### **OFFERING CANADIAN LIVESTOCK TO THE WORLD!**

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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 December 10, 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 FSA working to include bison herds affected with Mycoplasma losses in livestock assistance programs – Carcass disposal assistance also available

#### Producers Urged to Inform Local FSA Offices of Mycoplasma Related Death Losses

Leadership at USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) have responded to a request from National Bison Association to find a new path for relief for bison producers affected by Mycoplasma infection and mortality. In previous years, the FSA considered Mycoplasma to be a secondary infection in bison, which prevented producers from qualifying for reimbursement for death losses under the agency's Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). FSA is working now to reconsider that decision. At the FSA's request, the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies (BisonCOE) at SDSU is providing aggregated data to inform that decision.

FSA Administrator Zac Ducheneaux said this week that the agency is looking at the program requirements for LIP, and for the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP), in hopes that coverage can be provided for impacted producers. Ducheneaux urged impacted livestock producers to immediately notify their local FSA office (either by

email, or by phone followed up with an email) of death losses incurred because of Mycoplasma. That will provide the agency with important evidence documenting the extent of the losses within the bison industry.

"For now, please encourage any of your producers to notify their local FSA office of any and all losses as soon as possible and keep them updated as to further losses they may sustain and ask for an ELAP application," he said. Also, if there is overlap of Mycoplasma losses with drought, the USDA requests that that be documented as well to assist with ELAP. Drought conditions for your area over the past year can be determined using the comparison Drought Monitor online tool:

Dave Carter, NBA executive director, said, "Documenting the extent of Mycoplasma losses is an important step in documenting the severity of this disease in bison herds. That's why it is important for producers to contact their FSA office and file an ELAP claim."

The director of research for the Bison COE, Dr. Jeff Martin, added, "We are excited to assist the bison industry in this way. We look forward to contributing in such a large and positive way that identifies some relief for bison managers while research advances to discover more effective vaccines and treatments."

#### **Carcass Disposal Assistance Available**

https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/ComparisonSlider.aspx.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has carcass disposal assistance available under the name "Emergency Animal Morality Management" as part of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and has four practice options: Burial

Carcass disposal other than burial Incineration
Disposal at landfill or render

#### **Eligibility Information for EQIP**

Agricultural producers and owners of nonindustrial private forestland and Tribes are eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, nonindustrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands. To receive assistance, both an application and approved early start waiver must be filed with the local NRCS field office prior to disposal of animal carcasses. Additionally, producers must have farm records established with the Farm Service Agency (FSA), meet all eligibility requirements, and have application filed at the local NRCS. Prior to payment, a mortality certification is required by a veterinarian or an animal health specialist.

Source. <a href="https://bisoncentral.com/press-release/usda-fsa-working-to-include-bison-herds-affected-with-mycoplasma-losses-in-livestock-assistance-programs/">https://bisoncentral.com/press-release/usda-fsa-working-to-include-bison-herds-affected-with-mycoplasma-losses-in-livestock-assistance-programs/</a> s here.

# Support the NBA with a Year End Gift to the Growth Fund

Your donation will go to supporting the educational programs, virtual content, marketing and outreach at the NBA.

#### **DONATE TODAY**

Because of the amazing support of our members, we are able to take big, bold steps for the priorities we need to tackle now — like drought relief for ranchers and access to research on animal health concerns effecting our industry.

Every dollar that has been raised will go towards protecting and strengthening our community so that we can celebrate the heritage of American bison and to create a sustainable future for our industry.

Please consider donating today!



# Less than One Month to Register for the NBA Winter Conference

NBA Members, we are just one month out from the deadline to register for the 2022 NBA Winter Conference! Please register quickly and securely <a href="here">here</a>, or call the office at (303)292-2833 to register by phone. Please note, you can register guests at the member rate and conference meals are included with your conference registration. See a full conference agenda below as well as some conference highlights and plan to join us in "Foraging Ahead" in the bison business during the biggest industry gathering of the year. And a big thank you to our many conference sponsors! Questions? Please send to <a href="mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com">jim@bisoncentral.com</a> and we hope to see you next month in Denver!

