



Weekly Update



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NBA Weekly Update for August 6, 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.

USDA Requests Bids for up to 1.4 million lbs. of Ground Bison

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) on Tuesday issued a formal invitation for bids to sell the agency up to 1.4 million pounds of ground bison for use in the National School Lunch Program and other Federal Food and Nutrition Assistance Programs.

The solicitation was issued as a part of the agency's commitment late last year to purchase up to \$17 million of ground bison through the Section 32 surplus removal program. The NBA formally requested the Section 32 program last August.

Processors approved to supply the agency have until 1 p.m. on August 13 to submit their bids.

Acceptances will be announced by midnight, August 20, 2021. Deliveries are to be made between October 1, 2021, through January 31, 2022.

"This is welcome news, and we hope that processors will be able to supply the product on the terms required by USDA," said Dave Carter, NBA executive director.

USDA in February agreed to purchase roughly \$7 million in ground bison under the first round of Section 32 solicitations. The terms required for that round of deliveries mirrored the requirements that have been utilized in acquiring bison for use in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). The terms for this round of purchases were modified to better position ground bison for distribution in the federal school lunch program.

Dubai Opens for U.S. Bison Meat Exports

USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) this week announced that the agency's Food Safety and Inspection Service had added the United Arab Emirates to the list of countries that are open for importing bison meat from the United States.

Anne Dawson, Senior Trade Advisor for the FAS Animal Division, and coordinator for bison issues in the Middle East, informed the National Bison Association on Wednesday, "FSIS has updated its export library to reflect confirmation that we have access for bison to

the UAE market.”

She noted that U.S. bison shipments would need to be accompanied with a health certificate, halal certificate, and be from an approved slaughterhouse.

NBA Executive Director Dave Carter said, “The UAE requires all meat imported in that country to be processed under halal certification. Although that presents a bit of a challenge for our marketers, the rapidly growing demand for high quality meat in that country is a valuable opportunity.”

Bison Champion, Former Sen. Enzi Dies Following Bicycle Accident

Former U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, a longtime champion for bison producers, died Monday after sustaining serious injuries in a recent bicycle accident near his home in Gillette, Wyoming.



Enzi, who was 77, "passed away peacefully" while surrounded by his family, a statement read. "His family expresses their deep appreciation for all of the prayers, support and concern. They now ask for privacy and continued prayers during this difficult time."

Enzi's family said he was admitted to UCHealth Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland, Colorado. He was unconscious and unable to recover from his injuries, which included a broken neck and ribs, the family said. Enzi fell near his home about 8:30 p.m. Friday, a family friend said, around the time Gillette police received a report of a man lying unresponsive in a road near a bike.

Enzi, a Republican, retired in January after four terms as senator. He previously was a state lawmaker and mayor of Gillette, where he owned a shoe store.

Enzi led the drive in the early 2000s to have the U.S. Mint issue a limited-edition Buffalo Nickel in commemoration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Voyage of Discovery. When the coin was officially issued in February 2005, Enzi helped preside over a Capitol Hill ceremony that featured Cody the Buffalo from *Dances with Wolves*.

He was also the original sponsor of the annual Senate resolution designating the first Saturday in November as National Bison Day and was an original co-sponsor of the Bison Legacy Act, which resulted in bison being designated as the National Mammal of the United States in 2016.

He was honored in 2010 with the National Bison Association's first-ever *Friend of the Buffalo Award*. The plaque presented to Enzi at the 2010 Winter Conference honored the Senator, "For His Leadership and Commitment to the Stewardship of a Species, The Success of our Producers, And the Integrity of our Products."

John Flocchini, former NBA president and Wyoming bison rancher, noted, "Senator Enzi was a strong and consistent ally of the NBA, and everyone in our business. He was always available to meet with our annual delegation in Washington, D.C. and eager to support our legislative priorities.

"Having known him personally for many years, he was a genuinely good man, and was committed to bipartisan cooperation throughout his time in the Senate."

