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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 30, 2021***

*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.*

### **2021 NBA Summer Conference Registration Now Open**

Register now for the 2021 NBA Summer Conference and don't miss out on what is sure to be a great reunion in the bison community! The National Bison Association, in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Bison Association, has put together a great event that will benefit any and every bison producer or enthusiast out there. Lodging is open for reservations, please make your reservation online [here](#), or see below for a call-in option and instructions. Please see just a few reasons below why you won't want to miss out on this great event, and we hope to see YOU in Cheyenne!

# 2021 NBA Summer Conference

June 27th - 29th - Cheyenne, Wyoming  
Little America Resort  
Bison 2021 - Rebooting & Regenerating

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## Why You Should Attend:

- Sunday evening welcome reception and Bison Bag Toss Tournament
  - Two Ranch Tours on Monday - Big Heart Bison & Cold Creek Buffalo
  - In-Person networking with hundreds of bison producers
  - Plus a chance to explore the world-famous Terry Ranch
  - The Bison Fencing Panel Discussion - "Keeping them in"
  - Bison Marketplace Update, including Section 32 Purchase Program
  - What to do in the case of a Bison emergency - Are you prepared?
  - Approaches to bison genetics management & virtual ranch tour
  - The coming carbon soil sequestration marketplace and bison's role
  - The always fun NBA Benefit Auction and Dinner
  - Delicious Bison Feasts (2 lunches and 2 dinners featuring bison)
  - Updates from the National and Rocky Mountain Bison Associations
  - NBA Summer Conference Trade Show
  - Catching up with your friends, old and new, at the beautiful Little America Hotel, Conference Center and Golf Resort
- 

## Registration and Lodging

- NBA and RMBA Member Full Registration - \$175/person
- "Join and Go" - Join the NBA and One Full Registration - \$400
- Kids' Meals pass (13 years old and younger) - \$80
- Vendor booth space (8' x 8' space, hours - Tuesday 8am - 5 pm) - \$100
- Monday & Tues. Additional non-registered guest dinner tickets - \$60
- Register at [www.bisoncentral.com/nba-summer-conference](http://www.bisoncentral.com/nba-summer-conference)
- Lodging - Little America - Cheyenne:

Group Block Name: National Bison Assn

Last Day to Book at Discounted Rate: June 4, 2021

Discounted Rates: \$122.00 (single/double) | \$132.00 (triple/quad)

Toll free number for people to call to make a reservation is 800-235-6396.

Use this link to book online – <https://reservations.travelclick.com/4651?groupID=2835588>



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## NBA Members Urged to Recruit Support for Truth in Buffalo Act

A special alert is being sent to all NBA members today urging them to enlist their Senators and Representatives as co-sponsors for the Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act, which was introduced this month in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

The Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act, legislation would prevent water buffalo products from being deceptively labeled as buffalo, which misleads consumers and negatively impacts the U.S. bison industry. The bipartisan bill provides the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with authority to ensure that products with water buffalo are marketed as “water buffalo” so consumers aren’t misled to believe the product contains bison, which is commonly referred to as buffalo in the United States. Bison products would continue to be labeled as “bison” or “buffalo”.

The need for a legislation is prompted by the importation of water buffalo meat into the United States, which is being label and marketed in a manner that leads consumers to believe they are buying North American bison.

The Legislation in the Senate, S. 1168, is being sponsored by U.S. Sens. John Hoeven (R-ND) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) Current Co-sponsors include:

- Mike Braun (R-IN)
- Tina Smith (D-MN) and
- John Thune (R-SD)
- Kevin Cramer (R-ND)
- Jacky Rosen (D-NV)
- John Tester(D-MT)

The identical bill introduced in the house is H.R. 2596. The primary sponsors are U.S. Reps. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO) and Billie Long (R-MO).

The alert emailed today provides a [link](#) when members can find the contact information for their Senators and Representatives. The alert also includes some sample formats for email communication.

“Enlisting additional co-sponsors will help us get these bills scheduled for hearings in the appropriate committees in each chamber,” said Dave Carter, NBA executive director. “these elected officials need to hear from their grassroots constituents, so please contact them as soon as possible.”

