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December 15 • January 17
February 11 - Grande Prairie, AB.
March 11 - Camrose, AB.
March 30 • April 27

PREMIER BREEDING STOCK SALES

February 25 MBA Great Spirit - Brandon, MB.
March 10 - BPA Wildrose - Camrose, AB.
March 11 - Irish Creek Bull Sale - Camrose, AB.
March 25 - SBA Cream of the Crop - Yorkton, SK.



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Weekly Update



bisoncentral.com

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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 16, 2022

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.

Japanese Trade Delegation Explores Bison Imports

Today, a delegation of Japanese government officials from the Office of Food Safety, members of the USDA, National Bison Association executive director Jim Matheson, and Rocky Mountain Natural Meats staff toured bison slaughter and processing facilities.

The USDA and the NBA are working together to expand markets for high-quality, American bison worldwide. These investments in market development will not only increase bison meat export revenue and volume but ultimately improve bison prices.

Japan offers a potentially lucrative export market, as North America is their number one importer of bovine products currently with strong demand for quality American premium cuts, as well as ground and other cuts.

The tour concluded with a meeting in which the Japanese officials interviewed each representative from the US delegation, including the NBA, to learn more about our approach to bison processing and marketing.

"We're grateful to the USDA Foreign Ag Service and Food Safety and Inspection Service for their collaboration to promote science-based guidance and recommendations to guide trade negotiations, removing barriers and increasing our market share for bison meat," said Jim Matheson, Executive Director.

The NBA thanks Rocky Mountain Natural Meat for hosting today's tours and for sharing their story with the Japanese delegation, who were very impressed with both plants and their staff.

KBA Sales Results and Comments

The Kansas Buffalo Association had their annual bison auction on December 3rd, see the results [here](#).

Here's a sale overview from sale chair, Dick Gehring:

Rising feed, interest, and fuel costs concerns were evident across the minds of all meat classes.

The closer to slaughter weight the animal was, the higher the price per lbs paid.

Bidding on the first two drafts of bull calves was slow getting started. Once the buyers kicked in, good bull calves were pretty steady at \$2.00.

Heifer calves average was \$1.35. The majority of solid heifers in the 4 weight region brought \$1.60. Mid to lights were \$1.34

All calf prices were steady for quality and sizing within classes. Light and flyweight prices were off, as they should be.

Disadvantaged animals wreak havoc on sale averages. The reason for breaking the classes down (seen above) is to reflect market accuracy.

Yearling bulls in the medium weights were \$1.90, heavy weights were \$2.10 with the light and fly weights averaging \$1.60

Yearling heifers in the heavy range were \$1.50, with medium to light weights averaging \$1.39

2 Yr Bulls weren't really tested with just 9 head. However, they were fairly steady at \$2.25.

2 Yr open 7 weight heifers were \$1.70 to \$1.90. 6 weight heifers were off at \$1.35 to \$1.40.

Bred heifers were untested with only 3 in the class. They averaged \$1658.00

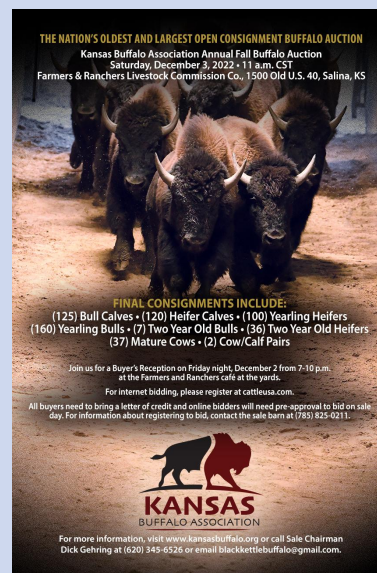
Bred cows in good shape and quality were in the \$1400 range while lighter weight breds sold for slaughter price.

Open cows of quality and flesh brought \$1.30 while poorer cows were around \$1.00.

This was our 33rd year at Farmers and Ranchers and our hats are off to Mike, his crew, and our crew. From all of us at the KBA Sale.

Thanks to buyers and consignors. It was our pleasure. For those that missed the opportunities, be there next year.

