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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 11, 2020

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.

Director of Development Joins Bison Team

A new National Bison Association Director of Development scheduled to start January 1 will bring to the bison community a wealth of experience and expertise in fundraising and capacity building.

Eloise Mongillo of Connecticut agreed to accept the position this week, and will work jointly with the National Buffalo Foundation, the National Bison Association, the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies, and the Thorlson American Bison Foundation.



Director of Development is a new position that will focus on generating resources to support the Center of Excellence and other programs within the NBA and the foundations. Mongillo was selected from a field of more than 300 applicants for the position.

"Eloise brings to the bison community more than 25 years of experience in fundraising and nonprofit development," said Dave Carter, Executive Director of the National Bison Association. "She will help us reach beyond our traditional areas of financial support so

that we can fund the Center's research work and expand our outreach to consumers and new producers alike."

Dr. Kristi Cammack, director of the Center of Excellence, said, "I am really looking forward to working with Eloise to advance the Center and its resources. The hiring of Eloise is perfect timing, given the recent launch of the Center and the excitement it's received from the bison industry. With her energy and enthusiasm, Eloise is a great addition to the team."

Said Mongillo, "I am thrilled to be joining the National Bison Association. Since my introduction to the organization in October, I quickly fell in love with bison and the NBA's mission. I hope to have the opportunity to meet many of you in person at the Winter Conference in February and look forward to joining this amazing team."

Mongillo's fundraising experience includes Connecticut Public Broadcasting, the Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, Easter Seals Goodwill Industries as well as serving as a board member for the American Heart Association Connecticut Chapter.

Carter Provides Bison Overview to USDA Foreign Ag Professionals

A group of about 25 career employees of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service received a virtual tour of a bison ranch, and an overview of the bison business yesterday, as National Bison Association Executive Director Dave Carter provided a presentation to the agency's Junior Advisory Professional Committee (JPAC).

FAS sponsors JPAC as a means for its career employees to learn about the agricultural sectors engaged in international trade. The group normally conducts a tour of several states each year to meet with agricultural leaders to develop a deeper understanding of the priorities for international trade. JPAC was scheduled to pass through Colorado last summer, and the NBA had offered to host a tour of a local bison ranch, and to organize a meeting with commercial bison marketers in the area.

That tour was cancelled because of COVID-19, but JPAC invited Carter to provide a virtual presentation to the group this week. Carter gave an overview of the historical connection between bison and healthy grasslands, discussed some of the current economic opportunities and challenges facing the bison business, and highlighted the export priorities for the National Bison Association.

NBA Board of Directors Hold 2021 Planning Day Next Week

The National Bison Association Board of Directors will gather via Zoom next Thursday for a day-long planning session to develop a game plan for how the organization can continue to lead the interests of the U.S. bison business while maintaining financial stability through the months ahead.

Donnis Baggett, president of the NBA, said, "This year created incredible challenges for our organization. When COVID-19 hit in March, the board, staff, and volunteer members rallied quickly to make sure that the association—and our members—weathered the immediate storm. Much of this was done 'on the fly.' Next week's session allows us to be proactive moving into 2021."

USDA to Work with NBA on Details for Section 32

Representatives of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service will be meeting with leaders of the NBA and commercial bison processors on Monday to begin developing the details and procedures to implement the Section 32 purchase of \$17 in ground bison meat that was announced last Friday.

The discussion on Monday is set to cover the requirements processors will be required to meet to bid on supplying the program, and on the logistics and time frame moving forward.

The NBA will provide information on the program to all members as details are finalized.

Information will also be available on the USDA Commodity Procurement website [here](#).

2021 Winter Conference Agenda Finalized

[Registration is now open](#) for the 2021 Winter Conference, February 19 – 20, in Rapid City, South Dakota, in conjunction with the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association. Please mark your calendars for this information packed two-day event, which will conclude with the first ever, simulcast video-Gold Trophy Show and Sale! Attend in person, or take advantage of our virtual option.