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## NBA Files Formal Comments on USDA Climate-Friend Ag Request

Voluntary, market-based incentives for bison ranchers and other livestock producers to protect, expand and restore healthy grasslands can provide vital components of Climate-Smart Agricultural Policies, the National Bison Association told the U.S. Department of Agriculture in formal comments filed yesterday.

In March, USDA issued a request for stakeholder input on the Executive Order on Tackling Climate Crises at Home and Abroad. The USDA request asked for specific input on five topics, including “Climate-Smart Agricultural Policies.”

The NBA comments noted, “North American bison are in the cross-hairs of changing climate, but our national mammal can also play a vital role in addressing this crisis.” The NBA comments provided detailed information regarding the relationship of bison and other grazing animals with healthy grassland ecosystems.

Specific recommendations offered by the NBA included:

- Establish Accredited Third-Party Verification of Carbon Sequestration for producers who want to sell carbon credits based upon the carbon captured in their soil;
- Increase financial rewards for producers who participate in documented carbon sequestration;
- Expand the technical assistance provided through USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and other initiatives to include carbon sequestration;
- Provide financial reward for producers who have already adopted climate-friendly production practices; and
- Establish a Producer Advisory Council as proposed in the Senate's Growing Climate Solutions Act and convene meetings of that council at least twice per year.

A full copy of the NBA's comments is located [here](#).

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## **NBA Endorses Thune/Sinema Bill to Prevent Regulation of Livestock Emissions**

The National Bison Association this week endorsed legislation introduced by U.S. Sens. John Thune (R-S.D.) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from issuing permits related to livestock emissions. The Livestock Regulatory Protection Act would amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the EPA from issuing permits for any carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, water vapor, or methane emissions resulting from biological processes associated with livestock production.

"Livestock producers are working to improve efficiency and reduce emissions from their operations," said Thune. "They should not be subject to onerous regulations and costly permit fees for their animals' emissions, which could ultimately lead to higher food costs for consumers. I'm grateful for Senator Sinema's partnership on the Livestock Regulatory Protection Act, which would provide producers long-term certainty on this issue."

"Cutting unnecessary regulations frees Arizona cattlemen from costly permit fees and keeps prices affordable for Arizona families," said Sinema.

Thune previously [introduced](#) this bill in 2009 with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), and this restriction has been included in annual appropriations legislation since then. The Livestock Regulatory Protection Act would provide long-term certainty for producers that their livestock's biological emissions will not be subject to costly regulation.

Supporters of the Livestock Emissions Regulatory Protection Act include the American Farm Bureau Federation, Ducks Unlimited, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, U.S. Cattlemen's Association, American Sheep Industry Association, National Bison Association, and Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative.

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***Editor's Note: The following news stories were distributed by organizations not affiliated with the National Bison Association. They may not reflect the opinions or the positions held by the NBA on matters such as genetic integrity, animal management, and other issues.***

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## **Buffalo Gals Meet the Women Who are Restoring Both the Bison and the Grasslands**

*(From Cowgirl Life)*

A vast river of life surges through the valley—as wide as the Mississippi and flowing over the horizon. It's the dawn of the 19th century, and this bison herd is nearly unfathomable in its size. Among the estimated 30 to 60 million American bison flowing over the Western plains at this time, each bison deposits 50 pounds of nutrient-rich manure a day on the land, pummeling it into the soil with sharp cloven hooves. Warily eyeing the bison, wolves lay in wait to dispense of the sick and weak. In the wake of the herd, countless scores of avian species pick through the manure for tasty seeds. The seeds left behind replenish the land's plant diversity, and vast herds of elk, mule deer, and whitetails soon follow to feast on the renewed grasses. The spongy, chocolate-cake soil—enriched with trodden-in manure and teeming with beneficial microbes—retains rainfall to nourish terrestrial, avian, and aquatic life.

By the middle of the 19th century, three threats convened to threaten the very survival of the American bison.