~Dick Gehring



Winter Conference Deadlines Fast Approaching

We've got a few deadlines rolling up fast- your help would be appreciated to spread the

word. (And THANK YOU for all of the word spreading already done!) All are posted on the @nationalbison Facebook page and available on the www.bisoncentral.com website.

This Friday, December 16, [Gold Trophy Show and Sale](#) Consignment Closes

This Sunday, December 18, Last day for [Early Bird Conference Registration](#) Savings

Friday, December 23, Last day for [Westin Hotel Room Block](#) Savings

Please help encourage participation in:

The [Larry Higgins Junior Judging Contest](#)

The [NBA Bison Video Contest](#)



National Bison Association
2023 NBA WINTER CONFERENCE:
THE BISON BENEFIT
JANUARY 18 – 21, 2023

Hotel & Conference
@ Westin Westminster
10600 Westminster Blvd.
Westminster, CO 80020

Gold Trophy Show & Sale and Junior Judging @ National Western Stock Show
4655 Humboldt St.
Denver, CO 80216

Wednesday, January 18, 2023
7:30am – 4:00pm GTSS Animal check-in NWSS
8:00am – 4:00pm Business Meetings (Invite Only)
1:00pm – 3:00pm Exhibitor Setup
3:00pm – Conference Registration Opens
3:00pm – 6:00pm Trade Show Open
4:00pm – 6:00pm Foundation Welcome Reception

Thursday, January 19, 2023
7:30am – 5:00pm Conference Registration Open
8:00am – 6:00pm Trade Show Open
8:00am – 11:00am Mentor Session
Introduction: Jim Matheson
Infrastructure: Moritz Espy
Animal Needs: Austin Puckett
Small Producer Panel: Joe Graham, Liz Riffle
8:30am – 9:30am Turner Enterprises–Weaning Systems
Study: Tim Goodnight
9:30am – 10:30am Bison Cooking Demonstration
11:00am – 11:45am Bison Hauling Panel: Troy Heinert, Paul Kolesar, Tim Omilusik
12:00pm – 1:30pm Lunch/ Video Contest Winners
1:00pm – 1:30pm Ken Burns Bison Documentary Trailer
1:30pm – 2:30pm Keynote–Massaging Landscapes to Life: Nicole Masters
3:00pm – 4:00pm Turner Enterprises–Grain Vs. Grass
Study Results: Dr. Stephen Van Vliet, Lydia O’Sullivan
4:00pm – 5:00pm Annual Commercial & Direct Marketers’
Panel Discussion: Bob Dineen, Jessi Deardorf, Jim Wells
5:30pm – 8:30pm Benefit Auction Dinner/ Member of the Year Award

Friday, January 20, 2023
7:30am – 8:30am GTSS Consignor’s Meeting
8:00am – 12:00pm Conference Registration Open
8:00am – 1:00pm Trade Show Open
8:00am – 9:00am NBA Voter Registration Open
9:00am – 12:00pm Junior Judging NWSS
9:30am – 10:00am NBA Elections
10:00am – 11:00am Reports: President, Financial, Executive Director, Canadian Bison Association
11:00am – 12:00pm Center of Excellence in Bison Studies
Updates and Grant Project Presentations
12:00pm – 2:00pm Lunch NWSS
1:00pm – 4:00pm Media Day/Afternoon in the Yards NWSS
1:00pm – 4:00pm Exhibitor Cleanup
5:00pm – 6:00pm GTSS Banquet Social
6:00pm – 9:00pm GTSS Banquet Dinner and Center of Excellence in Bison Studies Fundraiser

Saturday, January 21, 2023
8:00am – 9:30am Gold Trophy Show and Sale Judges’ Comments NWSS
10:00am – GTSS Live Bison Auction NWSS

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!







We Want Your Videos!

For the first time EVER, National Bison Association is offering a Bison Video



National Bison Association
8690 Wallf Court, Suite 200 Westminster, CO 80031-3646
www.BisonCentral.com Phone: 303-292-2833 Fax: 303-845-9081



**NBA 2023 Winter Conference
The Bison Benefit**

BISON VIDEO CONTEST

CASH PRIZES!!!!

