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## Weekly Update



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### NBA Weekly Update for August 5, 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.*

### Speaker added to Sept. 10th Regenerative Ranching Field Day at Antelope Creek Bison in Mission, SD

Current NBA President, Chad Kremer will be a featured speaker at the upcoming NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day on September 10th in Mission, SD. Kremer is also the herd manager of Custer State Park, and operates a bison operation with his family, Kremer Buffalo. He will speak about his approach to bison and land management.

In conjunction with the [Dakota Territory Buffalo Association](#), and Antelope Creek Bison Ranch, the event will also feature a ranch tour to demonstrate the Assman family's approach to grazing and land management, as well as a presentation from their local USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service agent, who will discuss how NRCS can support your bison operation while regenerating your soil and pastures.

The event will also include a social and dinner, hosted by the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association thanks to support from [Dakota Pure Bison](#).

[Registration](#) is just \$30/person and includes lunch and dinner. Please plan to join us, and note that portions of the Field Day will be filmed and posted in the member's area of [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com) for members to view and reference. Please register [here](#) by September 7th.

Thanks to the USDA North Central Sustainable Agriculture Education and Research (SARE) program at the University of Minnesota for funding this project.

## NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day #2 Sept. 10th - Antelope Creek Bison - Mission, SD

**Just \$30 per person!**

Register at [bisoncentral.com/product/nba-south-dakota-regenerative-workshop/](https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-south-dakota-regenerative-workshop/)



### Saturday, September 10th:

- 9:30 am: Register and network
- 10:00: Welcome from NBA and Host Ranch
- 10:15: Pasture walks and bison herd tour
- Noon: Lunch
- 1:30: NRCS Presentation - What can NRCS do for my bison operation?
- 2:30: Break
- 3:00 - Chad Kremer - Custer State Park & Kremer Buffalo - Regenerative/Holistic Bison Management
- 4:00 - Antelope Creek Bison Ranch corral and handling facility tour
- 5:00 - Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Social
- 6:00 - DTBA dinner



Thanks to North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Education and Research (SARE) and the University of Minnesota for their support in this project. Learn more at <https://www.sare.org/>.



Sustainable Agriculture  
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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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## **Troops Urged to Eat More Bison, Once Almost Wiped Out by US Army**

*From Bloomberg News*

The Army killed hundreds of thousands of bison in the 1800s to cut off Native Americans' food and livelihoods, and force them from their land. Today, as bison herds expand, lawmakers want the Pentagon to explore buying more of the protein-rich meat for US troops — and some tribes are wary.

The House annual defense authorization and spending bills released this summer would direct the Pentagon to find ways to increase the buying of bison meat, with the goal of procuring 2 million pounds a year “as a healthy and sustainable food source,” and to further “treaty and trust responsibilities and Native American Agriculture.” The Senate defense authorization measure simply encourages the Defense Department to consider bison meat for its “nutritional value.”

“It is very important from a nutritional perspective; it’s important from a land-management perspective because bison are just easier on the land,” Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), a former Senate Armed Services Committee member, said in an interview. Most important, he said, is that “it was the American Army that almost made bison extinct — this also sends a very healing message about where we are today.” Heinrich sits on the Senate energy panel and is involved in American Indian issues.

The Pentagon would have to navigate a fine line. American Buffalo — which have the scientific name bison — are a spiritual animal for American Indians, linked to cultural rituals. While some tribes have regrown herds, others wouldn’t have enough to sell to the government, and some would be reluctant to do so before their own people are served.

“We have tribes that have a cultural herd as well as an economic herd,” said Troy Heinert, an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in South Dakota and the executive director of the InterTribal Buffalo Council. “For the most part, they use bison for the cultural, spiritual connection, and use the meat to feed their people.”

Read [more](#).

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## **Alaska conservationists determined to revive wood bison herds**

*From CBS News*



For centuries, the Athabaskan people of Alaska relied on wood bison for survival. That is until the species, deemed by the National Park Service as the largest terrestrial animal in North America, disappeared in the early 1900s.

So when a small herd of wood bison was discovered in a remote section of northern Canada in 1957, a reintroduction program was born to protect the animals from extinction.

"It's just really cool to be in the presence of a bison," Sarah Howard, executive director of the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, told CBS News correspondent Jeff Glor.

In 2003, the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center partnered with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to create a sanctuary where wood bison could successfully breed in captivity.

By 2015, the first herd of 130 bison were transported by plane to Shageluk, Alaska, and successfully released into the wild. A year later, new calves were born.

Biologist Darren Bruning, with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, said transporting the 2,000-pound animals takes "a lot of patience," but says their reintroduction into America is "a grand opportunity for restoration of a missing piece of our incredible landscape."

