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Weekly Update



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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 17, 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.

GTSS Consignment Deadline Today; New Facilities to Welcome Bison at NWSS



Today is the deadline to consign quality breeding stock to be part of the 42nd Anniversary Gold Trophy Show and Sale at the National Western Stock Show in Denver.

GTSS may be steeped in more than four decades of tradition, but the top-quality bison arriving in Denver in January will enjoy new, five-star accommodations as a result of the improvements being made as a part of the National Western redevelopment. The new NWSS includes pens specifically designed for the annual bison show and sale. The new sale arena at the Stock Show will provide a welcoming atmosphere for potential buyers.

Please see details below and consign by the end of today at <https://bisoncentral.com/2022-gold-trophy-show-and-sale-live-animal-market-class-entry-form/>.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity, consign to 2022 GTSS.

Once again, Buffaloheard Productions will be producing a full color catalog for the event with advertising space available for anyone interested. Advertising does not necessarily have to be associated with the GTSS and presents a great opportunity to reach an engaged audience! Advertisements can be full color or black/white and pricing and availability are shown [here](#). The catalog will be available to attendees at the NBA Winter Conference as well as the live Gold Trophy Show and Sale. Additionally, it will be posted online on the NBA website for viewing and downloading in advance of the conference and auction. Advertisements are sold on a first come, first serve basis. Please contact Karen at (605) 381-3738 or buffheard@gmail.com to discuss your options.

Per the [GTSS Rules and Regulations](#), "The NBA acts only as an agent and assumes no responsibility in the event of injury or death to any animal or for any discrepancy between the buyer and the consignor."

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!



Enter The NBA Winter Conference Photo Contest To Win Cash Prizes

With underwriting support from the Texas Bison Association, the National Bison Association is proud to announce the return of our photo contest for any members 18 years of age or older. This year's contest will feature cash awards for the top three spots:

- 1st place – \$200;
- 2nd place – \$100;
- 3rd place – \$75.

There will also be a Youth photo contest available in three classes: 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
-

The top three entries in each category will featured in *Bison World Magazine*. See rules and entry form at bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/. Please submit entry (one photo per entry) by the January 8th deadline.

Is Your Membership Directory Listing Up to Date?

One of the most important benefits of being a member of the National Bison Association is the ability to network with fellow ranchers, marketers and enthusiasts across the country.

The NBA membership directory is the most valuable resource for members to connect to discuss challenges, share information, and to assist each other in developing successful businesses.

The annual membership directory is included on the Winter edition of *Bison World* magazine, which is distributed exclusively to NBA members.

If you have had a change of address, phone or email, or have updated any of your information in the last 12 months, please be sure to notify the NBA by emailing jim@bisoncentral.com, so we can update our internal records accordingly. If you'd like to check on your listing, please email jim@bisoncentral.com, or give us a call at 303-292-2833 to check.

NBA Junior Judging Event Announced – Honors Larry Higgins

The National Bison Association Junior Judging Program, now renamed as the Larry Higgins Bison Junior Judging Contest, is set for Friday, January 21st, at the National Western Stock Show in Denver.

This free, annual event is open to individuals between 8 - 21 years of age, who are academically eligible (i.e. passing all classes). Participants judge four classes of bison and provide oral reasons on one class, as selected by the judges. Everyone participates individually and is eligible to earn a scholarship. Additional recognition is provided for the top three registered teams and the top three junior participants (12 years of age or younger).

The annual event returns with a total of \$3,200 in scholarship money for the top three contestants. Register ahead of time here: [The Larry Higgins Bison Junior Judging Contest - Rocky Mountain Bison Association \(bisonranchers.com\)](http://TheLarryHigginsBisonJuniorJudgingContest-RockyMountainBisonAssociation(bisonranchers.com))

The annual Junior Judging contest was renamed this year for Larry Higgins, longtime champion and promoter of bison who died of cancer in early 2021. Larry shared his knowledge and passion for bison with everyone, including children. In 2008, his son Josiah was the first person to join the NBA as a junior member. Larry saw the value of getting kids, including his own, involved in the industry at a young age. The National Bison Association launched the Junior Judging Contest in 2008 and it wasn't long before Larry volunteered to help. RMBA now partners with the NBA to run the competition. Unfortunately, Larry passed away in 2021. That same year, the event's name was officially changed to The Larry Higgins Bison Junior Judging Contest to memorialize Larry's impact on the bison community.

Special thanks to scholarship sponsors, the National Buffalo Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Bison Association, and Rocky Mountain Natural Meats.

The Larry Higgins

Bison Junior Judging Contest

Friday, January 21, 2022 at 9 a.m.

Hosted by the National Bison Association (NBA) and Rocky Mountain Bison Association (RMBA). Held in conjunction with the Gold Trophy Show & Sale during the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colorado.

Top 3 Individuals Earn a Scholarship

1st - \$1,500

Sponsored by the National Buffalo Foundation



2nd - \$1,200

Sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Bison Association

3rd - \$900

Sponsored by Rocky Mountain Natural Meats



Scholarships will be awarded to the top three scoring individuals and paid to the higher education school of their choice.

