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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 3, 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.

NBA Provides Members with Guide to USDA Drought Assistance Resources

The National Bison Association today issued an e-blast to all members with an updated guide to the drought assistance resources available to bison ranchers through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Ranchers facing economic losses because of the drought have several programs available from USDA to help them offset some of that damage," said Dave Carter, NBA executive director. "Application deadlines for some of those programs are coming up fairly quickly, so it is important that producers start gathering up the documentation needed to file for assistance."

The resources included in the NBA guide include the Farm Service Agency's Livestock indemnity Program (LIP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP). The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has additional assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Risk Management Agency has resources for forage losses.

A copy of the NBA resource document is available to all members [here](#).

NBA Participates in Western Bison Association Conference and Kansas Buffalo Ass. Event

The National Bison Association staff headed to Kansas and Utah today to connect with ranchers attending events hosted by the Western Bison Association and the Kansas Buffalo Association this weekend.

Assistant Director Jim Matheson, along with Communications Director Karen Conley, are in Ogden, Utah for the WBA's winter meeting, which is being held in conjunction with the association's annual Show and Sale at the Golden Spike Event Center tomorrow. Matheson will provide an update on NBA activities at the association's banquet this evening.

Executive Director Dave Carter will provide a similar update this evening at the KBA meeting, being held in conjunction with that association's open consignment sale tomorrow at the Farmers and Ranchers Livestock Commission facility in Salina, KS.

Marketers Report Continued Market Growth

National Bison Association marketers participating in the association's twice-yearly survey last month were bullish on continued growth in consumer demand but noted that a large supply of finished animals will continue to dampen carcass prices for the next several months.

In the results compiled this week, 89 percent of the respondents reported that customer demand for bison is continuing to increase, with half of those respondents saying that demand is up more than 10 percent over last November. In an indication that the restaurant business rebounded this year, 71 percent said they were short of middle meats (tenderloin, strips and ribeyes) to supply the marketplace. Demand for pet food ingredients is increasing as well, according to the survey.

Half of the marketers surveyed said that the market share for bison meat has continued to increase, while the other half reported that it has remained steady. Grass-fed beef continues to be identified as the primary competition for bison meat.

Most marketers forecast that the supply of live animals will remain steady in the coming months, although 50 percent predicted a higher supply animal in the next 7-12 months.

A full summary of the markers' survey will be posted in the members' section of www.bisoncentral.com next week.

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 its 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 in Bison World magazine and on the NBA's social media channels. Submissions are due by January 8th and must include a completed entry form, which can be downloaded here - <https://bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/>. Entries are limited to one entry per member, per class.



The Adult class is open to any NBA 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 and will be featured in Bison World Magazine.

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 <https://bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/>. A special thanks to the Texas Bison Association for sponsoring this contest!

Bulls Lower, Heifers Higher in Latest USDA Report

Prices paid on dressed young bull carcasses was slightly lower in October, although dressed carcasses were higher, according to the latest USDA monthly wholesale price report released last Friday.

Dressed young bulls brought an average of \$384.82/cwt in October, which was \$2.74/cwt. lower than the previous month, and \$11.37 lower than the previous October. Dressed heifer carcasses averaged \$369.87/cwt. in October, which was \$10.67/cwt. higher than in September, but still \$16.96 lower than October 2020.

Through November 26th, 58,524 bison have been processed under USDA inspection for 2021. That's the highest year-to-date level in recorded history. The YTD processing this year is 3,471 ahead of 2020, and 10,479 ahead of the YTD level in 2019.

The monthly USDA price report is available [here](#).

The NBA's five-year tracking report is available in the members' section of www.bisoncentral.com

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.

MISSOURI BISON ASSOCIATION



PRODUCTION SALE

Thursday, **December 9, 2021**

Lolli Brothers Livestock Market, Macon, MO

Buyer's Reception/Dinner: December 8 - Location TBA

SHOW & SALE

Saturday, **March 19, 2022**

Mo-Kan Livestock Market, Butler, MO

Buyer's Reception/Dinner: March 18

Meal provided by MBA at the Sale Barn Cafe

To Consign, Call:
Carol Morris: 660-998-0990 or
Peter Kohl: 816-585-4779



Officials Agree to Reduce Yellowstone's Bison Herd by As Many As 900

(From The Hill)

Federal, state and tribal officials made a deal to have 600 to 900 bison quarantined, shot by hunters or slaughtered during the upcoming winter so the animals won't spread diseases to cattle, The Associated Press reported.

