to NBA and DTBA members for the first of the NBA's 2023 regional summer/ fall conferences. This is a great opportunity to tour one of the premier bison operations in the US today, tour their well-managed herd and see first-hand the results of over 30 years of holistic management.

Don't miss out on this unique bison opportunity! The registration cost for the event is only \$150 for NBA members. Registration for this, and all regional NBA events, is [open](#).

Visit our [website](#) for the complete agenda and to get hotel room block information.

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 , and register [online](#) . Please mark your calendars and we hope to see you at one or more of these great events!

NBA Northern Regional Conference
South Dakota- June 16-17



New NBA Merch Coming Soon! Bumper stickers, cooking temp magnets 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.

USDA Recommended Cooking Temperatures

GROUND MEAT

	F	C
Bison, Beef	160	71
Pork, Lamb	160	71
Turkey, Chicken	165	74

POULTRY

	F	C
Stuffing	165	74
Breasts	170	77
Wings, Legs, Thighs	180	82

Source of info: USDA Food Safety & Inspection Services

BISON, BEEF, LAMB

	F	C
Medium Rare	145	63
Medium	160	71
Well Done	170	77

PORK

	F	C
Medium	160	71
Well Done	170	77
Ham Pre-Cooked	140	60
Ham Fresh	160	71



Bison is a delicious, nutrient-dense protein that is healthy for you! Eating bison helps restore bison herds to the landscape and promotes regenerative ranching practices.
**Good for you. Good for bison.
Good for our planet.**

Trade Representative Visits Colorado Bison Ranch

By Dave Carter

Kathryn Tai, the United States Trade Ambassador, got a "flavor" of the bison business this week, as she stopped by the Savory Institute's West Bijou Ranch near Strasburg for some bison burgers, a tour of the herd, and a casual discussion about the Bison Advantage.

Last year, at a meeting of the USDA Agricultural Trade Advisory Committees (ATAC) in Washington, D.C., then-NBA Executive Director Dave Carter invited Ambassador Tai and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to come out and enjoy a tour of bison at West Bijou if they came through the Denver area. Dave and Sue are partners with the Thieman family and David Wentz in the bison herd managed at the West Bijou Ranch.

Carter said, "About a week ago, the Ambassador's staff emailed to say that she was coming through Denver on Thursday and wanted to come out to see the bison. The staff said she would need to stop in for lunch on the way from the airport, so I suggested that she and they come out for some grilled bison burgers at the ranch."

Ambassador Tai arrived just in time to help flip burgers and enjoy conversation before heading out to see the bison and newborn calves and view the impacts of sustained drought on the ranch. Cannan Bennet, bison herd manager, helped guide the tour of the ranch.

Carter noted, "This was a great opportunity for our nation's top trade negotiator to learn more about our business, and the people who guide it. We discussed the trade priorities for the bison business, but also provided the Ambassador with the chance to relax and appreciate the magnificence of this animal and the environment it manages."



A Request from a South African Bison Enthusiast

I am Adam Botha 19 year old from South Africa , and I have just finished school and am not sure what I want to study. I thought spreading my wings would be a great opportunity to gain experience and give me a broader scope of life.

I would really appreciate it if you could put me in touch with potential farmers who may be in the market for hiring on a H2A visa basis, or via another Visa.

I have not much experience, but I am eager to learn and eager to work hard.

Kindly use my e-mail address as follows to inquire: addi.botha@gmail.com

See my resume [here](#).

Editor's Note: The following news stories were distributed by organizations not affiliated with the National Bison Association. They may not reflect the

BEEF TO BISON: Why a family ranch pivoted from raising cattle to buffalo

From The East Oregonian

ENTERPRISE — From their vantage point atop a wooden fence platform, Bob Stangel and his adult daughters, Marta and Theresa, watched as bison on the hills in front of them leapt with the playfulness of goat kids.

“There they go,” said Marta, 27. “They like to run.”

A smile tugged at the corner of her mouth.

The Stangels run a bison ranch near Enterprise. To the north lie sprawling prairies and mixed conifer forests; to the south, the Eagle Cap Wilderness. On a clear day, the Wallowa Mountains — often called the “Alps of Oregon” — are visible, creating a dramatic backdrop behind the ranch.

The Stangels are part of a niche industry: raising American bison, commonly called buffalo. Compared to the U.S. beef industry, which slaughters about 125,000 head of cattle per day, the approximate number of bison harvested in the U.S. and Canada was just 69,000 for the entire year of 2020.