Read [more](#).

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## **What the Loss of Pure Bison Means for Conservation** *From Discover*

I was shocked by Pete Geddes' words in 2020: "I bet Yellowstone doesn't have genetically pure bison. Nobody knows. They have never tested them."

The vice president of American Prairie told me this while we were chatting inside the conservation organization's headquarters in Bozeman, Montana, roughly 80 miles from Yellowstone National Park. The park has long been the gold standard for genetic purity in American bison (*Bison bison*). It is home to the only bison herd in the U.S. that has continuously grazed the same landscape since America's national mammal flirted with extinction a century ago.

Yellowstone's founding animals — two dozen bison that squeaked through the species' low-point — were thought to be some of the last genetically pure animals in existence. This belief, together with the fact they roam such a large and wild landscape, has earned them widespread notoriety. The bison in Yellowstone occupy a sacred place in American conservation lore, championed by a die-hard advocacy group, The Buffalo Field Campaign. Geddes' claim flew in the face of the conventional wisdom.

Two years later, a study published this past April in *Scientific Reports* proved Geddes was right. In a first-of-its-kind investigation, Ph.D. candidate Sam Stroupe and his collaborators at Texas A&M took a genome-wide look at the DNA of all seven known bison lineages in the U.S. These included national park bison from Yellowstone, Wind Cave and Canada's Elk Island — three herds that were most likely to contain genetically pure bison. Stroupe's team used several different methods to compare the bison genomes to those of domestic cattle. They found cattle genes in every bison they examined.

The bottom line for conservationists is that herds of North American bison untainted by cattle genes are most likely gone. "Unfortunately," Stroupe and

his colleagues wrote, "they all have a history of bison-cattle hybridization." Bison genetics legend James Derr, a co-author on the study who for decades held out hope for genetically pure bison, admitted, "I was extremely disappointed when I actually had the chance to sit down and look at the data."

Read [more](#).

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## **Three bison escape enclosure at Irish theme park**

*From UPI News*

Visitors to an Irish theme park and zoo were herded into a gift shop for their protection when three bison broke free of their enclosure.

Tayto Park officials said in an email to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, which is responsible for zoo licensing, that the alarm was raised when a visitor spotted a loose bison wandering next to an amusement ride at the Meath attraction and informed the zookeeping team.

The team ushered park guests into the gift shop while the bison herd manager was summoned to round up the three escaped animals.

The email said the bison were quickly rounded up and returned to their enclosure, which had a damaged section of fencing. The barrier was repaired.

Zoo officials said guests were only kept in the gift shop for about 10 minutes before the all-clear was sounded and park operations resumed as normal.

Read [more](#).

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## **Woman attacked by bison in South Dakota shares story**

*From WTVG*

RAPID CITY, S.D. (KOTA/Gray News) - Earlier this year, Amelia Dean from the U.K. was traveling the United States when she came face to face with death in the form of a bison at Custer State Park.

"It's a surreal enough experience let alone the fact that we weren't doing anything that really warranted it. We were just having a walk in the park," said Amelia Dean from her hospital bed at Monument Health in Rapid City, South Dakota, where she's been staying since the attack seven weeks ago.

Amelia Dean was originally traveling around Europe when a new friend asked if she wanted to go on a road trip in the United States.

On Day 2 of the trip, they decided to visit Custer State Park and take her friend's dog on a walk.

"They came over a hill and saw down in the dip, quite a way ahead of them, they saw a big, male bison," explained her father, Matthew Dean.

Amelia Dean and her friend considered turning back, but they were out of supplies in the final stretch of a two-hour hike.

"I was really dehydrated. It was really sunny, and we'd both given our water to the dog like an hour ago," she explained.

So instead of turning back, they kept distance between them and the bison

and walked around it.

"And suddenly the bison looked up. They were over 100 yards away, and the bison just ran down the hill at her. It came right up and stopped in front of her and then apparently, they had a bit of eye contact for a few seconds," explained Jacqueline Dean, mother of Amelia Dean.

"I could have put my hand out on his forehead without properly stretching it out completely fine," Amelia Dean said.

That's when the bison attacked.

Read [more](#).

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## **Yellowstone tourist practically begs to be tossed by bison**

*From For the Win*

Footage showing a man with a camera walking to within feet of a bison in Yellowstone National Park is generating a powerful response on social media. The man has been criticized for reckless and illegal behavior. Commenters also lambasted the parents of a child who is shown jogging in front of the bison with his cellphone.

"Disgusting. Remove them from the park, fine them, and let the big Buffalo give them what they deserve," reads one of more than 250 comments on the Mountain Journal Facebook page.

The footage was captured in 2020 by Brian Genge. It gained new life two weeks ago after Genge posted the top clip as a Facebook reel. (A minute-long YouTube version is posted below.)