Yellowstone National Park is currently home to 5,450 bison. Hunting is normally not allowed within the park.

The agreement came due to concerns that too many bison would go up north to Montana over the winter and spread brucellosis to cattle, potentially causing them to lose pregnancies.

An extra 200 bison could be added to the list to kill or quarantine if the addition is necessary to decrease the population slightly or make it stable, according to the AP. Officials say the herd's numbers should quickly rebound in the spring.

Bison Escapes, Roams Free in Lake, McHenry Counties

(From the Patch.com)

LAKE AND MCHENRY COUNTIES, IL — Residents living in Lake and McHenry counties are being urged to keep an eye out for a bison that has been spotted out and about in recent days.

On Sunday, the Island Lake Police Department posted a video captured from an officer's squad car while driving on Darrell Road. The "beloved Island Lake bison" that has become "as elusive as Sasquatch himself" escaped in September while being corralled into an enclosure from a trailer, according to Island Lake police.

A suburban farm purchased the bison, Hector Matias, an Island Lake Police Department officer, told Patch.

Read more [here](#).

Bison in Canada Discover Ancient Petroglyphs, Fulfilling an Indigenous Prophecy

(From Smithsonian Magazine)

The elders of the [Wahpeton Dakota Nation](#) had long prophesized that the return of the [plains bison](#) to their ancestral lands would portend a welcome turn of events for Canada's First Nation peoples. They may not have known, however, that it would take just eight months for this prediction to come true.

In December 2019, officials at [Wanuskewin Heritage Park](#) in the province of Saskatchewan [reintroduced](#) bison to the region more than a century after the animals were hunted to near extinction. The following August, the herd's hooves uncovered four [petroglyphs](#), or rock carvings, and an accompanying tool used to create the ancient artworks.

"The elders used to tell us when the bison come back, that's when there'll be a good change in our history," says Wahpeton Dakota Elder Cy Standing. "We've been down a long time. But it feels like we are starting the way up."

(Editor's note, Attendees at the 2023 International Bison Conference will have an opportunity to visit Wanuskewin Heritage Park in conjunction with the convention).

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](#).

USDA 2022 Ag Outlook Forum to Focus on Sustainability

(From Meatingplace.com)

In 2022, USDA's largest and premier annual event will focus on innovations to minimize the environmental footprint of agriculture and ensure sustainability while improving crop yields.

The theme for the 98th Agricultural Outlook Forum, a virtual event that will be held Feb. 24-25, 2022, is "New Paths to Sustainability and Productivity Growth," the agency announced in a news release.

The forum will begin with a presentation by USDA Chief Economist Seth Meyer on the department's outlook for U.S. commodity markets and trade for 2022 and the U.S. farm income situation. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will deliver the keynote address, followed by a plenary panel of distinguished guest speakers.

The forum program will also include 30 breakout sessions covering six key areas: climate mitigation and adaptation; frontiers in agricultural innovation and production; U.S. agricultural trade and global markets; commodity outlooks; supply chain resilience; and equity and inclusion.

Visit the [Agricultural Outlook Forum website](#) to register for the free event.

Prospects For Plant-Based Alt-Meat Gets Muddier

(From Meatingplace.com)

Recent developments are muddying the outlook for growth in the market for plant-based

meat alternatives.

After eye-popping percentage increases in recent years, sales of plant-based protein in the four weeks ended Oct. 3, 2021, fell by 1.8% from the year-ago period, according to multiple [reports](#) citing retail data company SPINS. Vegan alt-meat sales have now fallen by 0.6 percent this year, Plant Based News [reported](#).

The “marked slowdown” in plant-based protein sales was noted earlier this month by Michael McCain, president and CEO at Maple Leaf Foods. The Toronto-based meat giant [is now reassessing its investment](#) in plant-based protein amid ongoing sales declines in that unit.

Furthermore, the results of a new study published in the journal *Nutrients* found reason to question whether plant-based meat alternatives (PBMA) hold the same nutritional benefits as traditional plant-based diets based on pulses, legumes and vegetables.

“Diets based on novel plant-based substitutes were below daily requirements for calcium, potassium, magnesium, zinc and Vitamin B₁₂ and exceeded the reference diet for saturated fat, sodium and sugar,” the researchers from the National University of Singapore and Wageningen University in the Netherlands [summarized](#).