The abbreviated conference will include a virtual streaming for members who want to participate, but who do not want to attend in person. For those attending in person, proper safety measures will be in place including recommended guidelines from the CDC and the South Dakota Department of Health. If forced the cancel, registration would be fully refundable.

The [Ramkota Hotel of Rapid City](#) will be hosting the conference and have rooms available to attendees at the very reasonable rate of \$75/night – double occupancy. The booking web link below is good for the dates blocked only. If you want to arrive early or stay longer, you will need to call the hotel directly to book at 605-343-8550, and ask for the Nation Bison Association block – https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.42048.html?groupId=5U2NC6B6

Please register [here](#) no later than January 20, 2021.



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FEB. 19 - 20, 2021
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HOTEL INFO

Please reserve your lodging by contacting the Ramkota Inn in Rapid City, SD directly at 605-343-8550, and request the NBA room block; \$75/night

QUESTIONS?

Please visit bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/, email jim@bisoncentral.com, or call (303) 292-2833.

FINAL CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

- 8 am - Registration Open
- 9:30 - Conference Welcome & Legislative Update
- 10:00 - Bison Marketing Success in 2020 - Panel
- 11:15 - Drs. Kristi Cammack and Jeff Martin - The Center of Excellence for Bison Studies at SDSU
- Noon - Lunch
- 1 pm - Dr. Brad Johnson, Ruminant Nutritionist - Basics of diet formulation in bison production
- 3:00 - Bison Mentor Session - Panel
- 5:30 - Social, Dinner and Benefit Auction

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

- 8 am - Registration Open
- 8:00 - GTSS Consignors Meeting
- 9:00 - Kevin Leier, Heartland Bison Ranch - Managing the "Young Guns" through M. Bovis
- 10:30 - Processing Challenges and Solutions: Elizabeth Thistlethwaite, Chris Roper and Kristopher Kelley
- 11:30 - Lunch
- 12:30 - Visit the bison - Central States Fairgrounds
- 2:00 - Dusty Oedekoven, DVM - SD State Vet.
- 3:00 - DTBA General Membership Meeting
- 4:00 - NBA General Membership Meeting
- 5:00 - DTBA/NBA Awards Dinner
- 6:00 - NBA Gold Trophy and DTBA Girlz Going Wild Simulcast Bison Auction at the Ramkota Hotel

REGISTRATION:

- In-person - \$150 (includes meals)
- Virtual - \$50
- Extra Dinner Tickets - \$60
- Kids' Meal Pass - \$60
- Exhibitor Booth - \$150

Please register online at bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/, or by calling (303) 292-2833 by January 20, 2021

Canadians Get Update on NBA Activities

Members of the Canadian Bison Association gathering in cyberspace for the organization's virtual annual conference last Saturday received an update on activities and issues in the United States from NBA Executive Director Dave Carter.

The CBA had determined earlier this fall to cancel its in-person meeting this year, and to instead offer a one-day on-line session with presentations and their annual general membership meeting. Carter joined two other presenters who shared insights into the future of bison meat in the consumer marketplace and maintaining economic and emotional health through the pandemic.

Voices of the Buffalo Way Celebrates Return of the Bison

The U.S. Senate may have designated 7th as National Bison Day, but the Wildlife Conservation Society determined that our National Mammal needs more than a 24-hr. recognition. WCS recruited tribal, conservation and private ranching leaders to produce a one-hour online webinar entitled Voices of the Buffalo Way.

NBA Executive Director Dave Carter joined Leroy Little Bear of the Blackfeet Nation, Arnell Abold of the InterTribal buffalo Council, Cristina Mormorunni and Alexa Montefiore of the Wildlife conservation Society, and other bison advocates in a webcast celebrating current restoration practices and highlighting the challenges to continues restoration. The webcast can be viewed for the next few days [here](#).

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.