#### Conference Agenda:

#### Wednesday - January 19th:

- 3:00 pm Registration Opens
- 3:00 pm Winter Conference Trade Show Opens
- 4:00 pm Foundation Welcome Reception and Whiskey Tasting

#### Thursday - January 20th

- 7:30 am Registration Opens
- 8:00 am Winter Conference Trade Show Opens
- 8:00 am NBA Bison Mentor's Session
- 8:30 am How to Engage with Science Dr. Rachel Short Texas A&M University
- 9:30 am Bison Public Relations 101 Matt Skoglund North Bridger Bison
- 11:00 am Native American Cooking Demo with Tocabe Restaurant
- Noon Lunch sponsored by North American Bison, LLC
- 1:30 pm Introducing the Turner Institute of Ecoagriculture Carter Kruse TEI
- 2:00 pm A Strategy for Managing Mycoplasma in the Feed Yard Tyrell Anderson TEI
- 3:15 pm Bison Marketer's Panel TBD
- 4:45 pm Wildlife Conservation Society Update Cristina Mormorunni WCS
- 5:30 pm American Bison Society Reception
- 6:00 pm Benefit Auction Dinner (Don't forget your Benefit Auction items!)

#### Friday - January 21st

8:00 am - Conference and Voter Registration Opens

8:00 am - Winter Conference Trade Show Opens

9:00 am - NBA/RMBA Junior Judging Competition at the NWSS Yards

9:00 am - NBA Officer Elections

10:00 am - NBA General Membership Meeting

Noon - Bison Burger Lunch at the NWSS Yards

1:00 pm - Del Hensel Bison Handling Facility Ribbon Cutting at the NWSS Yards

1:15 pm - GTSS Buffalero Q&A and Buyer's Reception at the NWSS Yards

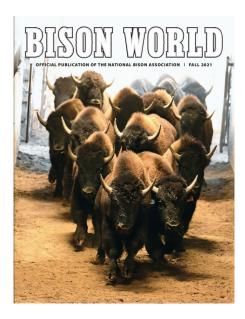
2:30 pm - GTSS Awards Ceremony at the NWSS Sale Barn

6:00 pm - Friday Banquet Dinner

#### Saturday, January 22nd

8:30 am - GTSS Judges Comments at the NWSS Sale Barn

10:00 am - Gold Trophy Sale at the NWSS Sale Barn



# Fall Bison World Magazine Now Available Online

One of the perks of NBA membership is access to the Bison World magazine before the printed copies arrive in the mail! Production on the Fall issue has wrapped up and it is now available on the website by clicking <a href="https://example.com/here.">here.</a> You will need to log in to the member area to access the magazine.

The flipbook version of the magazine can be viewed right on your computer. Handy links allow you to open it into a new window, make it larger, magnify certain features, and even print pages if desired. The realistic page-turning sounds make it feel like you are reading the printed version of the magazine.

The hard copy magazine is currently being printed

and will mail shortly.

### **Advertising Opportunities in the Winter Issue of Bison World**

Production is underway on the Winter issue of the Bison World magazine. This issue will also include our annual Membership Directory and there are a select few spots available in that publication.

Within the pages of the Winter magazine, there are a variety of advertising options available, from 1/8 page all the way to full page. Lifetime and Active NBA members will enjoy discounted rates as part of their membership perks and contract holders can receive a 5% discount for pre-paid advertising. Karen can work with you to tailor an advertising campaign that fits your budget and targets your message!

The advertising space reservation deadline is Monday, December 13 with final materials being due later that week. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time but will also be subjected to the same deadline for this Winter issue.

For more information about editorial submissions or advertising your ranch, business or events, contact <a href="mailto:Karen@bisoncentral.com">Karen@bisoncentral.com</a> or call (605) 381-3738.

# USDA RBCS Announces \$1 Billion In Loan Guarantees To Strengthen Food Supply Chain

Existing and prospective bison processing plants are eligible to obtain loan guarantees under the announcement this week from USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service that

the agency will be offering up to \$1 billion in guarantees to strengthen the nation's food supply chain.

The announcement published in the Federal Register this week noted that Loan guarantees will be made to lenders to facilitate financing to qualified borrowers and projects for the start-up or expansion of activities in the middle of the food supply chain, particularly the aggregation, processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation, wholesaling, or distribution of food, to increase capacity and help create a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain.

An analysis conducted by the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition highlights the following provisions in the new program:

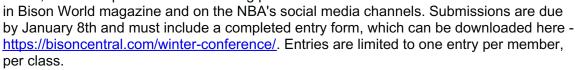
- Funding is for the middle of the supply chain: aggregating, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling, or distributing food
- \$1b in loan guarantees
- The maximum, aggregate, loan amount that a borrower may receive is \$40 million.
- Set-aside: 19 percent of the funds for entities that establish and facilitate the slaughter and initial processing of meat and poultry to increase capacity and help create a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain.
- Available regardless of credit elsewhere
- · Administered by Rural Development, but does not appear to be limited to rural areas
- A borrower must be a cooperative organization, corporation, partnership, or other legal entity organized and operated on a profit or nonprofit basis; an Indian tribe on a Federal or State reservation or other federally recognized tribal group; a public body; or an individual.