First—in its quest to drive native Americans from their ancestral lands by deliberately starving them out—the U.S. Army killed hundreds of thousands of bison a year from 1865 through 1883. Plains Indians relied on bison not only for meat, but utilized every part of the animal, including skins for tipis; fur for robes; bones for tools; horns for spoons, ladles, and cups; hair for ropes and pillows; and fat for tallow, soap, and pemmican. The Indians revered the bison, whose generosity provided them with food, clothing, and shelter and whose existence was fundamental to their economy.

Second, the invention of barbed wire in 1874 would lead to the fencing-off of large tracts of range, allowing the new settlers to bring in their preferred bovine: the more-docile European and English cattle without the strong migratory instincts, humongous size, and independent dispositions of native bison.

Finally, the last spike of the Pacific Railroad was a spike in the heart of bison, as well: Now buffalo hunters could shoot bison by the hundreds each day from the comfort of the train, and settlers found easier passage west for themselves, their domestic cattle, and their “devil's rope,” as its detractors called barbed wire.

By the end of the 19th century, only 300 American bison remained in the wild. It would take not just a miracle but a plenitude of miracles to restore this keystone species to its native lands.

But what the heck ... cowgirls thrive on miracles.

### **Heaven at the Triple-Seven**

Although her two sisters lit a shuck for California from their hometown in South Dakota, Mimi Hillenbrand knew from the time she was a small girl that running her family's 777

Bison Ranch, near Hermosa on the vast shortgrass prairie, would be her life's calling. After graduating from the University of Montana with a B.S. in Wildlife Biology and earning her Master's in Agricultural Sciences from Colorado State University, she turned her full attention to her beloved 777.

"The ranch has been in the family since 1972," says Mimi. "My dad was a businessman first, but oversaw the ranch operation, as well. I took over from the previous manager nearly 20 years ago.

"The 777 began ranching bison in the early '80s," she continues. "Our original bison came from Custer National Park and the National Bison Range, both in Montana. I currently have about 1,800 bison on the 26,000-acre ranch."

Read [more](#).

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## **U.S. Bison Offal Now Eligible for Mexico**

*(From KIWAradio.com)*

The U.S. Meat Export Federation says Mexico is now accepting bison offal from the United States.

Dave Carter is executive director of the National Bison Association. He says it's been nearly one year since U.S. bison meat became eligible for export to Mexico, and this latest development is great news for the U.S. bison industry, as customers in Mexico have expressed strong interest in offal items and the ability to export these products will help maximize carcass utilization.

"We're very pleased that USDA succeeded in getting the market in Mexico expanded to allow bison offal into the marketplace," Carter told USMEF. "It took a number of years for USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service to work out the details with the government of Mexico to open that market for bison meat. When they did, our marketers said what we're really getting inquiries about is offal products. The USDA turned right around and sat right back down with Mexico.

Sure enough, they announced they've added bison offal to the export library. It's everything from cheek meat to the tail."

Full [text](#).

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## **Lawmakers Want to Keep Bison Buyers from Getting Buffaloed by Water Buffalo Meat**

*(From InForum)*

The bill provides the Food and Drug Administration with authority to ensure that products with water buffalo are marketed as "water buffalo" so consumers do not think the product contains bison, which is commonly referred to as buffalo in the United States. Bison products would continue to be labeled as "bison" or "buffalo."

Sens. [John Hoeven](#), R-N.D., and Michael Bennet, D-Colo., and Reps. Ed Perlmutter, D-Colo., and Billy Long, R-Mo., on April 15 introduced the Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act. The legislation is intended to prevent water buffalo products from being labeled as buffalo.

The bill provides the Food and Drug Administration with authority to ensure that products with water buffalo are marketed as "water buffalo" so consumers do not think the product contains bison, which is commonly referred to as buffalo in the United States. Bison products would continue to be labeled as "bison" or "buffalo."

"Bison producers have worked hard to connect with consumers around the high quality of the meat and the role that these magnificent animals are playing in restoring healthy grasslands," Dave Carter, executive director of the [National Bison Association](#), said in a statement. "Those efforts are being undermined by deceptively labeled water buffalo. The

Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act will protect both the hardworking ranchers and their customers.”