Matriarch Madness
Over 250 Head of Bred Females in 3 Auctions!
January 2 - Prairie Legends Bison Webcast - 3 pm MST
January 4 - Wolf Springs Ranch & Guests Simulcast - 10 am MST
January 9 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Bison Simulcast - 6 pm MST

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BUFFALO BLOG Celebrates First Year

Our FREE Buffalo Blog www.BuffaloTalesandTrails.com celebrates its first year, arriving every other Tuesday. This week's fresh BLOG is on "Wood Bison versus Plains Bison," with the traditional STORY "Race with the Buffalo" and NEWS Item. Welcome to each of YOU who joins us on this incredible journey!! Our mission is to help people who have a soft spot for buffalo, come to know and love them—our country's National Mammal! Written by Francie M. Berg, teacher, and author of 2 award-winning books about buffalo. For Teachers and Students of American history, Buffalo Ranchers and Bison Experts, Native American youth, and Traditionalists, as well as Parents and Grandparents, all coming together to celebrate buffalo. And if you live on distant shores—we bring you virtual buffalo tours to enlighten and delight from your armchair! We love having YOU aboard!! Subscriptions are FREE. Just click on www.BuffaloTalesandTrails.com and Subscribe.

Together, we'll share history and the wonderful buffalo stories that never grow old, that are told over and over, around campfires, in classrooms and family gatherings!

Below Photo: The Johnson buffalo herd grazes the buttes and badlands near Shadehill SD, an authentic buffalo jump above Shadehill Lake not far from Hettinger ND. Photo courtesy of Jim Strand.



Officials Plan to Cull Between 500 And 700 Yellowstone Bison This Winter

(From Fox28Spokane.com)

Officials are planning to have between 500 and 700 Yellowstone bison culled from the population this winter, and none of the animals will be enrolled in the park's brucellosis quarantine program.

The culled bison will either be shot by hunters as herds exit the northern boundary of the park to find food or rounded up and shipped for slaughter.

Yellowstone National Park biologist Chris Geremia said if that target is met, an additional 200 males could be culled later in the winter.

"There's no space in the quarantine facilities. Right now, all quarantine pastures are at capacity," he said. "All animals that are trapped will be given to tribes and transferred to meat processing facilities."

The culling numbers were finalized Wednesday at a virtual meeting between federal, state, and tribal agencies that manage bison under the Interagency Bison Management Plan.

The plan attempts to balance conservation of bison with strategies to prevent the species from spreading brucellosis to livestock.

Read more [here](#).

Conservationists: Bisons Revive, Freshwater Dolphins Dwindle

(From ClickOrlando)

GENEVA – A leading conservation group uniting governments and civil society says all four known freshwater dolphin species are now threatened with extinction, after newly discovered information on the tucuxi in the Amazon river system showed it too is endangered.

The finding from the International Union for Conservation of Nature comes as its latest "Red List" of threatened species, released Thursday, also showed that populations of the European bison — Europe's largest land mammal — have improved, even as the list of extinct species overall has continued to expand.

"The European bison and 25 other species recoveries documented in today's IUCN Red List update demonstrate the power of conservation," said Dr. Bruno Oberle, IUCN's director-general.

Still, the conservation group said 31 species have been declared extinct in the latest of its regular updates of the list, including three Central American frog species and 15 freshwater fish species endemic to a single lake in the Philippines. A South China Sea shark, last seen in 1934 and only formally described last year, is thought to be "possibly

extinct.”

Craig Hilton-Taylor, head of the IUCN red list, said the impact of human activity was a driver for many species nearing extinction.

“All of these things are down to human activities, whether it’s direct hunting or fishing or harvesting of the species, to introducing invasive species, changing habitats to agriculture, urbanization, climate change,” he said in a video interview. “The human footprint is everywhere.”

Read [more](#).

Building Up the Bison Business

(From Meat and Poultry)

Mike Fogel took a unique path to his place in the meat industry. Buffalo Gal, www.buffalogal.com, operates from the grounds of the Money Creek Ranch in Houston, Minn. Mainly a marketer of buffalo (bison), wild boar, Meishan, Scottish Highlander beef and other niche meats, Buffalo Gal owner, Fogel, navigated a few twists and turns in his business strategy to evolve into a thriving online meat retailer.