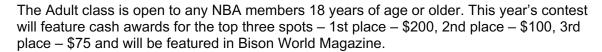
The complete Federal Register announcement is available <a href="here">here</a>.

# NBA Announces 2022 Winter Conference Photo Contest

The National Bison Association is pleased to announce the return of the NBA photo contest as part of it's 2022 Winter Conference in Denver, Colorado!

This year's contest will have two classes, Adult and Youth, with cash prizes and the winning photos featured





The Youth class is broken into three categories:

Grades 5-6, 7-9, and 10-12. This year's contest will feature cash awards for the top three spots – 1st place – \$100, 2nd place – \$75, 3rd place – \$50 and will be featured in Bison World Magazine. The Youth photo open to members of the NBA as well as children and grandchildren of the NBA, or the InterTribal Buffalo Council.

A full set of contest rules is available at <a href="https://bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/">https://bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/</a>. A special thanks to the Texas Bison Association for sponsoring this contest!

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.





### Lakota Group Harvests Bison, Passing On Spiritual And Practical Knowledge

(From The Mankato Free Press)

SANBORN, MN — The 1,220-pound bison hung on the forklift by a chain tethered to its two front legs, its neck limp.

Two men grabbed either hind leg and walked alongside the machine as it drew closer to a grassy mound where those gathered would host a prayer ceremony over the animal's body before harvesting its hide, meat, bones and insides.

"There's an educational purpose for us to do this," said Marla Bull Bear, executive director of Lakota Youth Development, which was founded in 1992. "We're helping (youth) to reclaim their culture, their spiritual ways. And we consider the buffalo nation as a relative."

Joined by her daughter Megan Schnitker, who owns <u>Lakota Made natural goods store</u> on Riverfront Drive, Bull Bear and more than a dozen other Lakota people had come from the Rosebud Indian Reservation of South Dakota to a farm at the halfway point between that state and Mankato. The bison farm is one of two owned and operated by Sleepy Bison Acres of Sleepy Eye.

The Sunday event furthered the youth organization's mission to restore the American buffalo's sacred role in Lakota history.

Tribes followed tens of millions of Tatanka across vast swaths of the high plains, directly relying on America's national mammal for shelter, tools and food. During the 1800s, <u>Euro-American settlement and U.S. legislation</u> decimated the bison population to hundreds.

Read more here.

# An American Buffalo, named 'Tyson the Bison,' Spotted Casually Roaming the Chicago Suburbs

(From USA Today)

An American buffalo is on the loose, casually roaming around Chicago's suburbs looking for a new home.

The Lake County (Illinois) Sheriff's Office said in a <u>social media message</u> that the family-owned buffalo – known as "Tyson the Bison" – fled its home in September and has continued to graze in Lake and McHenry counties of the Chicago suburbs. There have been known sightings of the buffalo before, <u>most recently when a photographer captured Tyson in Cary, Ill.</u>, vaulting the buffalo into local stardom.

The owners of the buffalo are hoping for a snowfall so that they can track the animal and

bring it home safely. The animal had just been delivered from a different farm before going on the loose.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is strongly urging pedestrians not to approach the buffalo and to notify authorities.

On its <u>Facebook page</u>, the sheriff's office wrote: "Tyson means you no 'farm!' We 'hoof' talked to the owners who are hoping for a snowfall, so they can track her and take her into 'cowstody' safely."

Read more here.

### 900 Bison at Yellowstone Are Targeted for Removal

(From The New York Times)

It was a conservation success story: In 1902, <u>fewer than 100 bison</u> were scattered throughout the Great Plains, with poachers posing for photos beside thousands of skulls. More than a century later, 5,400 bison roam the fertile grounds of Yellowstone National Park.

But now, there are too many bison, according to the National Park Service.

Wildlife officials and tribal entities agreed on Wednesday that as many as 900 bison from Yellowstone National Park would be slaughtered, shot by hunters or placed in quarantine at the service's <u>Stephens Creek Capture Facility</u>, where the animals will be tested for brucellosis, a disease that causes abortions or stillbirths in cattle.

The horned, furry mammals have been overgrazing the land — causing possible mass starvation of other animals — and roaming into Montana, where farmers fear their cattle could become infected by brucellosis, the service said.

"Doing nothing is not a realistic option," the service said on its <u>website</u>, explaining why it was permitting the killing of an animal that was once at risk of extinction.

Most areas around Yellowstone continue to limit where bison are allowed, and human development on its habitat has hindered expansion of its range, the service said.