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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Archeologist talks Bison at Coronado Museum

(From The Hutchinson News)

LYONS -- Wichita State University archaeologist Dr. Donald Blakeslee will present a program about "The Quivira and the Hidden History of the Bison" on Saturday at the Coronado Quivira Museum, 105 W. Lyon.

During the 10 a.m. program, Dr. Blakeslee will explore the significance of the bison during the time of the Plains Indian hunters and the bison's role in their lives.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Call (620) 257-3941 for more information.

[Source.](#)

Custer State Park Bison Rut Brings Spectacular Views, Extra Safety Precautions

(From News Center 1 - NBC)

CUSTER, S.D. — They're America's national mammal – and there are few places you can get as up close and personal to them as Custer State Park.

But as we've seen in the past, there are definitely precautions to take when admiring the bison herds of the Black Hills.

Each year, beginning in mid-July, a spectacular sight to see at Custer State Park – the bison rut.

Mature bulls giving up their lone, bachelor lifestyles to seek out a cow – and battle ferociously for the chance to mate.

Male bison, which can weigh up to a ton, are particularly aggressive during rutting season. Visitors to the park are urged to take extreme caution around wildlife – especially if they're on a motorcycle.

Warnings with real-life application after an Iowa woman was nearly gored while visiting in August 2020. The woman was a passenger on a motorcycle before getting off to take photos of a calf, where she was charged by another bison.

Read [more.](#)

Slow-Moving Bison Leads Line of Traffic on Yellowstone Road

(From Yahoo News)

A bison was filmed slowing traffic as it plodded along a road at Yellowstone National Park, video shared on August 4 shows.

This video was captured by Alyssa Hampton and shared to a local Wyoming Facebook group.

According to the [National Park Service](#), Yellowstone's bison are "so accustomed to cars and asphalt roads that they seem to know the right-of-way" and "usually don't stop in the middle of the road." However, if one bison "decides to hold everyone up" the park service urged drivers not to beep their horn.

"Be patient for bison to make their way off the road, or just simply go around them, but please save the honking for the city," the NPS wrote.

See the video at <https://news.yahoo.com/slow-moving-bison-leads-line-182436999.html>

Prairie State Park Hosts Guided 'Bison-ennial' Hike

(From KSIS Radio)

Prairie State Park invites the public to attend its Guided 'Bison-ennial' Hike at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 7.

Participants are encouraged to bring their cameras and binoculars, and should also bring water, snacks, a hat and sunscreen. The hike is a 2-mile hike over uneven terrain; sturdy shoes are recommended. Dress for the weather, but shorts are not recommended.

Registration is required and the hike is limited to 25 participants. Those interested should call 417-843-6711 to register.

Due to the unique and rare diversity of life preserved at Prairie State Park, pets are not allowed on park trails. This regulation protects both you and your pet, as bison graze freely in the park. You are welcome to bring your pet to the park's campground and picnic area but must follow Missouri State Park's pet rules found at mostateparks.com/page/55057/pets. This applies to all types of pets except service animals assisting people with disabilities.

The public is strongly encouraged to follow social-distancing guidelines and be proactive in protecting themselves and others.

Read [More](#).

Bison Bridge Proposal in The Quad-Cities Gets Big-Name Backing Out of Chicago

(From The Muscatine Journal)

A Chicago-based structural engineering firm will lead the inspections and design for the Bison Bridge project proposed to replace the current I-80 bridge.

The bridge spanning between LeClaire and Rapids City could be demolished and rebuilt, and Quad-City environmentalist [Chad Pregracke has proposed](#) reusing the bridge for a pedestrian and wildlife crossing, dubbed Bison Bridge.

The idea has generated 35,000 signatures on a petition of support since it was announced in March.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (DOT) is in charge of the I-80 replacement and is awaiting engineering studies to determine, among other things, the best location for the new span. If it is determined the bridge should simply be rebuilt where it stands, the Bison Bridge proposal goes away.

But Pregracke and his team continue to plan for the possibility the current site will be vacated, and the bridge and state-owned land on either side of it could be transformed into two state parks or — more ideally — a national park that crosses the Mississippi River.