“I started in bison almost 50 years ago, and I raised them in Wisconsin,” Fogel said.

“Then, I went to Montana and I leased 60,000 acres out there and had 650 head of buffalo. I wanted to get real big. I found out that being real big isn’t always necessarily the way to go.”

The Money Creek Ranch covers a little more than 100 acres and is home to about 60 head of buffalo and a varying number of Russian wild boar, also called Eurasian wild boar. Spring water on the property means watering the herd in the winter is not necessary. Fogel also leases a 5,000-acre pasture in South Dakota where he raises another 150 head. His Scottish Highlanders reside on a leased farm in Wisconsin where they are bred and raised for meat.

Fogel has intentionally made the numbers smaller over the years to get away from the business of raising and producing and focus on the marketing side of the business.

“We’re heading that way with all our animals,” he said. “We want to be able to buy them from people who raise them like we do.”

Fogel said the company buys more than 50% of the animals it slaughters and sells rather than raising them, which is a change. Because of specialization, the cost of land and the available land being bought by large corporate farming, it didn’t make financial sense to breed, raise, finish, slaughter, market and sell animals all within the same company.

Read [more](#).

Zollman Zoo Helping in Minnesota's Bison Conservation Efforts

(From Channel 6 – ABC)

(ABC 6 News) - At one point in time, an estimated 60 million bison were roaming in the United States, and the last known wild bison in Minnesota was spotted in Norman County back in 1880. The species' numbers decline quickly, but there have been recovery efforts to increase their numbers in modern history. The efforts are still ongoing, and Minnesota is helping.

"There's a lot to be learned about the bison and the story of the bison over time," says Ed Quinn, the natural resources manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Quinn, like many, have either seen in person or books the American bison. An animal that has become an American symbol, the state of Wyoming, including the animal

on their state flag. Wyoming, along with Kansas and Oklahoma, has also adopted the bison as their state mammal.

These animals are important pieces in the prairie ecosystem, explains Quinn. The bison not only help maintain prairie grasses, but they spread seeds of the grasses as well. They also help other species make homes in the prairie as well by creating dry patches in the grass.

However, there was a time that this species was facing extinction. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, by 1900, their numbers had been greatly reduced by market hunters and the U.S. Army. In part, as an effort to drive out the Native Americans living in the Plains at the time, says the DNR. The plaque outside the exhibit at Zollman Zoo doesn't name the "famous general" who said the quote but has what they allegedly said, "Kill the buffalo, and you kill the Indian."

Read [more](#).

Consider Mineral Deficiencies in Cattle Deaths

(From Drovers Magazine [edited])

Ranchers need to keep in mind that the wrong quantities of minerals can be dangerous or even deadly to cattle, said experts from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. When it comes to cattle and minerals, what works for a rancher 700 miles away may work better for you than what works for a neighbor 7 miles down the road; it all depends on what is in your soil, supplements, feed, forage, and water supply.

Hairgrove and Paschal both recall other memorable cases over the past year scattered across the state. A novel case involves bison in Upshur County.

"When the producers first came in my office about their dying bison, I didn't have a clue about bison," said Kaitlyn Slover, AgriLife Extension agent for Upshur County. "I quickly called my regional program leader, Larry Pierce, and he pointed me in the direction of Dr. Hairgrove."

Bison are known to have issues with internal parasites, especially with high-density stocking. After speaking with Hairgrove, Slover determined she needed to collect fecal samples to determine if internal parasitism was the cause of the deaths. Internal parasites were present, but the results of three necropsies indicated a severe mineral imbalance with high zinc and low copper liver levels.

"We also ran soil samples, water samples, forage samples and hay samples," she said. "Through all these tests, we were able to confirm the bison were suffering from high zinc and low copper levels."

They also consulted with Jason Banta, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist in Overton, on feed, minerals, and hay. They were ultimately able to come up with a plan for the producers.

"Trying to find research on bison was our biggest struggle; that's why the applied research we have started will be so vital to the industry as a whole," said Slover.

Through her research and work with Hairgrove, she has learned more about bison than she ever thought possible. For example, bison require much more "bunk space" – more feed and mineral troughs.