While wolves have recently made a healthy comeback in the park, they have had little effect in reducing the number of bison, which can stand six feet tall, weigh 2,000 pounds and defend themselves easily as a group against predators.

Read more here.

# Organizers Tout \$72M Bison World Project, As Plan Is Questioned by Tribes

(From the Grand Forks Herald)

JAMESTOWN, N.D. — A Jamestown businessman is heralding the Bison World project as the greatest opportunity for Jamestown in nearly 150 years while Native Americans are asking for more details.

Presentations this week by the organizers of the Bison World project provided updated plans as they move toward making a pitch for financing from the State Investment Board and the Legacy Fund in the future.

The project has a preliminary cost estimate of \$72 million and would be in southwest Jamestown on North Dakota State Hospital land used as pasture by the National Buffalo Museum.

"This is as big or bigger than the railroad coming to Jamestown," said Jamestown

businessman Dick Geigle.

Tamara St. John, a Republican member of the South Dakota Legislature and a member of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, said any presentations of Native American life at Bison World would need to be authentic.

"Telling our own story," she said, referring to Native American life stories. "With that goal in mind, you can understand why we are watching this project."

Doug Yankton, chairman of the Spirit Lake Tribe, called the project exploitive.

"Somebody will profit from our stories," he said.

Read more here.

# Montana Gov. Gianforte, AG Knudsen Try to Stop American Prairie's Bison Through Political Pressure

(From the Great Falls Tribune)

One of the most common observations made by early European explorers in Montana was the immense buffalo herds and the Native people who hunted and used the huge animals. A 2016 article in the Intermountain Journal of Sciences by James A. Bailey chronicles the observations.

The Crows were reported to kill "upwards of a thousand" bison in a day in 1824; meanwhile, George Catlin recorded 500 Shoshone tribal members slaughtered more than 1,400 in one day in 1832.

Yet as tribes and Montana begin to see more bison repopulate a state where they were once taken by the hundreds, two of the state's top officials, along with heads of several key state agencies, want to put a stop to a private nonprofit organization's attempt at placing small bison herds on lands where the animals once roamed.

American Prairie, formerly known as "American Prairie Reserve," has purchased thousands of acres throughout Montana and has had grazing leases that have been tied to the lands for years. That's why when it came to renewing those leases through the federal government's Bureau of Land Management, the organization wasn't expecting the furor that came from state leaders.

When the BLM's own assessment determined that no significant harm would come from the grazing or leases, Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte, along with the leaders from the state's department of agriculture and the Wildlife, Fish and Parks as well as Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen, objected, urging the federal leaders to reconsider and hold more public meetings.

Read more here.

## Animal Rights Activist Found Guilty of Breaking and Entering (From Meatingplace)

A jury in North Carolina has found animal rights activist Wayne Hsiung, a founder of the group Direct Action Everywhere, guilty of felony charges for stealing a baby goat from a ranch, according to media reports.

Hsiung <u>received a suspended sentence</u> and supervised probation, after the jury found him guilty of breaking and entering and larceny in the February 2018 incident, the Transylvania Times reported. Hsiung had posted a live video to Facebook showing he and three other activists carrying out the "open rescue" of the goat from the Sospiro Ranch in Pisgah

Forest, the report said.

The report said the ranch's owner testified that he faced harassment after the incident and ultimately decided to sell the farm and move out of state.

It is the first time Hsiung has been convicted on criminal charges in connection with removing animals from private property: he faces similar charges in several states, and other cases have been dropped, <u>according to berkeleyside.org</u>. Hsiung ran unsuccessfully for mayor of Berkeley, Calif., last year.

### Low-Carbon Beef: Coming Soon to A Meat Aisle Near You?

(From Meatingplace.com)

Consumers concerned about climate change and willing to pay more for meat that's less damaging to the environment will soon have more options.

Low Carbon Beef — a certification program for cattle raised with reduced greenhouse gas emissions — has been approved as a process verified program service provider by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Stillwater, Okla.-based LCB announced Tuesday.

The first USDA-approved program for figuring the life cycle of greenhouse gas emissions for beef production, LCB aims to give the industry a scientifically devised means to differentiate and market beef to people willing to pay more for sustainable food.

As things stand, people perusing the meat aisle are "not able to distinguish which steak was created with more or less emissions," LCB founder Colin Beal, an engineer who grew up in a cattle-raising family, told Meatingplace in an interview.

"I want to contribute to the industry and make it more resilient," Beal said. "There are a lot of people who have stopped eating beef because of the impact on the climate."

The company randomly interviewed shoppers at grocery stores in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas and found most open to paying a premium for meat with a reduced carbon footprint, he said. He likens it to a willingness by many to pay more for grass-fed beef, saying "USDA organic beef can retail for double" the cost of the conventionally processed version.