The Illinois-bound span would become a bike and pedestrian span while the Iowa-bound span would become a path for bison to travel between park acreage on either side.

Read [more](#).

Why The US Army Tried to Exterminate the Bison

(From Vox)

In 1894, notorious poacher Ed Howell was caught in Yellowstone National Park slaughtering bison, which were on the brink of extinction. US Army soldiers patrolling the park brought him into custody, and the story led to the first US federal law protecting wildlife. The soldiers were thought of as heroes for stopping the killer. But in reality, it was the US Army that had been responsible for driving bison to near-extinction in the first place.

In the mid-1800s, a cultural belief known as “manifest destiny” dictated that white settlers were the rightful owners of the entire North American continent — even though Native Americans had inhabited the land for centuries. In order to clear that land for white settlers, the US Army engaged in violent scorched-earth tactics against the Indigenous peoples of the Great Plains.

One big part of that campaign was to eliminate their crucial food source: the bison.

By the end of the 1800s, a combination of commercial and recreational hunting, plus the actions of the US Army, had depleted the bison population to under 1,000, down from tens of millions at the beginning of the century. Around the same time, the US government set aside some of the land once inhabited by the Plains Indians as a national park, and in 1872 Yellowstone was established.

A key mission of Yellowstone was to conserve the land and the animals that roamed there, including the bison. Today, the soldiers who once patrolled the park are celebrated for having “saved” the bison in Yellowstone, obscuring their own violent contribution to the animal’s near extinction.

Read [more](#).

Camp Pendleton – A Bison’s Paradise

(From The Coast News)

CAMP PENDLETON — Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton was given 14 Plains Bison from the San Diego Zoo from 1973-1979. Now, the bison herd consists of approximately 90 individuals. Along with another herd on Santa Catalina Island, the herd on Camp Pendleton is one of only two wild conservation herds of bison in all of California.

While the main herd consistently holds around 40 to 50 bison, there are multiple bachelor herds scattered throughout the base. They roam between the Delta and Charlie training areas, the Zulu Impact Area, and Case Springs.

The Camp Pendleton Game Warden’s Office monitors the bison population on base, keeping track of their genetic diversity, overall health, and total population. They are expecting about 15-20 calves to be born in April 2021.

Bison can grow up to six feet tall and weigh up to 2,000 pounds. While it may seem that their massive size would slow them down, they are actually incredibly agile for their size, being able to run at speeds of up to 35 miles per hour. The Game Warden advises base patrons to maintain a distance of 150 feet while observing them.

“There is a bison management plan put in place and we follow it extensively,” said Mike Tucker, the chief game warden for MCB Camp Pendleton. “We give them the space they need to live naturally and would only intervene in certain situations.”

The game wardens on Camp Pendleton focus on protecting the environment while also prioritizing Marines’ capability to effectively train. As long as animals are not a threat to training, to public health, or to the health of the ecosystem, they are free to live out their natural lives.

Read [more](#).

Bison Could One Day Roam Free Across UK, Say Conservationists Planning to Release First Herd For 6,000 Years

(From iNews)

A rewilding project that will bring bison back to the Kent countryside next year could pave the way for free-roaming herds of the animals across the UK within a few decades, conservationists hope.

[A small herd of bison will be released into Blean Woods in Kent](#) – the first time they will have lived on the British Isles for more than 6,000 years.

They will join Iron Age pigs, longhorn cattle and Exmoor ponies as part of a [pioneering rewilding project](#) to restore the ancient tract of woodland.

The four animals will be restricted to a 150-hectare fenced enclosure where there are no right-of-way footpaths. But the “bison rangers” hired to oversee the herd hope that one day the animals will be able to live freely in the British landscape.

“We live in [one of the most nature-depleted countries](#) in the world here in the UK,” said Tom Gibbs, one of the first bison rangers. “Hopefully we can show that we can co-exist peacefully. In theory, lots of places in the UK could feasibly have bison.”

The steppe bison is thought to have roamed the UK until about 6,000 years ago. As the species is now extinct, the European bison – its closest living relative – is being used in this project in its stead.