A [fact sheet from the National Bison Association](#) says water buffalo is brought to the U.S. as a whole muscle meat and reprocessed in Food and Drug Administration approved facilities but is not being processed under U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service voluntary inspection. USDA regulations require any water buffalo processed under its inspections services to be properly and fully labeled. Because water buffalo is classified as a [non-amenable species](#) under federal law, it is not required to undergo inspection if that meat is produced in an FDA approved facility.

Read [more](#).

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## **Native American lawmakers seek federal help on Montana bison**

*(From Phys.org)*

Native American lawmakers in Montana on Tuesday called on the Biden administration to help craft a plan to reintroduce wild bison to the landscape in and around Glacier National Park and the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

The request was made by eight members of the Legislature's American Indian Caucus in a letter to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. It comes after Gov. Greg Gianforte and his fellow Republicans in the Legislature have sought to make it harder to reintroduce [bison](#) to areas of the state that the burly animals once roamed.

American bison, also called buffalo, carry cultural significance for Plains Indians and were depended on by many tribes for food, clothing and other necessities until the huge herds that once populated the U.S. West were wiped out in the late 1800s.

State Rep. Tyson Running Wolf said the American Indian Caucus members decided the administration of President Joe Biden would be more willing to help bring back bison than Gianforte, who last week cited the need to protect the agriculture industry when he canceled a bison reintroduction plan adopted by his predecessor.

"It feels like during this legislative session, Native concerns and even buffalo as part of Native culture have just been invisible," said Running Wolf, a Democrat from Browning and member of the Blackfeet tribe. "Americans tribes in Montana have a deep-rooted connection with the buffalo, from commerce to religion to cultural values."

Read [more](#).

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## **Grand Canyon NP Seeks 'Skilled' Hunters to Reduce Bison Population Inside the Park**

*(From USA Today)*

PHOENIX – The [first controlled bison hunt](#) inside Grand Canyon National Park is scheduled to take place this fall, and the park is looking for applicants to help with its effort to reduce the area's bison population by 200.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission and the National Park Service announced the dates and application process Tuesday, opening up the opportunity to "skilled volunteers" with proficient marksmanship. But the initiative has some experts worried that hunting could soon become more commonplace inside national parks.

The 300 to 500 free-ranging bison at the Grand Canyon's North Rim are descendants of 86 buffalo brought to the area 115 years ago by rancher Charles "Buffalo" Jones, according [to the National Park Service](#). And the non-native animals have long been a nuisance in the area.

Over time, the expanding herd has damaged water sources, trampled vegetation and harmed archaeological sites.

"Areas are really taking a hit," said Alicyn Gitlin, the Grand Canyon Program Manager for the Sierra Club's Arizona Chapter.

"Twenty years ago, I remember going up to the North Rim and just being overwhelmed with the beauty of all these wildflowers and meadows and rare plants," Gitlin said. "When I went back around 2014, it was heartbreaking to me because everything looked like a cow pasture."

Read [more](#).

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## **U.S. Agency To Look at Bringing Back Bison on Montana Refuge**

*(From PBS)*

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — U.S. officials said they will consider in coming years whether to reintroduce wild bison to a million-acre (400,000-hectare) federal wildlife refuge in central Montana, a move that would be at odds with Republicans in the state who want to limit where bison can roam.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans beginning in July "to engage Tribes and stakeholders on the topics of bison and bighorn sheep reintroductions" on the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, a remote landscape of badlands and prairie bisected by the Missouri River, according to an Interior Department statement.

Bison historically roamed the region but were wiped out across most of North America by overhunting in the late 19th century. Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte and his fellow Republicans in the Legislature have sought to make it harder to reintroduce bison to new areas.

Many ranchers in the state, including around the refuge, oppose efforts to restore bison to the landscape, fearing they could compete with livestock for public grazing space and spread the disease brucellosis. That's an infectious disease carried by Yellowstone National Park bison that can cause animals to prematurely abort their young.

Gianforte last week announced the cancellation of a state bison management plan that would have made it easier to reintroduce the animals. His administration settled a lawsuit with a property rights group that claimed that then-Gov. Steve Bullock, a Democrat, had been scheming to establish a free-roaming herd within the Charles M. Russell refuge, named for the western artist whose work captured the area's rugged beauty.