"You can't provide feed and minerals to bison in the same manner you would for cattle," Hairgrove explained. "Their social structure is different from domestic cattle." Although cattle and bison belong to the same family, Bovidae, and share a distant ancestor, their nutrition and health needs are not the same.

"Everyone hates to hear about animals dying, but the research that we have been able to conduct because of these deaths will prove to be important for other producers worldwide for years to come," Slover said.

Read [more](#).

MI Risk of TB Crackdown After Another Local Herd Infected

(From the Alpena News)

ALPENA - The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development will have to begin discussions with the feds about stricter cattle regulations if one more herd in Northeast Michigan tests positive for bovine tuberculosis before Jan. 13.

An infected cattle herd discovered on Nov. 10 in Alpena County was the third infected herd discovered in the last 12 months.

An agreement between the state and the U.S. Department of Agriculture stipulates that, if more than three cattle herds test positive for bovine TB in a 12-month period, both parties would have to begin negotiations that, in the worst-case scenario, could mean the USDA drops Michigan's split-state status that allows Michigan to monitor for TB in specific counties, as opposed to statewide, said Nancy Barr, assistant state veterinarian for MDARD.

Full [text](#).

Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary Welcomes New Bison

(From KuLR TV)

The Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary welcomes a new member to their family, a 6-year-old bison named Luna.

Luna joins 19-year-old Speedy, the sanctuary's resident bison.

She will remain separated from Speedy, who is in a separate enclosure, by a six-foot alleyway for the duration of her 30-day quarantine.

After she completes the quarantine period and gets the "all clear" from the veterinarians, the staff will introduce Speedy and Luna.

The quarantine pen is visible from the regular bison habitat, so the two bison will get used to seeing each other before the introduction.

Gary Robson, executive director of the sanctuary, says the staff is over the "moon" about Luna's arrival, especially for Speedy's sake.

"Bison are herd animals. They're social animals, and for 18 years now that Speedy has been with us, we have been her herd," he says. "It's absolutely wonderful watching Speedy with another bison. This is the first time she's seen another bison in most of her life."

Full story [here](#).

Newman Man Developing Bison Herd

(From westsideconnect.com)

A growing bison herd is roaming at the base of the West Side foothills between Gustine and Santa Nella.

Newman resident Leno Estrada launched WestSide Bison in 2017, following his family's long-standing ranching and livestock tradition - but with a distinct twist.

Estrada was working for CalFire at the time but was looking for an opportunity to start his

own enterprise when he decided to research in earnest the feasibility of raising bison.

“My family has been big in cattle going back to my roots in Mexico. I thought that I might raise Angus (cattle) like so many people do,” Estrada shared.

But he wanted bison, Estrada said, and upon learning that the species had its own growing industry niche decided to start a herd of his own.

He traveled to Colorado to attend the National Western Stock Show, where he selected seven bison calves....and WestSide Bison had its start.

Estrada decided to focus on the breeding side of the industry rather than meat production and looked for the best genetics in choosing the calves - emphasizing quality rather than quantity of animals.

“With the limited resources I had as far as land, I decided to start small using some of the best genetics in the United States. My herd is all out of Denver with some of the best genetics in the country,” he explained.

Two of the heifer calves he selected placed first and second in the national show, Estrada noted.

Read more [here](#).

What Vilsack’s Return to USDA Would Mean for U.S. Farmers and Ranchers

(From AgWeb)

As Joe Biden continues to craft his cabinet, [news surfaced Tuesday night](#) that former Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack will leave the U.S. Dairy Export Council to [lead USDA](#).

Farm Journal Washington correspondent Jim Wiesemeyer says if the news is made official, it won’t be the first time an Agriculture Secretary has served under more than one Administration. Jim Wilson served as Ag Secretary from 1897 to 1913 and did so under three Administrations. However, Wiesemeyer says Vilsack will make history in another way.

“I don’t think we’ve ever seen an Ag secretary come back after being gone, so that’s interesting,” Wiesemeyer says.