Adult: 1st- \$350, 2nd-\$250 3rd- \$125
Youth: 1st- \$250, 2nd-\$150, 3rd-\$75

Contest! Cash prizes will be awarded to Junior Youth (8-13), Senior Youth (14-18) and Adults (19+). We're looking for short videos- 30 seconds or less. Those eligible to participate: National Bison Association Members or children/ grandchildren of members and/or InterTribal Buffalo Council Members. Click for [Full contest rules](#).

Deadline is Today to Consign Animals to Gold Trophy Show & Sale



If you've been putting off getting your paperwork in, hurry! Midnight tonight is the cut off to consign your top-quality bison breeding stock to the NBA's annual Gold Trophy Show and Sale. Please consign your GTSS entries at <https://bisoncentral.com/2023-gold-trophy-show-and-sale-consignment-form/>.

The 2023 GTSS will take place January 18 - 21 at the new and improved National Western Stock Show in Denver, CO. The GTSS features 9 classes of North America's finest breeding animals, which are judged and auctioned on January 21st with live and online bidding available.

Based on recent live [auction results](#), quality is being rewarded at this year's sales and breeding animals are overall bringing good money. [Click here](#) for the most up-to-date data on bison auctions from around the country- a valuable resource available to all Active and Life Members.

The mission of the Gold Trophy Show and Sale is to create an environment where producers can compete to establish the value of their bison in the current marketplace.

2023 Classes and Entry Fees:

2 Year Old Bred Heifer ('20) – \$110
Pen of 2 – 2 Year Old Bred Heifers ('20) – \$250
Yearling Heifers ('21) – \$110
Pen of 3 Yearling Heifers ('21) – \$200
Pen of 5 Heifer Calves ('22) – \$300
Heifer Calves ('22) – \$110
Two Year Old Bull ('20) – \$110
Yearling Bull ('21) – \$110
Bull Calf ('22) – \$110

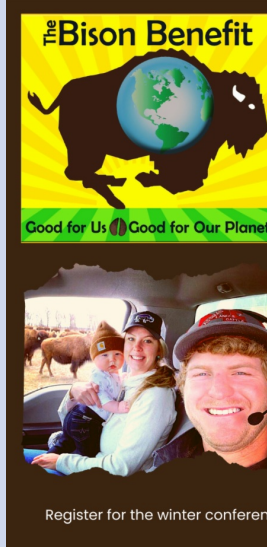
Get all the details and consign online at <https://bisoncentral.com/gold-trophy-show-and-sale/>.

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.

Presenters Confirmed for

Mentor Session

Thursday, January 19, bison growers will gather to share insight on what it takes to have healthy bison and a healthy business. Jim Matheson will be introducing the bison advantage and regional directors, Moritz Espy will discuss bison infrastructure, Austin Puckett will dig into animal needs, and Chad Kremer will facilitate a small producer panel which includes Joe Graham, Liz Riffle and more. This is a great opportunity for folks considering or recently entered into bison care and production to hone their skills.



National Bison Association

2023 NBA Winter Conference

MENTOR SESSION

January 19, 2023 @ 8am

New to bison?

Attend a full morning covering the basics of bison care & management.

- learn the bison advantage
- bison infrastructure: water, fence, handling
- bison care: grazing & feeding, vaccinations, deworming, mineral
- small producer panel - Q&A

Register for the winter conference right away: www.bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/

Rest in Peace Richard Flocchini

Richard James Flocchini passed peacefully on December 2, 2022. Rich spent many years as the chair of the NBA's Commercial Marketer's Committee. Rich received many accolades from the industry and was honored for his service on the Board of Directors of the North American Meat Processors Association. Our thoughts and deepest condolences are with the Flocchini family.

[Click for obituary.](#)

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.



<https://bisoncentral.com/eat-bison-to-restore-bison/>

USDA ANNOUNCES SECOND ROUND OF PARTNERSHIP FOR CLIMATE-SMART COMMODITIES AWARDS

From *NSAC*

Today, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced the second-round awardees of the Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities, a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) effort to combat the climate crisis by partnering with agriculture, forestry, and rural communities to provide climate solutions that strengthen rural America. The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) is pleased to see that the Administration's latest round of awards will benefit more than 30 minority-serving institutions and more than 20 Tribal partners.