A group of Native American state lawmakers on Tuesday asked the Biden administration to craft a plan to reintroduce bison to the refuge and on public lands adjacent to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, including Glacier National Park and the Rocky Mountain Front.

Read [more](#).

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## **National Bison Range**

*(From the Flathead Beacon)*

More than 30 million bison used to roam across the plains of North America, but a combination of factors, led by commercial hunting and incentivized slaughter, dropped the wild population to fewer than 100 by the end of the 19th century.

Multiple recovery efforts over the last hundred years have brought about a resurgence of America's federally designated national mammal.

The National Bison Range was established by President Teddy Roosevelt in 1908 on a 19,000-acre swath of land carved out of the Flathead Indian Reservation at the base of the



Mission Mountains. It was the first time Congress appropriated tax dollars specifically for the conservation of wildlife, making it one of the first established wildlife refuges in the nation.

American Bison Society purchased the original herd of 40 bison and released them into the refuge in 1909. Of the original herd, 36 bison came from the private herd owned by Kalispell founder Charles Conrad, three from New Hampshire and one from Texas.

Today, the bison population is 300-500 animals, roaming the range alongside elk, whitetail and mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, coyotes and more than 200 species of birds.

In December 2020, a two-year transition period began to transfer management of the bison range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, allowing the tribes to lead conservation efforts on the range for the first time ever.

Read [more](#).

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## **Become Pen Pals with an Oklahoma American Bison**

*(From K-Law)*

How would you like to become pen pals with a buffalo? Okay, okay I know technically they're called American Bison. But around here we call them buffalo, or at least most of us do anyway. There's a herd of bison in N.E. Oklahoma who are getting a lot of fan mail and even sending out postcards and letters to their fans. These buffalo enjoy receiving mail and would like for you to send them a letter. You can ask questions or just tell them about yourself. Who knows you might get a letter back and start a beautiful friendship!

The family and I have been scoping out places to go this Spring/Summer for day-cations and stay-cations. While looking up museums I found the [Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum](#) in Pawnee, OK. It's just a short two and a half hours away from Lawton, Fort Sill. It would be a great place to go for a family day-cation. While getting some more information about the museum I went to their [official Facebook page](#). That's when I saw it. You can write letters to their bison herd and become pen pals with a buffalo. How cool is that?

I know as a kid I would have loved being pen pals with a bison. Honestly, even now it sounds awesome! If you're interested you can write to them just address it to: The Bison Herd at P.O. Box 493 Pawnee, OK 74058. The kids are going to love this, especially after our visit they can write them a quick letter to let them know how much they enjoyed it. If you go to the [Pawnee Bill Ranch Facebook page](#) they have pictures of the buffalo reading their mail, or having it read to them. The family and I will definitely be making a trip to the [Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum](#) this Summer. We'll write a quick note to let them know we're coming.

Read [More](#).

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## **USTR Vows to Resolve EU Trade Spats, But Largely Mum on China**

*(From AgriPulse)*

U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai promised lawmakers Wednesday that work has begun to work out trade disputes with the European Union and the UK to create what President Joe Biden calls "a united front of U.S. allies," but she largely left questions about China unanswered as the U.S. continues to study the situation.

"We need to figure out how to resolve our differences in order for us to come together to meet the challenges that we have today and that we will have tomorrow," Tai said about the U.S., EU and UK trade dispute over aircraft manufacturing subsidies.

The World Trade Organization ruled last year the U.S. had the right to hit EU nations with \$7.5 billion in tariffs because of Europe's Airbus subsidies. The WTO also ruled in that the EU could hit the U.S. with \$4 billion in tariffs to punish the U.S. for subsidizing Boeing. Both the U.S. and EU began levying those tariffs, causing significant political friction and trade disruption.

U.S. commodities hit by European tariffs included orange juice, cotton, grapefruit, almonds, walnuts, cheese, ketchup and rum.