Contest Highlights

- Participants will judge four classes of bison and provide oral reasons on one class, as selected by the judges
- Everyone participates individually and is eligible to earn a scholarship. Additional recognition will be provided for the top three registered teams and the top three junior participants (12 years of age or younger)
- No entry fees
- Open to individuals 8 to 21 years old who are academically eligible (i.e. passing all classes)
- NBA/RMBA membership not required, but available

Participants are encouraged to review information on Livestock Evaluation/Judging and Oral Reasons to prepare for the contest. Resources are available via a web search or by contacting your local FFA or 4H chapter. (*Membership to these organizations is not required.*)

How to Enter

Register online at <https://bit.ly/3ptYHuX> or in-person. (Day-of registrants are asked to check-in earlier than 9 a.m.)

The contest will be held in The Yards at the NWSS, by the bison pens. Check-in is at 9 a.m. Awards will be presented around 12 noon.

For more information: Contact Jim Matheson at jim@bisoncentral.com or 303-292-2833.

Hosted by:



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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.

DAKOTA DYNAMITE Buffalo Sale

Saturday, February 12, 2022

6:00 P.M. MST

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Bison win gives new perspective to B.C. farm

(From The Western Producer)

Surprise win at Agribition prompts producers to consider rebuilding their herd after recently scaling back the operation.

Cindy Donally had few thoughts of winning at this year's Canadian National Bison show. Donally Livestock and XY Bison from Fort St. John, B.C., had sold the main herd in February 2020, leaving just 17 cows and 14 calves.

But then Donally got a call on Sept. 30 to enter animals in the show held during Canadian Western Agribition. She had to enter by the next day.

"These are calves out of the cows that we kept back and they were so-so, I thought," she said. "And the cows (the mothers) are very old."

She was told to bring them anyway, so she went out to the pasture, brought them in and picked out four to start on grain.

She and her husband drove 16 hours straight, arriving in Regina the morning of Nov. 19. Three days later her yearling heifer, out of a cow more than 20 years old, was named grand champion female.

Donally was shocked but said quality has always been the foundation of the herd.

"We've been around a long time and always selected our animals right from when we started. If something wasn't fitting, then ciao, it went," she said. "We tried to keep the main herd as best as we possibly could. We always bought the best bulls to breed back."

Read [more](#).

First 2 bison families transferred to tribes under conservation program

(From KPVI NBC)

For the first time, two families of bison are being transferred from the Fort Peck Reservation to the Yakama Nation in Washington and the [Modoc Nation](#) in Oklahoma. Each tribe will receive a family of 28 bison under the [Bison Conservation Transfer Program](#) that began in 2019. The transfers are overseen by a coalition that includes the Fort Peck Tribes, InterTribal Buffalo Council, Yellowstone National Park and Defenders of Wildlife.

"Bison are incredibly social animals, so one of the key goals of this program is to maintain these social structures once they arrive at their new home," Chamois Andersen, senior Rockies and Plains representative at Defenders of Wildlife, said in a statement.

Before shipment could occur, agents from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service conducted a final brucellosis test in Fort Peck's quarantine facility. After receiving negative results, the animals were cleared for transfer.

The Yakama Nation started a bison program in 1991, when the tribe bought about a dozen from a member, according to a [Yakima Herald story](#). The herd grew to a peak of 200 head before being reduced. Some of the bison meat is given to tribal elders and distributed through the Yakama Nation Diabetes Program, the Herald reported.

The Modoc Nation has a herd of about 200 bison, including 16 it acquired from Grand Canyon National Park last year. The tribe slaughters some of the bison and sells the meat.

Read [more](#).

There Are Too Many Bison In Yellowstone. Some Will Be Relocated To Tribal Nations

(From NPR)

Yellowstone's bison population is booming and will be culled. Scott Simon talks to Troy Heinert, executive director of the InterTribal Buffalo Council, about how tribes are involved.

SCOTT SIMON, HOST: More than 5,000 bison roam Yellowstone National Park. That's too many, according to the National Park Service. Nine hundred of these bison will be culled - hunted or caught and slaughtered. A small number will be relocated this winter as part of an agreement reached by wildlife officials and tribal entities. Troy Heinert is executive director of the InterTribal Buffalo Council, also a member of the Rosebud Sioux Nation, and joins us now from Nevada. Thanks so much for being with us.

TROY HEINERT: Well, thank you for having me on.

SIMON: This is because of the threat of a disease, I gather.

HEINERT: Well, it's a threat of the disease, but it's also about restoring, you know, wild buffalo to tribal nations. That's what ITBC's main focus on because we know our tribes have the capability to manage and grow those herds and, you know, get the pristine genetics that Yellowstone buffalo have.

SIMON: Well, tell us about that and what your hope is.

HEINERT: Well, Yellowstone buffalo are the cornerstone of the species. They're the last free-roaming wild buffalo that go back to the same buffalo that our ancestors followed and made their life from. So, tribes are very interested in keeping that species alive and that genetic alive and bringing it into their own tribal herds, and as well as the spiritual and cultural connections that we have to those buffalo.