"NSAC is pleased to see that USDA is investing \$325 million in Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodity awards to 71 projects that focus on the needs of small and underserved producers. We look forward to seeing these projects serve to support the kinds of producers for whom NSAC advocates. Moving forward, more information on the contents of the proposals and how they will serve small farmers and minority-serving institutions is essential to fully assess the value of the approach," said Cathy Day, PhD, NSAC climate policy coordinator.

USDA received more than 1,000 proposals from more than 700 entities, including over \$2 billion in proposals for this second, smaller funding round. A complete list of projects is available at: usda.gov/climate-smart-commodities.

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition members who received Partnership for Climate Smart Commodities grants in the first phase include:

Pasa Sustainable Agriculture: as a major partner in the Alliance to Catalyze Transition Incentives through Open Networks for Climate Smart Agriculture project AND as lead partner in Climate-Smart Farming & Marketing: Engaging in Community-Science

Organic Valley: as a major partner in the Alliance to Catalyze Transition Incentives through Open Networks for Climate Smart Agriculture project

CCOF: as a major partner in the Alliance to Catalyze Transition Incentives through Open Networks for Climate Smart Agriculture project

NCAT: as a major partner in the Farmers for Soil Health Climate-Smart Commodities Partnership AND as the lead partner in Climate Beneficial Fiber: Building New, Accessible, and Equitable Market Opportunities for Climate-Smart Cotton and Wool AND major partner in Expanding the STAR Program Across Colorado and the West AND as a major partner on Building Soil, Building Equity: Accelerating a Regenerative Farming Movement in Appalachia and the Southeast

National Bison Association: as a major partner in The Grass is Greener on the Other Side: Developing Climate-Smart Beef and Bison Commodities

Practical Farmers of Iowa: as a major partner in Expanding Agroforestry Production and Markets

[Read more.](#)

New Rockford bison processing plant expanding

By *Prairie Public Broadcasting*

The North American Bison LLC processing plant in New Rockford is expanding. "We've been experiencing solid growth, in terms of consumption of bison — not only domestically in the US, but across the globe," said North American CEO and President Jim Wells. "We saw a need to expand our production capacity."

Wells said a big driver of the expansion was the COVID-19 pandemic. "We had a lot of consumers who were at home, preparing meals for themselves, and looking for healthy alternatives," Wells said. "Bison is extremely healthy." Wells said it was more than just ground bison products.

"We ended up touching a nerve with consumers in regards to health, both on our traditional ground product, but also on our other lines, like steaks," Wells said. "So through COVID, we were able to expand our household consumption beyond the typical bison burger, and that's been a really positive thing for the industry."

Wells said North American Bison is harvesting around 11,000 animals on an annual basis. "We're going to move our capacity to over 17,000 animals annually," Wells said. Wells said a ceremony to celebrate the expansion has tentatively been scheduled for February.

[Click for more.](#)

Nora Springs community to help fundraise for new bison

From *The Courier*

Many Nora Springs residents can't remember a time when the town's unofficial mascot wasn't roaming through a field.

Multiple bison, commonly called buffalo, have roamed the grassy area next to Al Brallier's welding and manufacturing shop at the edge of town. Brallier has been caretaker of the large herd mammals since the 1980s.

"These things are still a wild animal, and you can't get out there with them. You got to be careful because they're still wild, and if they get mad at you, you're in trouble," said Brallier.

In October, Brallier's male bison "Bart" was found dead. Bison may live for 15 years in the wild, but in captivity they live 25 years or more, according to the National Park Service website. Bart was 24 years old.

[Click for more.](#)

Book examines tallgrass prairies' ecological history, effects on Indigenous cultures

From *Illinois News Bureau*

A change in climate, beginning in the 14th century, from a warm period to the Little Ice Age enlarged the area covered by grasslands, pushing the tree line east. Drought made prairie grasses more digestible for animals, and the cultivation of grasslands through burning by Indigenous tribes drew large bison herds that migrated into the eastern prairies, Morrissey said.