It shows the bison standing on a road in Lamar Valley as the man sneaks up behind and alongside the bison, while other tourists watch safely from their vehicles.

The kid shown running in front of the bison was with another party, Genge told FTW Outdoors.

"I was filming from a safe distance with a large telephoto lens," Genge said. "I initially was just going to get a silly video of the bison blocking the road when to my surprise [the man and kid] came close."

Read [more](#).

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## **S.D. cattle group leader backs processing expansions**

*From meetingplace.com*

Proposed beef and pork processing facilities in South Dakota have the support of the head of the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association.

Eric Jennings, the group's president and operator of a beef cow ranch, said most of the state's commodities leave the state to be processed, resulting in a substantial economic impact for other states that have processing capacity.

New plant proposals in South Dakota are a "win" for the state's farmers and ranchers, Jennings said in a radio report. "I recognize now more than ever the importance of additional processing capacity," he said. "Food security is

national security, and now is the time to keep it close to home."

Jennings referenced a proposal for expanded beef processing in the state, saying the opportunity "allows for better access to high quality beef from your neighbor down the road."

A \$1.1 billion beef plant has been proposed for Rapid City, S.D., that would process 8,000 head of cattle and bison a day. Western Legacy Development Corp. expects to break ground in January on the plant, although it has several processes remaining to manage in its current research and development phase.

Jennings also noted a plan by an entity comprising 200 Midwest family farms, including 70 owners who live within a 50-mile radius of Sioux Falls, to break ground in 2025 on a \$500 million pork processing facility.

Read [more](#).

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## **FSIS, Oregon sign cooperative inspection agreement** *From meetingplace.com*

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and Oregon have finalized a cooperative agreement under which the state inspection program may inspect meat products produced for shipment within the state, FSIS announced Thursday.

Under the agreement, the state inspection program must develop, administer, and enforce requirements "at least equal to" those imposed under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA).

"Today's announcement with Oregon will help strengthen our nation's food system and help prevent supply chain bottlenecks," USDA Deputy Under Secretary Sandra Eskin said in a press release. "This program is especially helpful to small meat and poultry processors in building their local and state marketplaces."

With the addition of Oregon, 28 states now have state inspection programs. In states with inspection programs, establishments have the option to apply for federal or state inspection, but products produced under state inspection are limited to intrastate commerce. FSIS provides up to 50% of the state's operating funds, as well as training and other assistance.

About 1,900 small and very small meat and poultry establishments are inspected under state programs, FSIS said. FSIS provides guidance to state programs under these agreements, reviews each program and its requirements and activities at least annually, and spends about \$60 million a year to support the state programs currently operating.

Read [more](#).

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## **Western Democrats win \$4 billion for drought as part of spending bill** *From Agri-Pulse*

The climate funding package that Senate Democrats expect to pass this weekend will include \$4 billion in drought-related funding for the Bureau of Reclamation.

Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and several other western Democrats had been working to get the funding added to the draft legislation that Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., had worked out with Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

The Senate is scheduled to start debating the bill, known as the Inflation Reduction Act, on Saturday. Schumer expressed confidence that Democrats had the votes to pass it without GOP support. Under budget reconciliation rules, the bill only needs a simple majority to pass.

“The western United States is experiencing an unprecedented drought, and it is essential that we have the resources we need to support our states’ efforts to combat climate change, conserve water resources, and protect the Colorado River Basin,” Sens. Michael Bennet of Colorado, Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada and Mark Kelly of Arizona said in a joint statement.

“This funding in the Inflation Reduction Act will serve as an important resource for Nevada, Arizona, and Colorado, and the work we’ve done to include it will help secure the West’s water future.”

Read [more](#).

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## **Illinois Cover Crop Initiative Open for Applicants in Illinois**

### ***From American Farmland Trust***

In partnership with ADM and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Farmers Business Network, American Farmland Trust begins taking applications Wednesday, July 13th for the Illinois Cover Crop Initiative (ICCI) program in Illinois.

ICCI incentives will be available to an estimated 400 farmers enrolling up to a total of 75,000 acres, including acres that have previously been planted to cover crops. Applicants have the option of 1–4-year contracts and will be required to follow NRCS standards and specifications for managing cover crops. AFT will work closely with farmers to complete contract paperwork, lessening the time burden.

Incentives include \$10 per acre annually supported by technical assistance provided in collaboration with farmers’ trusted retail partners and conservation organizations. Acres cannot be enrolled in another privately funded ecosystem market program but may be stacked with federal and state cost-share programs.

As a part of the program, AFT will quantify economic and environmental benefits to be shared with farmers, ADM, NRCS, NFWF and FBN to further cover crop adoption into the future. In addition, technical assistance will be available to anyone interested in cover crops, regardless of program participation.