Yet consumer demand for bison has been growing, and many ranchers, including the Stangels, have found raising bison to be more profitable and economically sustainable than raising cattle.

“I couldn’t have asked for a better family business,” said Theresa, 32.

Raising bison also helps with species conservation. Before 1900, North America had between 30 million and 60 million bison. Today, the North American herd is about 362,400. It might seem counterintuitive that raising buffalo for meat would increase their population, but the American Bison Association says production contributes to species restoration. As consumers demand more bison meat, ranchers are incentivized to raise bison, building strong genetic lines and boosting the overall population.

[Read more.](#)

AgweekTV Full Show: Slow planting start, E15, maple sap, bison calving

From AgweekTV

Bison calving season has begun for many season has begun for many Bison producer across the country. At Kremer Buffalo Ranch in Custer, South Dakota, there have been newborn bison being welcomed into the world almost every day. These young bison are exploring the world for the first time. Here at Kremer Buffalo Ranch, calving season is pretty hands-off.

Chad Kremer With calving season, it's pretty much just monitoring every few days to make sure there isn't any problems.

They are for the most part self-sufficient, they do take care of themselves. It's one of those selection properties that mother nature has already implemented a long long time ago and has been implementing that for a long long time, so they are really successful at doing it on their own and they will likely continue to be very successful at doing it on their own.

Chad Kremer has been working with Bison for 30 years, managing different herds across the country and now his own as well, as the bison in Custer State Park.

Somewhere in 20 some thousand head that have calved over the 30 years that I've been in it, I mean we have only had difficulties with probably 10 to 12 head in that time so when you look at the number and percentage wise it's pretty low.

In South Dakota, the weather this past week has been extreme, going from blizzard conditions to temperatures in the 80's and 90's, which can affect the bison as they calve. The biggest thing it can do is it can kind of either trigger them to calf a little early or hold it and wait.

Welcoming new bison into the world, in not ideal conditions.

[Read more.](#)

The Role of Bison in Native American Culture

From Debbie Callaghan, Daily Gate City (IA)

Buffalo (bison) stew is on the menu at the Keokuk Association for Rights and Equality (KARE) sponsored International Food Event on Sunday, April 23, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2330 Plank Road, Keokuk. Members of Standing Bear Council will join KARE in offering samples of various international foods from 3 – 5 p.m.

Historically, Native American diets included large game such as deer, wild sheep and goats, antelope, moose, elk, caribou, bear, peccary, and buffalo. The peccary is a mammal similar to a pig that can be found in southwestern North America. Small animals such as beavers, rabbits, squirrels, skunks, muskrats, and raccoons also served as food sources for these resourceful people who adapted to varying climates and locations by utilizing whatever means of nutrition available to them. Reptiles, fish, wild birds, and insects were incorporated into daily fare.

Protein rich but low in saturated fats, these foods enabled North American Indians to maintain the physical energy needed to hunt and gather food for centuries and to avoid diseases such as diabetes. Meat from bison was a daily dietary staple and other parts of the animal were used as clothing and essential tools.

Plains Native Americans were greatly impacted by the presence of bison in their lives. They showed reverence for the animals by utilizing every part to meet their needs; they relied on sinews for thread and bowstrings to hunt and defend themselves. Horns and hooves were fashioned into spoons, while the intestines served as containers. Bones were used to make tools. Toys were made from bison parts. Tails became fly swatters and hair became ropes and pillows. Hides were formed into clothing and tents. Droppings were used as fuel. Native Americans also relied on bison for transportation.

Native Americans relied so greatly on bison to survive that the animal became a symbol of survival, life, wealth, and prosperity. Considered sacred, bison were shown gratitude and honored with songs, dances, and prayers during ceremonies.

An estimated 30-60 million bison ranged freely along the Great Plains at the turn of the nineteenth century. The arrival of European settlers, and a campaign by the United States Army, brought mass destruction of the bison until, by 1890, there were, reportedly, fewer than 1,000 left in North America. Today, an estimated 30,000 bison live in North American public and private herds, and another 400,000 are raised as livestock.

[Read more.](#)

USDA criticizes "devastating cuts" in House GOP spending bill

From Meatingplace

The USDA has publicly criticized the spending bill of Congressional Republicans, calling the party's plan "devastating" and "extreme."

In a detailed statement, the government agency said the spending plan "would hurt rural communities, raise costs for hardworking families, and set back economic growth," all while providing "giveaways skewed to the wealthy and big corporations."