After the fall of the Cahokia settlement in southern Illinois in the mid-13th century, Indigenous people in Illinois moved from the centralized, grain-based agrarian lifestyle of Cahokia to more decentralized, smaller-scale villages based around a wide range of resources, including bison hunting, Morrissey said. They developed a distinctive type of bison hunting, chasing the animals on foot.

[Click for more.](#)

Trends for '23: Fresh Market

From *Meatingplace.com*

The Fresh Market chain of supermarkets, based in Greensboro, N.C., predicts these trends will dominate food headlines in 2023:

- * New global flavors: Eastern Mediterranean cuisine brings vibrant, aromatic flavors to the forefront to enhance everyday dishes. Sauces, like Matbucha, are used as a condiment for morning eggs or ingredient in Shephard's Pie.
- * Plant-based eating evolves: Expect continued development in plant-based cheese, bacon and egg products, while traditional dishes that lend themselves to a plant-based diet move to the forefront. Indian cuisine remains a great go-to, but the trend has created a demand for innovation around traditional staples like ravioli that is both plant-based and non-dairy.
- * Natural and functional foods: Wellness remains top-of-mind for many, with the upside that ingredients with added benefits are distinctive and tasty. Botanicals, such as dandelion and lavender, are popular again.
- * Mexican cuisine: It's America's new favorite comfort food (again). Beans, rice, cilantro and hotter sauces are popular for flavoring proteins of choice. Varieties of queso, salsa and guacamole are perfect for any meal as a topping or condiment.
- * Climatarian eating: The idea of eating for the health of the planet is a new one, with choices based on environmental impact. The parameters are not hard and fast, and participation can include eating pasture-raised, to buying more local and organic ingredients to reduce carbon emissions from transport, to eating a plant-based diet with crops that are good for soil.

[Source.](#)

Bison Prices Mirror Current Market

From *The Western Producer*

Prices for bison breeding stock were down at last week's national sale held during Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, reflecting conditions the entire agricultural sector has been struggling with for the last few years.

Canadian Bison Association President Les Kroeger said COVID market losses, drought and rising costs have combined to put his sector under pressure.

"Our marketplace is a little tight right now," he said. "We're under pressure and that was reflected in the prices."

The high-selling animal was a yearling bull from Shale Creek Bison of Russell, Man., which

sold for \$8,000 to an Alberta buyer. The top-selling price on the female side was \$4,100 and shared by a few animals, including the grand champion female shown by Shale Creek, which was named premier breeder at the show.

[Click for more.](#)

Bison's relocation to Native lands revives spiritual bond

From *Bobby Ross Jr. Associated Press*

BULL HOLLOW, Okla. — Ryan Mackey quietly sang a sacred Cherokee verse as he pulled a handful of tobacco out of a plastic bag. Reaching over a barbed wire fence, he scattered the leaves onto the pasture where a growing herd of bison grazed in northeastern Oklahoma.

The offering represented a reverent act of thanksgiving, the 45-year-old explained, and a desire to forge a divine connection with the animals, his ancestors and the creator.

"When tobacco is used in the right way, it's almost like a contract is made between you and the spirit — the spirit of our creator, the spirit of these bison," Mackey said as a strong wind rumbled across the grassy field. "Everything, they say, has a spiritual aspect. Just like this wind, we can feel it in our hands, but we can't see it."

Decades after the last bison vanished from their tribal lands, the Cherokee Nation is part of a nationwide resurgence of Indigenous people seeking to reconnect with the humpbacked, shaggy-haired animals that occupy a crucial place in centuries-old tradition and belief.

Since 1992 the federally chartered InterTribal Buffalo Council has helped relocate surplus bison from sites including Badlands National Park in South Dakota, Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming and Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona to 82 member tribes in 20 states.

"Collectively those tribes manage over 20,000 buffalo on tribal lands," said Troy Heinert, a Rosebud Sioux Tribe member who serves as executive director of the InterTribal Buffalo Council, based in Rapid City, South Dakota. "Our goal and mission is to restore buffalo back to Indian country for that cultural and spiritual connection that Indigenous people have with the buffalo."