Biden is expected to confirm his USDA Secretary nomination later this week, but Wiesemeyer says consensus is building Vilsack will be tapped.

“He’s a known commodity and amongst the ag sector, who worries about everything, but they don’t have to worry about Vilsack,” he adds. “He’s a consensus builder. I think that’s what’s needed.”

Chuck Conner, who served as Deputy Secretary for the US Department of Agriculture before being named president and CEO of [National Council of Farmer Cooperatives \(NCFC\)](#) in 2009, says agriculture is wading through intense uncertainty right now with coronavirus and other elements at play.

“Obviously, coronavirus has thrown a whole new uncertainty on that as we are rapidly adjusting the way that we provide food to Americans in the midst of all that,” Conner says.

“You couldn’t script any more uncertainty, and I think for farmers and rural Americans, another uncertainty was obviously government and the leadership of government.”

Read more [here](#).

New House Ag leaders push for active, bipartisan panel

(From AgriPulse)

The Georgia Democrat and Pennsylvania Republican poised to take the reins of the House Agriculture Committee next year have shared priorities, including climate policy, but different timelines and approaches.

Reps. [David Scott, D-Ga.](#), and [Glenn “GT” Thompson, R-Pa.](#), were both selected by their respective caucuses as their party’s House Ag leaders for the next two years. Scott — by virtue of a slim Democratic majority — will chair the committee, and Thompson will serve as the panel’s top Republican. Both men indicate they want committee members to continue to work in a bipartisan way across regional differences.

“As I told Speaker Pelosi ... I have served on the committee when we had Republican chairmen and we had Democratic chairmen, and I’ve achieved things on that committee underneath both,” Scott said in an interview with Agri-Pulse. “Agriculture has been and will be a bipartisan committee because we have a history of that; I have a history of that.”

“Our numbers will be as close as ever,” Thompson said in a separate conversation with Agri-Pulse. “Which I think is going to help us continue to work in the bipartisan way we do in agriculture.”

The official committee rosters and party splits will be determined at a later date, but the committee’s Democratic majority could be as slim as two or three votes. For Scott, the close divide shouldn’t slow down an ambitious agenda that includes action on climate change, disaster readiness, and — of course — preparation for the next farm bill.

Reflecting a top priority of President-elect Joe Biden, Scott said that climate change “has got to be our top priority in this committee.” He wants to bring in scientists and other expert witnesses to discuss the subject and help producers navigate the subject, but also to lower the temperature on what can often be a very heated debate.

“Carbon sequestration, no-till farming, all of these things we’ve got to be able to have” as part of the discussion, Scott said. “We’re going to have to bring that climate change issue away from all of this politicization ... it is our farmers that are suffering.”

Thompson also brought up climate change as a top priority of his, but one that he’ll approach from the perspective of getting agricultural practices the recognition he feels they’re due. He said he wants to avoid overregulation that can be “punishing” to farms. He believes that grazing, responsible forest management, and other carbon-sequestering technologies that can come from agriculture need to be considered as part of the solution to the issue.

Meat Groups Advocate for Essential Workers on Vaccine Priority List

(From Wisconsin State Farmer)

Meat industry groups are urging governors across the U.S. to prioritize the COVID-19 vaccination for the men and women who work in the meat and poultry industry, following healthcare workers and those residing in long-term care facilities.

The North American Meat Institute (Meat Institute), the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), and the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) asked governors to consider workers including inspectors and livestock producers be given very high priority regarding the distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines.

Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly says her state considers meatpacking plant workers and grocery store employees essential workers, putting them just behind health care workers and nursing home residents for coronavirus vaccines, according to an Associated Press report.

While the first round of vaccines will go to front-line health care workers with a high risk of coronavirus exposure, she said the state will focus on essential workers in the second

phase of distributing the vaccine using definitions developed early in the pandemic.

Full [text](#).

Minnesota Winter Farmers Market Cost Share Program

Minnesota Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for another round of the [Safe at the Farmers' Market Cost-Share program](#).