Read [more](#).

Vermont Farm Shares Bison with Abenaki to Help Fight Food Insecurity

(From WCAX)

Native American tribe is trying to prevent its own food insecurity. The Nulgehan Abenaki Tribe has partnered with a farm owner in Shoreham to help raise bison and provide meals for Abenaki citizens in Vermont.

"In the peak of the pandemic it seemed like a good idea to share the animals," Bill Heminway said.

Bill and Lissy Heminway took over the Wiley Side Farm in Shoreham over the summer and inherited the bison that came with it.

"We really started to get to know the bison for the first time and we realized how different

they were to us than raising beef," Bill Heminway said.

The two are cattle farmers and wanted to figure out a way to share their wealth of bison. "They're a wild animal. They have a wild spirit, and many native people connect to bison," said Don Stevens, the chief of the Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe.

So, the Heminways reached out to Chief Stevens to take ownership of 24 of their 32 bison and help feed those in need.

Stevens says providing the Abenaki citizens with a healthy food option-- for free-- is huge.

Read [more](#).

Bison Set To Return To Britain After Thousands Of Years - 'They Look Quite Intimidating'

(From the Express, UK)

Britain's first ever Bison rangers, Tom Gibbs and Donavan Wright, are preparing to welcome four of the animals to Blean Woods near Canterbury in the spring.

The European bison is larger than its American counterpart and can weigh up to a tonne with a shoulder height of 6ft 2in.

Mr. Wright, who previously worked with lions, leopards, rhinos, elephants and Cape buffalo in southern Africa, explains that despite their intimidating appearance the animals have a gentle nature.

He said: "They look quite intimidating but they're very gentle natured. They're gentle giants.

Read [more](#).

A New Way to Predict Grazing Cattle Weight Gain on Rangelands from Satellite Imagery

(From USDA ARS News Service)

WASHINGTON - USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) developed a unique approach to using satellite imagery to predict cattle weight gain on rangelands. By fusing multiple images over a period of time, scientists were able to monitor how forage quality changes over space and time in rangelands within the shortgrass steppe, and how this relates to the weight gain of free-ranging cattle throughout the summer grazing season.

Managing the grazing season in rangelands can be challenging due to high variability in temperature and rainfall over time. From a manager's perspective, it is essential to know when and where forage production and quality are changing to optimize free-range livestock weight gain and meet other environmental objectives. This is not just about chasing forage quantity (total amount of vegetation biomass); it is also about looking for the highest-quality forage throughout the season.

"This study is probably the first-time high-quality datasets have been used to predict cattle weight gain directly from satellite imagery," said Sean Kearney, Post Doc Research Associate in Fort Collins, CO.

Read [more](#).

Funding Opportunities

New England Farmer Microgrants Program

American Farmland Trust is accepting applications for the 2022 cohort of the [New England Farmer Microgrants Program](#) (NEFMP).

Starting this year, AFT will be able to provide at least 100 grants of up \$5,000 each to farmers annually for the next five years, and 80% of the funds will be dedicated toward the adoption of regenerative agriculture and soil health practices on livestock operations.

The application process will take place in two rounds. Preliminary applications are due by January 7, 2022.

Read [more](#).

Young Farmer Grants

The National Young Farmers Coalition is partnering with Chipotle to offer \$5,000 [grants to 50 young farmers and ranchers](#) to support them in building careers in agriculture. Forty-five awards will go to businesses already in operation, and five to projects starting in 2022. Grant funding may support completing a project, purchasing a new piece of equipment, covering operating costs such as seeds and compost, building new infrastructure, attending a farmer training program or conference, hiring additional farm labor, or covering personal finances that stand in the way of farm success, including but not limited to childcare, housing, or student loan payments.

Funds, once awarded, may be used to match other grant opportunities. National Young Farmers Coalition commits to providing a minimum of 50% of the grants to Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, and 50% of grants to female-identifying, non-binary, and trans farmers.

Applications are due by January 28, 2022.

Read [more](#).

Boulder County Sustainable Food and Agriculture Fund

Boulder County, Colorado, has set aside \$405,000 for [sustainability-focused initiatives](#) that will address the priority needs of local farmers and agricultural producers. Boulder County invites farmers, agricultural producers, the private sector, and non-profit organizations to apply for one-time capital grant funding to undertake environmental sustainability projects that benefit Boulder County's food system and agricultural lands.

Any registered business, official non-profit organization, or government entity can apply for funding at a minimum of \$40,000 to a maximum of \$150,000 per project or apply to the small project fund for a minimum \$2,000 up to a maximum of \$5,000.

Applications are due by January 5, 2022.

Read [more](#).



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Save the Date!

- 1/1/2022 - Prairie Legends Bison Webcast Auction - Online
- 1/3/2022 - Diamond 4D Ranch Webcast Auction - MT
- 1/4/2022- 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
- 3/05/2022 - Rocky Mountain Bison Association's Spring Conference - CO
- 3/10/2022 - 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 <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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