In early March the U.S., EU and UK agreed to suspend all of the tariffs tied to airplane subsidies for four months to reach a negotiated settlement and repair their relationship. Ag Secretary [Tom Vilsack went even further](#), saying the cease-fire could lead to a resumption of talks for a free trade agreement.

The U.S. and EU are now one month into the temporary halt to tariffs and Tai told members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies that the two sides are working together to come to an agreement.

"I have been in touch with my counterparts in both the United Kingdom and the European Union," Tai told the senators. "I am, at this point, very motivated and hopeful that we will get the traction that we need with our trading partners and very much hope that they see this opportunity as I do."

She did not promise to get a resolution over the next three months, but Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., said he is hopeful.

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## **Statement by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on the Intent to Nominate Jennifer Lester Moffitt to Serve as Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs**

*(From USDA Press Release)*

WASHINGTON - "Jenny Moffitt's nomination to serve as Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs demonstrates that USDA is committed to putting the perspective of our producers at the heart of what we do. Jenny currently serves as the Undersecretary at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and previously served as Deputy Secretary for the agency. Prior to her time with CDFA, Jenny spent 10 years as Managing Director at Dixon Ridge Farms, her family's organic walnut farm and processing operation in Solano County, California.

Jenny says that growing up and working on the farm solidified the importance of taking care of the land and the people who farm it. If confirmed, Jenny will join a mission area that is focused on facilitating the domestic and international marketing of U.S. agricultural products, ensuring the health and care of animals and plants, and setting national and international standards - all tasks that she is well suited to take on. With her guidance and leadership, USDA will help to build more robust and resilient local and regional food systems that support new, fairer market opportunities for American producers and food companies. She will be a welcomed addition to a growing USDA team."

To view President Biden's announcement on his intent to nominate Jennifer Moffitt as Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs at USDA, you may read [www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/27/president-biden-announces-key-administration-nominations](http://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/27/president-biden-announces-key-administration-nominations).

[Source](#).

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## **Baldwin named Colorado State Veterinarian**

*(From the Fence Post)*

BROOMFIELD, Colo. - The Colorado Department of Agriculture announced that Dr. Maggie Baldwin has been named state veterinarian. In the role, Baldwin will manage CDA's Animal Health division through planning, directing and executing all programs, policies and cooperative agreements with other governmental agencies.

Implementation of secure food supply plans and emergency response plans, enhanced animal disease traceability, education, and robust stakeholder engagement are among

Baldwin's priorities for the position. She is also making history as the first-ever female state veterinarian in Colorado.

"Time and again, Maggie has proved her mettle in crisis management, animal disease complexities, and excellence in service to the veterinary profession," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kate Greenberg. "Coloradoans will benefit from the skill and dedication that Maggie brings to the people and animals of our state."

Full [text](#).

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## **Federal Court in Wyoming Asked to Block RFID Technology**

*(From Food Safety News)*

Livestock producers represented by the Billings, MT cattlemen's group known as R-CALF say they have a "right" to use "traditional low-cost methods related to animal identification and traceability."

But USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) with growing support from such industry leaders as Tyson Foods wants to soon require "radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tags for tracking animals in the United States.

The new technology - replacing everything back to the branding iron-is needed in the world where quick tracking during outbreaks of animal disease is critical to limiting the economic harm that's possible.

R-CALF, represented by the New Civil Liberties Alliance, a legal nonprofit, is trying to hold the line against an RFID mandate in U.S. District Court for Wyoming. In its most recent filing, NCLA contends there is legal significance in the status of two USDA advisory committees- the "Cattle Traceability Working Group" and the "Producer Traceability Council."

"This case comes down to whether the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its subagency, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (collectively "USDA"), either "established" or "utilized" two advisory committees within the meaning of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)," NCLA's latest court document says.

NCLA's brief argues that USDA's APHIS subagency "failed to comply with the statutory requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)."

Full [text](#).

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***Save the Date!***

- 6/11/2021 - Montana/Western Bison Association Summer Conference - MT
- 06/11/2021 - Texas Bison Association Summer Meeting - TX
- 6/27 - 29/2021 - National Bison Assn. Summer Conference - Cheyenne, WY

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](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com) and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

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[Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events](#)

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