“Much of the recent focus has been on protein quality and quantity, but our case study highlights the risk of unintentionally increasing undesirable nutrients while reducing the overall nutrient density of the diet when less healthy plant-based substitutes are selected,” they wrote.

Truckers' Hours of Service Exemption Extended

(From Meatingplace.com)

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has extended the modified [Emergency Declaration originally issued in March of 2020](#), continuing the waiver for some commercial truckers — including those hauling livestock — from the federal Hours of Service (HOS) regulation. The extension runs until Feb. 28, 2022.

In August, the FMCSA had extended the waiver to Nov. 30.

[The HOS rule limits](#) truckers to 11 hours of driving time and 14 consecutive hours of on-duty time in any 24-hour period and requires prescribed rest periods.

“We’re pleased the FMCSA recognized the challenges COVID still presents and the problems it has created, including supply chain issues, for the livestock industry and acted accordingly,” said National Pork Producers Council President Jen Sorenson said in a release about the renewed extension. “Extending the HOS waiver ensures that livestock truckers can get hogs to market safely and efficiently. Likewise, truckers hauling livestock feed can get those essential supplies to farms.”

Separately, a provision in the infrastructure bill recently signed into law expanded the miles agricultural truckers can drive without the HOS restrictions. Drivers hauling livestock already were exempt from the HOS rule for the first 150 air miles of their runs. Now they also will be exempt from HOS rules for the final 150 air miles from their final destination, providing additional flexibility to ensure drivers can safely complete their deliveries while protecting other drivers and ensuring the welfare of the animals in their care.

Secretary Vilsack Announces Hall of Tribal Nations

(From USDA)

The Office of Tribal Relations is proud to host a Hall of Tribal Nations in the U.S.

Department of Agriculture. These flags welcome tribal leaders and organizations visiting USDA and serve as a reminder of USDA's federal trust responsibility and diplomatic nation-to-nation relationship.

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack shared a [video dedicating the new space](#) at the White House Tribal Leaders Summit, held virtually on Nov. 15-16, 2021. During the Summit, tribal leaders engaged with the highest levels of the Administration on key issues, policymaking, and mutual goals.

The Hall highlights dozens of tribal nation flags along with artwork from Native American artists, and Native produced and indigenous foods.

EU Proposes 'Deforestation-Free' Standards for Beef Imports

(From Meatingplace.com)

The European Commission has proposed new rules for imports of several commodities, including beef, which aim to curb deforestation and raise environmental standards in Europe and globally.

The main driver of deforestation and forest degradation is the expansion of agricultural land, which is linked to the production of commodities such as soy, beef, palm oil, wood, cocoa and coffee that are imported into Europe, the commission said in a press release. As a consumer of these commodities, the EU is partly responsible for this problem, it said.

The regulation would set mandatory due diligence rules for companies that want to place these commodities on the EU market. Geographic coordinates would be collected for the land where the commodities are produced, and a benchmarking system would evaluate countries and their level of risk of deforestation and forest degradation for the products in the scope of the regulation.

By promoting the consumption of "deforestation-free" products, the new rules are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss. The commission also said it will step up dialogue with other big consumer countries to join efforts.

"If we expect more ambitious climate and environmental policies from partners, we should stop exporting pollution and supporting deforestation ourselves," said Virginijus Sinkevicius, EU commissioner for the environment, oceans and fisheries.

The regulation will guarantee that domestic and imported commodities are measured by the same standards, and there will be no ban of any country or any commodity, according to the commission. Sustainable producers will continue to be able to sell their goods to the EU.

The commission is also proposing to help partner countries improve forest governance and create socio-economic opportunities for the populations through sustainable value chains.

Most Meat Alternatives Contain 'Excessive' Amounts of Salt, Study Says

(From New Hope Network)

A recent study revealed that a significant number of vegan- and vegetarian-friendly alternative meat products have "excessive" levels of salt compared to their conventional

meat counterparts.

Independent delves into the research, which further diminishes the health halo plant-based meat products have enjoyed since their inception. This and other findings could prompt some of the leading companies in this space to lean more on the environmentally friendly angle of their products rather than talking up their health claims.



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Save the Date!

- 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
- 12/9/2021 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 1/1/2022 - Prairie Legends Bison Webcast Auction - Online
- 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
- 1/22/2022 - 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
- 3/10/2022 - Eastern Bison Association Annual Conference - PA
- 3/12/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 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