Information on the program and the application portal can be found [here](#). For additional questions, please email AFT at [icci@farmland.org](mailto:icci@farmland.org).

Read [more](#).

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## **USDA Searching for Innovations in Climate-Smart**



# **Agriculture and Soil Health**

## ***From USDA Press Release***

WASHINGTON, July 25, 2022 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today it will invest \$25 million this year for the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials program.

Through CIG, partners work to address our nation's water quality, water quantity, air quality, soil health and wildlife habitat challenges, all while improving agricultural operations. The On-Farm Trials component of CIG supports widespread adoption and evaluation of innovative conservation approaches in partnership with agricultural producers. This year's funding priorities are climate-smart agricultural solutions, irrigation water management, nutrient management and soil health.

"Through science and innovation, we can develop solutions to tackle the climate crisis, conserve and protect our water, enhance soil health, and create economic opportunities for producers," said Terry Cosby, Chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "Through On-Farm Trials, partners can work directly with farmers and ranchers to test and adopt new strategies on agricultural lands, accelerating the development and application of conservation that works for producers and the land."

For FY 2022, to ensure that equity is incorporated in the planning and delivery of On-Farm Trials, at least 10% of the total funds available for On-Farm Trials are set aside for proposals that entirely benefit historically underserved (HU) producers. Additionally, applicants competing for the HU set-aside can waive non-federal match requirements.

Read [more](#).

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## **Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program**

### ***From USDA Press Release***

Are you a producer or handler of agricultural commodities that are certified organic? Or, are you transitioning your operation to certified organic? You may be eligible for financial assistance to cover expenses paid during fiscal year 2022 through USDA's Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP). This program is part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative.

How the Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program Works During the COVID-19 pandemic, certified organic and transitional operations faced loss of markets, increased costs, labor shortages, and expenses related to obtaining or renewing their organic certification. Transitional operations also faced the financial challenge of implementing practices required to obtain organic certification without the premium prices associated with certified organic commodities.

- OTECP provides up to \$20 million to reimburse agricultural producers and handlers who are certified organic and crop and livestock producers who are transitioning to organic for eligible expenses incurred during fiscal years 2020, 2021, and/or 2022.
- Certified and transitional operations may apply for OTECP for eligible expenses paid during FY 2020, 2021, and 2022.
  - Program Year 2020 covers expenses paid from October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020 and the application period is November 8, 2021 through February 4, 2022.

- Program Year 2021 covers expenses paid from October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021 and the application period is November 8, 2021 through February 4, 2022.
- Program Year 2022 covers expenses paid from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022 and the application period will begin on May 16, 2022.

Please click below to learn more about specific eligible expenses and payments for your operation type.

Read [more](#).



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### ***Save the Date!***

- 8/15/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - Online
- 8/18/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 9/10/2022 - NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop - Mission, SD
- 9/15/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 9/24/2022 - Rocky Mountain Bison Assn. Fall Ranch Tour - WY
- 10/14/2022 - Wisconsin Bison Producer's Association Fall Meeting - WI
- 10/15/2022 - NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop - Villa Grove, IL
- 10/17/2022 - Middle Creek Ranch Production Webcast Auction - Online
- 10/20/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 11/02/2022 - Maxwell Wildlife Refuge Annual Auction
- 11/05/2022 - Custer State Park Annual Buffalo Auction - SD
- 11/09/2022 - Antelope Island State Park Bison Webcast Auction - Online
- 11/17/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 11/19/2022 - Coyote Trail Buffalo Ranch Simulcast Production Auction - SD
- 11/25/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Bison Fundamentals - MN
- 11/26/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Legends of the Fall Sale - MN
- 11/27/2022 - Rocking P Ranch Simulcast Production Auction - SD
- 11/14/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - Online
- 12/01/2022 - Kansas Buffalo Association Sale - KS
- 12/01/2022 - Western Bison Association Meeting and Show/Sale - UT
- 12/06/2022 - Northern Range Buffalo Consignment Simulcast Auction - Online
- 12/15/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 1/02/2023 - Prairie Legends Bison Webcast Auction - Online
- 1/07/2023 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Simulcast Auction - SD
- 1/17/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 1/18/2023 - NBA Winter Conference - Westminster, CO
- 1/21/2023 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - Denver, CO
- 2/02/2023 - Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Winter Conference - SD
- 2/04/2023 - Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Simulcast Auction - SD
- 2/11/2023 - Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Sale Simulcast Auction - SD
- 2/24/2023 - Beltway Bison Consignment Auction - PA

- 3/09/2023 - Eastern Bison Association Winter Conference and Auction - PA

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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