[Click for more.](#)

Import Alert: Breeding Water Buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) and Yak (*Bos grunniens*) Now Eligible for Import from Canada into the United States

From *USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Bulletin*
December 9, 2022

Effective immediately, breeding water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) and yak (*Bos grunniens*) are eligible for import from Canada. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) requires an import permit for importation of these animals. The shipment must also be accompanied by a health certificate endorsed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The importer/ transporter must contact the Northern Border Port of entry at least 14 days in advance to arrange inspection details if the animals are transported by land. Full import requirements, including a list of approved ports of entry, are available on the APHIS Live Animal Imports webpage [USDA APHIS | Import of Live Water Buffalo and Yak](#).

Information for the import of water buffalo and yak from Canada for immediate slaughter may also be found on this webpage.

For any questions regarding this type of import, please contact Dr. Alexandra MacKenzie at (301) 851-3300, Option 2 or e-mail LAIE@usda.gov.

NCR-SARE Seeking Council Member

From *NCR-SARE*

The North Central Region - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (NCR-SARE) is seeking nominees* for a seat on its Administrative Council (AC):

* A farmer or rancher representative (NCR-SARE defines a farmer/rancher as someone who raises crops or livestock, especially as a business)

* Council members must live and work in one of the 12 states that make up the North Central SARE region. Those states are IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, OH, SD, and WI.

We particularly welcome nominees from Illinois, Indiana, or Iowa. Those are the three states in the North Central region that are not currently represented on the NCR-SARE Administrative Council. However, full consideration will be given to nominees/applicants from the 12 North Central states and will not be limited to individuals from Illinois, Indiana, or Iowa.

NCR-SARE's Administrative Council represents various agricultural sectors, states, and organizations. It sets program priorities and makes granting decisions for the region. A collection of farm and non-farm residents, the Administrative Council includes a diverse mix of agricultural stakeholders in our 12 states. Council members come from regional farms and ranches, university extension and research programs, and nonprofits. In addition, the Administrative Council includes regional representatives of the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, state agencies, and agribusinesses.

[Learn more](#)

To apply for a seat on the NCR-SARE Administrative Council, submit the following information by Thursday, January 18, 2023, using our [online form](#).

America's Farms and Ranches at a Glance: 2022 Edition

From *USDA Economic Research Service*

The America's Farms and Ranches at a Glance report, previously known as America's Diverse Family Farms, provides the latest statistics on U.S. farms, including production, financial performance, pandemic assistance, and farm household financial characteristics by farm size. ERS farm classification, or typology, is used to categorize farms into groupings to better understand conditions across the United States' broad farm sector. This year's edition explores farm household health insurance coverage, input acquisition practices, farm liquidity, and agritourism adoption.

[Click for more.](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture Announces Key Staff Appointments

From *USDA Press Release*

Release No. 0263.22

December 9, 2022

WASHINGTON, December 9, 2022 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the names of individuals who will hold senior staff positions in Washington, D.C. Katie Zenk has been promoted to Deputy Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Most recently, Zenk served as Chief of Staff for USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP). Prior to joining USDA in 2021, she held several positions with the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture, and served in several roles with Land O'Lakes, Inc. Zenk is a native of Danube, Minn., and holds a bachelor's degree in applied

economics from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, a master's degree in agricultural economics from Purdue University, and a master's degree in business administration from Indiana University. In her new role, Zenk will divide portfolios with current Deputy Under Secretary Mae Wu who will continue in her current role.

[For full list of appointments](#)

USDA Extends Regional Food Business Centers Request for Applications Deadline to Jan. 6, 2023

By *USDA News Release*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended the deadline to Jan. 6, 2023, for submission of the Regional Food Business Centers [Request for Applications \(RFA\) \(pdf\)](#). USDA previously announced changes to the RFA relating to the indirect cost rate. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.414(c)(1), USDA is required to accept the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) from those entities that have one. Applicants may contact us at RegionalFoodCenters@usda.gov with any questions and can view the updated [FAQ page](#) to find answers to common questions.

[Regional Food Business Centers](#) will provide coordination, technical assistance, and capacity building to help farmers, ranchers, and other food businesses access new markets and navigate federal, state and local resources, thereby closing the gaps or barriers to success. The Regional Food Business Centers will assist small and mid-sized producers and food and farm businesses with the goal of creating a more resilient, diverse, and competitive food system.