Read [more](#).

Maple Leaf Animal Protein Sales Grow, As Plant Based Items Falter

(From Meatingplace.com)

Canada's Maple Leaf Foods reported growth in its animal protein business for 2021's second quarter, while plant-based proteins took a step back.

According to a release from the processor, the meat protein unit – which includes prepared meats, ready-to-cook and ready-to-serve meals, value-added fresh pork and poultry products – saw quarterly sales of \$1.18 billion, a 7.4% increase over the year-ago period.

Maple Leaf credited higher fresh pork and poultry market values, a shift in product mix toward branded products and sustainable meats, higher volumes in the U.S. and a strong foodservice recovery for its sales growth, which offset an unfavorable foreign exchange impact.

However, limited access to China and lower processing margins weighed on results in the quarter, with total net earnings declining to \$8.8 million, or 7 cents a share, from \$25.7 million, or 21 cents a share, a year ago. The profit drop was primarily due to a higher loss from changes in fair value of biological assets and derivative contracts, the company said.

While Maple Leaf's animal protein sales were strong in the second quarter, its plant proteins – which include refrigerated and grain-based items, along with vegan cheeses – saw retail volumes decline from the pandemic-driven growth of a year ago.

At \$48.1 million, second-quarter plant protein sales fell 20.7% from the \$60.6 million in the prior-year period. Excluding foreign exchange, sales in the unit were down 10.4%.

More Foodborne Illnesses Linked to Recall-Associated Outbreaks: Study

(From Meatingplace.com)

On average, recall-associated foodborne illness outbreaks resulted in more illnesses per outbreak and higher proportions of hospitalizations and deaths than non-recall-associated outbreaks, according to scientists from Augusta University, CDC, FDA and USDA.

In the multi-institute research published in the journal *Epidemiology & Infection*, the group compared 226 outbreaks associated with food recalls with those not associated with recalls during 2006-2016.

The differences between recall-associated outbreaks and non-recall-associated outbreaks can help define the types of outbreaks and food vehicles that are likely to have a recall, the authors wrote.

The study found that for outbreaks with recalls, 48% of the recalls occurred after the outbreak, 27% during the outbreak and 3% before the outbreak; 22% were inconclusive or had unknown recall timing. About 50% of recall-associated outbreaks were multistate, compared with just 2% of non-recall-associated outbreaks.

Read [more](#).

Congress Advancing Agriculture Appropriations Bill

(From National Hog Farmer)

In action Monday [8/2], the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies approved a budget of \$25.855 billion, which is an increase of \$2.5 billion above fiscal year 2021 enacted level, in discretionary funding to support federal agriculture and nutrition programs in Fiscal Year 2022. The full Senate Appropriations Committee will take up the legislation on Wednesday. Last week the House advanced the agriculture spending bill as part of a minibus package.

Included in the appropriations, senators advanced more than \$7 billion in disaster assistance to help farmers and ranchers with losses due to drought and other natural disasters. This includes \$6.28 billion for disaster assistance to aid producers who suffered losses due to droughts, hurricanes, wildfires, floods and other qualifying natural disasters in calendar year 2020 and 2021. It also includes \$750 million for livestock producers for losses incurred during 2021 due to drought or wildfire. This disaster assistance will build on top of existing farm bill programs for livestock producers.

Specifically, the Senate version invests \$3.6 billion in ag research programs including a \$1.675 billion for Agricultural Research Service and \$1.656 for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, including a \$10 million increase for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. The bill also fully funds the President's request to support the continued establishment of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.

The bill provides \$937 million to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Conservation Operations, \$198 million for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations, and \$10 million for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program.

The bill provides \$1.178 billion for the Farm Service Agency, an increase of \$35.4 million above the FY21 enacted level. It prohibits the closure of FSA county offices and provides resources for IT improvements and personnel across county offices. The bill also increases funding for direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans to meet expected demand.