When organic food first became a thing, there was confusion about what the term really meant, Beal noted. "Ten to 15 years later, the USDA has a whole branch of their service group just focused on organic. I wouldn't be surprised if over time we see that same type of development here."

Farms, ranchers, feed yards and beef packers can enroll their cattle for certification. To qualify, cattle must show at least 10% lower greenhouse gas emissions than the industry standard. Cattle are measured across 20 criteria tied to feeds, fuels, fertilizers and cattle function.

#### FACT's 2021-22 Fund-a-Farmer Grants

FACT awards competitive grants of up to \$3,000 to working, independent farmers located in the U.S. who raise beef cattle, bison, broiler chickens, dairy cows, ducks, geese, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep and/or turkeys.

Before submitting your online application, please read the complete set of eligibility quidelines below.

Applications must be submitted online by 11:59pm CT on January 20, 2022, to be considered for this round of funding. Grants will be awarded in March 2022.

Read more and apply here.

### **Five Great Grants for Small Businesses in Texas**

(From Forbes)

Do you want to grow your small business but don't know how? Grants may be able to help finance your business growth, and best of all—you don't have to pay back the money. Both the government and private organizations offer grants for small businesses in Texas that require financial assistance. We've compiled five grants for your small business to apply for. New grants are released regularly, so it's important to check back often.

**Government Grants** 

Young Farmer Grant Program Amount of Grant: Up to \$20,000

Deadline: Fall and Spring

The purpose of the <u>Young Farmer Grant</u> is to grow and support Texas agriculture. It's open to anyone between the ages of 18 and 45. This program has a 1:1 match requirement, which means the farmer must match the grant amount. For example, if the total project costs \$20,000, the farmer must raise \$10,000 that the grant will match.

Skills for Small Business

Amount of Grant: Up to \$1,800 for each new employee

Deadline: Ongoing

Skills for Small Business is a program offered by the Texas Workforce Commission to help small business owners train new workers. The company must have fewer than 100 employees and it pays up to \$1,800 for each new employee and \$900 for existing employees per 12-month period. Training must occur at a public community or technical college or the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service. Eligible training includes forcredit, continuing education and online courses.

Read more here.

### Ohio Launches Grant Program for Meat Processing Upgrades (From Meatingplace)

Ohio's Department of Development and Department of Agriculture are launching a grant program to help Ohio meat processors improve their businesses.

The Ohio Meat Processing Grant provides grants of up to \$250,000 to Ohio livestock and poultry producers so they can implement processing efficiencies, expand, or construct facilities at existing sites, assist in training and certification, and improve harvest services. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis beginning Tuesday, Dec. 7.

Grants can be used to reimburse businesses for the following costs:

- · New/upgraded machinery/equipment
- New/upgraded technology products
- · Personnel training costs
- · Plant construction/expansion confinement
- Plant construction/expansion processing
- · Plant construction/expansion refrigeration
- Food safety certification costs
- · Cooperative interstate shipment program costs

Go to <u>Development.Ohio.Gov/MeatProcessing</u> for more information.



### Save the Date!

- 1/1/2022 Prairie Legends Bison Webcast Auction Online
- 1/3/2021 Diamond 4D Ranch Webcast Auction MT
- 1/4/2021 Crowley Ranch Dispersal Webcast Auction SD
- 1/6/2022 Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction Online
- 1/7/2022 Montana Bison Association Winter Conference MT
- 1/8/2022 Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Simulcast Auction SD
- 1/19/2022 1/22/2022 National Bison Association Winter Conference CO
- 1/21/2022 NBA/RMBA Junior Judging Event National Western Stock Show CO
- 1/22/2022 NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale National Western Stock Show CO
- 2/3/2022 Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction Online
- 2/12/2022 Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Simulcast Sale SD
- 2/19/2022 Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Simulcast Auction SD
- 2/26/2022 Beltway Bison Consignment Live Bison Auction PA
- 2/26/2022 Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction Online
- 3/04/2022 Rocky Mountain Bison Association's Spring Conference Location TBD
- 3/10/22022 Eastern Bison Association Annual Conference PA
- 3/12/2022 Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction Online
- 3/18/2022 Minnesota Bison Association Spring Meeting MN
- 4/21/2022 Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction Online
- 5/26/2022 Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction Online
- 7/12/2022 International Bison Conference Saskatoon, SK

Please visit <a href="https://bisoncentral.com/calendar/">https://bisoncentral.com/calendar/</a> 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 <a href="mailto:im@bisoncentral.com">iim@bisoncentral.com</a> and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

### Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events