AMS is soliciting applications from organizations across the nation to develop the Regional Food Business Centers that will be geographically based, serving regional needs. Applicants must define the regions that their proposed Regional Food Business Center will serve, specifying high-needs priority areas within that region. USDA intends to serve each of the following priority areas by establishing at least one Regional Food Business Center in:

- a national Tribal Center
- Colonias (counties on the US/ Mexico border)
- Persistent poverty or other communities of high need/limited resources areas of the Delta and the Southeast and high need areas of Appalachia

USDA intends to fund at least six Regional Food Business Centers which includes two additional centers that will serve areas outside the ones listed above.

[Click for more.](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Announces an Additional \$325 Million in Pilot Projects through Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, for Total Investment of \$3.1 Billion

From *USDA FPAC*

TUSKEGEE, Ala. December 12, 2022 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that the Biden-Harris Administration, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing an additional \$325 million for 71 projects under the second funding pool of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities effort, bringing the total investment from both funding pools to over \$3.1 billion for 141 tentatively selected projects. [Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities](#) is working to expand markets for American producers who produce climate-smart commodities, leverage greenhouse gas benefits of climate-smart production, and provide meaningful benefits to producers, including small and underserved producers.

"Expanding opportunities for small and underserved producers is a key goal of Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities. Small and underserved producers are facing the impacts of climate change head on, with limited resources, and have the most to gain

from leveraging the growing market demand for agricultural goods produced in a sustainable, climate-smart way. Our goal is to expand markets for climate-smart commodities and ensure that small and underserved producers reap the benefits of these market opportunities,” said Vilsack.

The Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities funding opportunity had high demand from across agriculture and forestry. Between two funding pools, USDA received over 1,000 proposals requesting more than \$20 billion in funds from more than 700 entities, including nonprofit organizations; for-profits and government entities; farmer cooperatives; conservation, energy and environmental groups; state, tribal and local governments; universities; small businesses; and large corporations. Applications were received from all 50 states, tribal lands, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. In September, USDA announced \$2.8 billion for 70 tentatively selected projects from the first funding pool, which received over \$18 billion in total project requests for projects between \$5 million to \$100 million. Today, USDA announced an additional \$325 million for 71 projects under the second funding pool, which received over \$2 billion in proposals for projects from \$250,000-\$4,999,999. All of the projects funded through Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities require meaningful involvement of small and underserved producers. The second funding pool was particularly focused on innovative projects that emphasize enrolling small and underserved producers and invest in measuring, monitoring, reporting and verifying the benefits of climate-smart practices at minority-serving institutions.

Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities projects benefit from a diverse range of project partners, including more than 30 minority-serving institutions, more than 20 tribal partners, and many groups focused on working with small and underserved producers. Projects include support for activities that will expand and increase producer access to markets for climate-smart commodities, provide financial and technical assistance to support climate-smart production practice implementation, include investments in quantifying and monitoring greenhouse gas benefits of those practices, and bring the resulting commodities to new markets.

To maximize access to all types of entities, the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities funding opportunity offered applicants flexibility in terms of match requirements, ample time for applicants to assemble applications, and certainty that grants were appropriately sized to meet the scale and needs of diverse applicants. USDA is currently in negotiations regarding the first 70 projects and will work with the applicants for all 141 identified projects to finalize the scope and funding levels in the coming months. Funding will be provided by USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation. Secretary Vilsack made the announcement from Tuskegee University, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) and 1890 Land-grant University, which is the lead partner on two Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodity projects: one focused on developing climate-smart markets for agroforestry products and providing underserved producers assistance in transforming traditional production systems into agroforestry-based climate-smart production systems, and the other working with underserved producers to implement silvopasture and climate-resilient forage systems and market climate-smart sheep and goat products.