Specifically, the USDA covered how the spending plan's cuts would impact meat processing:

"The number of food safety inspectors would be lowered by as many as 1,800, resulting in lost production volume of more than 11.5 billion pounds of meat and 11.1 billion pounds of poultry. There would also be a production loss of as much as \$416 billion, and consumers would face shortages and higher prices for meat, poultry, and egg products at grocery stores and restaurants."

"Funding for meat and poultry facilities would fall by \$1.4 billion, and would undermine the progress to build a more resilient supply chain and increase local processing options for producers."

"USDA investments in the Next Generation of Food and Agriculture Professionals would be halted; thus far, the agency has invested \$250 million in minority-serving institutions in order to create career development opportunities in agriculture for Next Gen Scholars."

[Read more.](#)

Scientists work toward goal of saving bison, one problem at a time

From Univ. of Saskatchewan Press Release

When I became a Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) student in 2021, I had no plans to get involved in the world of research. However, a trip to the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence's Native Hoofstock Teaching and Research Unit - where the University of Saskatchewan's bison herd is located - along with a moving tale told by a pair of researchers working toward the species' restoration made me reconsider my options.

The once dominant bison population, whose numbers may have reached upwards of 40 million, was reduced to a paltry 300 animals in the early 20th century. Over the past 100 years, conservation efforts have begun to restore some of the wild bison herds in North America, but infectious diseases such as brucellosis that are widespread in many herds present a problem for researchers who are working to save the species.

After learning about the reproductive research team's exciting breakthroughs, I talked to WCVN professor Dr. Gregg Adams who leads this massive program. In May 2022, I began working on a summer research project that targets the use of an innovative technique for disinfecting semen before transport. This method ensures that semen collected from any bison herd could be relocated risk-free across the continent to revitalize small, isolated herds with new genetics.

[Read more.](#)

Home on the range: Bison born at South Park Buffalo Preserve

From The Observer Reporter

The herd of buffalo continues to roam – and grow – at South Park Buffalo Preserve.

Last weekend, first-time mom Lily gave birth to a male named "Blue," becoming the second bison born this month at the southern Allegheny County preserve. Mom Rosie gave birth to "Diane" on April 4.

Tim Foster, who lives near the preserve and volunteers there with his wife, Diane, said Blue's birth was a little rougher than Diane's because Lily is a first-time mom.

Caretaker "Buffalo Bob" Kuzma had to assist in delivering Blue, pulling the newborn from his mother. It also took Blue a while to get on his feet and nurse.

Diane Foster – for whom the other baby bison was named – went to the store to get organic milk, which Bob fed to Blue to help him gain some strength.

Buffalo have roamed in South Park for some time. In 1927, an Allegheny County commissioner purchased 18 buffalo and brought them to the area amid fear of the animals' extinction. They have been a staple of the area since.

[Read more.](#)

Bison calf holds up traffic in Yellowstone while watched over by herd

From Fox Weather

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. – A bison jam in Yellowstone National Park had visitors in awe as a calf held up weekend traffic.

Linda Kinzy captured video Saturday showing an adult bison standing over the calf, licking and nudging it. In the background was the herd of eight standing together.

"Awesome bison jam today. This little one caused quite the traffic backup in both directions," Kinzy said. "Mom and the other guardian bison said, 'You shall not pass!'"

As cute and fuzzy as they are, Yellowstone National Park has asked visitors to give wildlife room to roam this spring. Visitors should always maintain a distance of at least 25 yards from the bison.

See the video at <https://www.foxweather.com/earth-space/bison-calf-herd-traffic-yellowstone-national-park>.

Kansas zoo welcomes new bison calf

From KAKE - ABC

EMPORIA, Kan. (KAKE) - The David Traylor Zoo of Emporia has announced the birth of a bison calf.

The bull calf was born on Monday, April 24 to Beulah (Age 4) and Bill (Age 20) and weighs 48 pounds.

The zoo says that the baby was born in the holding area next to the bison exhibit at 3:45 p.m. They say he is strong and healthy and his mom takes good care of him. The calf can be seen daily in the exhibit just North of the Bison Exhibit where mom and baby will remain until they can be re-introduced to the bull.

"American Bison are massive and thick-coated, bison were once the icons of North America's Great Plains – the largest land animals on the continent," the zoo said. "They were also once the most abundant, with an estimated 20 million, commonly called buffalo, roaming the Great Plains. In Kansas in 1870, bison roamed only the western half of the state, and within the next ten years, bison herds were virtually gone. The last bison in Kansas was killed in 1886. Today through management, bison have made a comeback and approximately 200,000 exist in national parks, preserves, tribal lands, zoos, and private herds."