Winter markets that meet at least four times between November and March and have five or more locally grown and/or cottage food vendors may be reimbursed up to \$300 on the purchase a variety of equipment that will help markets comply with the Guidance for Minnesota Farmers Markets and Vendors.

Approximately \$10,000 in total will be available through this program. Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis through December 15, 2020, or until all funds are depleted.

Read [more](#).

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2)

[Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2](#) (CFAP 2), will provide producers with financial assistance that gives them the ability to absorb some of the increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many more commodities are eligible for CFAP 2 than were eligible for CFAP 1. Online tools help farmers determine eligibility and potential payments. CFAP 2 payments will be made for three categories of commodities: Price Trigger Commodities, Flat-rate Crops, and Sales Commodities.

Sales commodities include specialty crops, aquaculture, nursery crops and floriculture, and other commodities not included in the price trigger and flat-rate categories. Payment calculations will use a sales-based approach, where producers are paid based on five payment gradations associated with their 2019 sales.

Nearly \$14 million is available. The deadline to sign up is December 11, 2020.

Learn more at <https://www.farmers.gov/cfap>

NC AgVentures Grant Program

[NC AgVentures Grant Program](#) is a Cooperative Extension program sponsored by NC Tobacco Trust Fund Commission that provides grants to North Carolina independent family farms, and community organizations that work with family farms, to develop new and innovative agricultural projects that will increase farm profits.

Grant awards up to \$8,000 are available to eligible applicants in 46 North Carolina counties.

Applications are due by December 18, 2020.

Read more. <https://agventures.ces.ncsu.edu/grant-program/>

Small Business Administration Disaster Loans in Response to Coronavirus

The U.S. Small Business Administration is offering designated states and territories [low-interest federal disaster loans](#) for working capital to small businesses suffering substantial economic injury because of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Upon a request received from a state's or territory's Governor, SBA will issue an Economic Injury Disaster Loan declaration. This makes loans available statewide to small businesses and private, non-profit organizations to help alleviate economic injury caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Note that eligible businesses include small agricultural cooperatives and producer cooperatives, but not agricultural enterprises. SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \$2 million in assistance and can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing.

These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses. The interest rate for non-profits is 2.75%. A list of areas eligible for these disaster loans is available online.

Read [more](#).

Bipartisan COVID Relief Proposal Allocates \$13B In Ag Aid

(From AgriPulse)

A bipartisan group of senators negotiating a \$908 billion coronavirus relief package is circulating a summary of the plan that says \$13 billion would be allocated for the agriculture sector.

The [summary](#), obtained by Agri-Pulse, doesn't specify how the money would be spent except for earmarking \$600 million for fishery disaster relief.

A broad outline of the proposal said only that \$26 billion would be provided for agriculture and nutrition.

According to the new summary, the plan would temporarily boost the individual monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program by 15% for four months and provide funding for The Emergency Food Assistance Program to assist food banks and food pantries.

It would also temporarily increase the value of Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits allowing participants to purchase additional fruit and vegetables.

Speaking to reporters Wednesday afternoon, a senator leading the negotiations, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-WV, said lawmakers are making progress on state and local funding, as well as liability protections.

Those two issues have been two major sticking points among Republicans and Democrats the last several months which have been the reason they haven't reached an agreement for COVID relief yet.



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- 1/04/2021 - Wolf Springs Ranch & Guests Auction - CO
- 1/9/2021 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Auction - SD
- 1/25/2021 - Clearwater Ranch Online Only Auction - OK
- 2/19/2021 - NBA - DTBA Joint Winter Conference - Rapid City, SD/Online
- 2/20/2021 - NBA GTSS & DTBA Girlz Going Wild Auction - Rapid City, SD/Online
- 2/22/2021 - TNC Smoky Valley & Tallgrass Prairie Online Auctions - KS
- 2/27/2021 - Beltway Bison Consignment Auction - PA
- 3/20/2021 - Missouri Bison Association Spring Sale - MO
- 6/27/2021 - National Bison Assn. Summer Conference - Cheyenne, WY

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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