The bill provides \$1.125 billion for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, an increase of more than \$57 million above the FY21 enacted level. The funding will help protect the nation's animal and plant resources from diseases and pests such as chronic wasting disease and cotton pests.

Full [text](#).

National Farmers Market Week Celebrates Resiliency

(From AgriPulse)

The 21st Annual National Farmers Market Week (NFMW) kicked off Sunday, Aug. 1. The week is meant to highlight the essential role that farmers markets play in our food system and celebrate the resilience and safety of farmers markets during the pandemic, [according to the Farmers Market Coalition](#).

The week of celebration runs through the first week of August every year and is formally announced by a USDA proclamation.

This year, [Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack visited](#) Pearl Street Farmers Market in Denver to commence the week-long campaign.

[Vilsack's proclamation](#) discussed the role farmers markets play in federal nutrition programs and

The Farmers Market Coalition says that 2021 NFMW is focused on three main messages: Farmers markets are essential businesses and their short supply chains provide resiliency for food systems; farmers market operators are local food heroes, but they have been left out of many food system relief efforts; and farmers markets offer safe outdoor spaces that allow shopping with air circulation and social distancing.

The sponsors of this year's NFMW are Square, Farm Credit Council, American Farmland Trust, the Food Liability Insurance Program, and the Farm Board.

For more news, go to: www.Agri-Pulse.com.

Funding Opportunities:

National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Champions Program

National Wildlife Federation's [Conservation Champions program](#) offers grants up to \$15,000 for farmers and outreach partners to learn and develop creative outreach strategies that target new farmer audiences and increase the rate of soil health practice adoption in the Midwest.

Conservation Champions are teams of innovative farmers and local outreach partners that want to see sustainable agriculture practices become mainstream.

A Conservation Champion team should consist of at least one farmer champion and one outreach champion and come from teams from Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, or Wisconsin. Each team can request up to \$15,000 to cover the costs of their outreach plan.

The deadline to apply is August 6, 2021.

Read [more](#).

Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge

The Farm Bureau [Ag Innovation Challenge](#) is a national business competition that showcases U.S. startups developing innovative solutions that address challenges facing America's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

American Farm Bureau Federation, in partnership with Farm Credit, looks to identify the top entrepreneurs who are addressing both traditional challenges farmers face on their operation, such as access to labor, optimizing yield, and reducing operating costs, and new challenges facing farmers and rural communities.

Farm Bureau will award \$165,000 in startup funds to ten businesses, which includes \$50,000 in startup funds for the Ag Innovation Challenge Winner. The application deadline is August 20, 2021.

Read [more](#).



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Save the Date!

- 9/11/2021 - RMBA Fall Ranch Tour of Prairie Ridge Buffalo - CO
- 9/23/2021 – Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival - SD
- 9/25/2021 – BisonFest Music Festival, TX
- 10/15/2021 - Wisconsin Bison Producers Association Fall Meeting - WI
- 11/6/2021 - Custer State Park Annual Auction - SD
- 11/8/2021 - Antelope Island State Park Production Auction - UT
- 11/13/2021 - Oklahoma Bison Association Fall Auction - OK
- 11/15/2021 - TNC Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Fall Bison Auction - OK
- 11/26/2021 - Minn. Bison Association's Bison Fundamentals Workshop - MN
- 11/27/2021 - Minn. Bison Association's Legends of the Fall Bison Auction - MN
- 12/4/2021 – Kansas Bison Association Sale - KS
- 12/4/2021 - Western Bison Association Wild West Buffalo Stampede Auction - UT
- 12/7/2021 - Northern Range Buffalo Simulcast Auction - SD
- 1/1/2022 - Prairie Legends Bison Auction - Online
- 1/8/2022 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Bison Auction - SD
- 1/19/2022 – 1/22/2022 – National Bison Association Winter Conference - CO
- 1/22/2022 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - National Western Stock Show - CO
- 2/12/2022 - Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Sale - SD
- 2/19/2022 – Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Sale - SD
- 3/04/2022 - RMBA's Spring Conference - Location TBD
- 7/12/2022 - International Bison Conference - Saskatoon - SK

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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