[Read more.](#)

Yellowstone Bison See Deadliest Season Since 2008

From Native News Online

GARDINER, Mont. — Bison conservation organizations are calling the most recent season the deadliest wild buffalo have seen since the 2007-2008 season.

Roam Free Nation and Alliance for the Wild Rockies, both Native-led and Montana-based conservation groups that advocate for wild buffalo, wildlife, and wild lands, say recent documented losses result from mismanagement of wild bison herds.

Yellowstone National Park is home to two buffalo herds — the Central herd in the park's Hebgen Basin and the Northern herd in Lamar Valley.

National Park Service (NPS) spokesperson Morgan Warthin told the Cowboy State Daily that this season saw an unprecedented number of bison leaving the park.

"The winter of 2022/2023 has been the largest migration out of the park in recent history (decades)," Warthin said. "Likely due to heavy snows and very cold temperatures causing large numbers of bison to move to lower elevations in the Gardiner Basin to find food."

[Read more.](#)

USDA Kicks-off Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Projects and Learning Network

From USDA Farmers Gov Delivery

USDA today announced the official kick-off of the implementation phase for projects funded through the \$3.1 billion Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities effort. As projects get underway, USDA also is launching the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Learning Network, which will generate key lessons-learned as projects are implemented.

"Farmers, ranchers and forest landowners are on the front lines of climate change. At the same time, they are uniquely positioned to deliver climate solutions through climate-smart production that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and sequesters carbon," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

"Through these projects, our partners are working to create new markets for climate-smart commodities, while developing the tools needed to quantify impacts and help producers implement climate-smart practices on their land. We're excited these projects are getting underway and look forward to achieving meaningful results for producers, agriculture and forestry economies and our climate."

[Read more.](#)

USDA's CLEAR30 Offers Producers with Expiring Voluntary Conservation Contracts Longer Term Options

From USDA Farm Service Agency Gov Delivery

WASHINGTON, April 26, 2023 Agricultural producers and landowners with certain expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts can extend that land's role in conservation for another 30 years. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has opened the signup period for its Clean Lakes, Estuaries, And Rivers initiative (CLEAR30) now through July 31, 2023.

[Read more.](#)

Protect the Integrity of "Product of the USA" Labeling

From American Grassfed Press Release

The USDA has proposed a rule to ensure that only animals born, raised, and processed in the United States can be labeled as "Product of USA". This rule will enable us to easily identify products that are truly made in America, and support our local farmers and communities by making informed purchasing decisions.

Truthful labeling plays a vital role in supporting local agriculture and rural economies, and ensuring consumers have power in knowing where their food comes from. Through supporting this rule together, we can make a difference in uplifting responsible American agriculture, and enabling accurate, informed choices about the food we consume. Help us keep a level playing field for American farmers and ranchers!

Submit a comment to the USDA before the May 12th deadline. You can do this easily online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FSIS-2022-0015-0001> . We encourage you to personalize your comment, and share your own story about why accurate labeling is important to you.

Western U.S. Prepares for Flooding as Record Snowpack Melts

From USDA NRCS Gov Delivery

Water managers across the West are scrambling to mitigate flood impacts and make the best use of water resources now that record levels of mountain snowpack are beginning to melt. Several counties in California's Central Valley are bracing for floods as they deal with a heatwave forecasted through April 30. Aging flood infrastructure in the area will be tested as the above-freezing daily temperatures forecasted in the Sierra Nevada are expected to rapidly melt a portion of the historic mountain snowpack. A large section of Yosemite National Park will be closed beginning April 28 in anticipation of flood activity from the snow melt

[Read More.](#)

Minnesota Local Food Purchase Assistance Program

Applications are due by May 30, 2023.

The Minnesota Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Program is a new grant program from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to fund projects that buy local food, primarily from socially disadvantaged and emerging farmers, and distribute that food at no charge to underserved communities throughout the state.

Individuals (including farmers), nonprofit organizations, for-profit businesses, tribal nations, government entities, agricultural cooperatives, economic development organizations, educational institutions, and representatives of a community collaboration are eligible to apply, though required to partner with at least one other individual or organization.

The maximum award is \$100,000 and the minimum is \$10,000.

[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!

- 5/25/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 6/10/2023 - Texas Bison Assn. Spring Conference - Waco, TX
- 6/16/2023 - NBA Regional Conference - Rapid City, SD
- 6/16/2023 - Montana Bison Association Summer Meeting - MT
- 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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