Other project examples include:

- Through the “Recognizing the Role of Buffalo Production as a Climate-Smart Commodity” project, the InterTribal Buffalo Council and other partners plan to work with 76 Tribes to incentivize their use of climate-smart practices related to buffalo herds. The Tribal Buffalo Market Initiative (TBMI) plans to assist Tribes in marketing their buffalo as a climate-smart commodity, develop sustainable programs for historically underserved Tribal buffalo producers and create a Tribally-led national strategy for education and outreach of buffalo as a climate-smart agricultural product.

[Click for more.](#)

USDA invites ag producers to respond online to the 2022 Census of Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) mailed survey codes to all known agriculture producers across the 50 states with an invitation to respond online to the 2022 Census of Agriculture at agcounts.usda.gov. The ag census is the nation's only comprehensive and impartial agriculture data for every state, county, and territory. By completing the survey, producers across the nation can tell their story and help generate impactful opportunities that better serve them and future generations of producers.

The 2022 Census of Agriculture will be mailed in phases, with paper questionnaires following in December. Producers need only respond once, whether securely online or by mail. The online option offers timesaving features ideal for busy producers. All responses are due Feb. 6, 2023. Farm operations of all sizes, urban and rural, which produced and sold, or normally would have sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural products in 2022, are included in the ag census.

"The 2022 Census of Agriculture is a powerful voice for American agriculture. The information gathered through the ag census influences policy decisions that will have a tremendous impact on ag producers and their communities for years to come," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "I strongly encourage all farmers, no matter how large or small their operation, to promptly complete and return their ag census. This is your opportunity to share your voice, uplift the value and showcase the uniqueness of American agriculture."

Collected in service to American agriculture since 1840 and now conducted every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census of Agriculture is a complete picture of American agriculture today. It highlights land use and ownership, producer characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, among other topics.

"Our farmers and ranchers have an incredible impact on our nation and the world. I want to thank them in advance for responding to the ag census," said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "We recognize how valuable their time is, so we have made responding more convenient and modern than ever before."

Between ag census years, NASS considers revisions to the questionnaire to document changes and emerging trends in the industry. Changes to the 2022 questionnaire include new questions about the use of precision agriculture, hemp production, hair sheep and updates to internet access questions.

Responding to the Census of Agriculture is required by law under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113. The same law requires NASS to keep all information confidential, to use the data only for statistical purposes, and only publish in aggregate form to prevent disclosing the identity of any individual producer or farm operation. NASS will release the results of the ag census in early 2024.

[Click for more.](#)

Request for Proposals for Farmers for Soil Health

The submission deadline for full proposals is February 28, 2023.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, in partnership with the Farmers for Soil Health collaboration, anticipates awarding competitive grants to accelerate the voluntary adoption of cover crops on corn and soybean farms in 20 states.

NCAT is a partner in this project. The program is expected to award approximately \$15 million in grants in 2023. Applicants should propose state-level or multi-state programs to support Farmers for Soil Health in one or more of the 20 eligible states.

Grantees are limited to state corn, soy, or pork commodity affiliate organizations or their designated partners.

farm crisis center

Even in the best of times, farming can be an incredibly high-stress occupation. Unpredictable weather, crop disease, volatile markets, heavy workloads, and social isolation are just a handful of the challenges that farmers may face.

These conditions force many family farmers and ranchers to make tough financial decisions that will impact their families, communities, and the entire country.

National Farmers Union compiled resources to help farmers through stressful times. Find them at:

<https://farmcrisis.nfu.org/>

National Suicide Hotline - 800-273-TALK (8255)



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Save the Date!

- 1/02/2023 - Prairie Legends Bison Webcast Auction - Online
- 1/06/2023 - Montana Bison Association Winter Meeting - MT
- 1/07/2023 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Simulcast Auction - SD
- 1/17/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 1/18/2023 - NBA Winter Conference - Westminster, CO
- 1/20/2023 - Larry Higgins Junior Bison Judging Contest - Denver, CO
- 1/21/2023 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - Denver, CO
- 2/02/2023 - Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Winter Conference - SD
- 2/04/2023 - Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Simulcast Auction - SD
- 2/11/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction, Grande Prairie, AB/25/2023 -

Online

- 2/24/2023 - Beltway Bison Consignment Auction - PA
- 2/25/2023 - MBA Great Spirit - Brandon, MB
- 3/04/2023 - RMBA Spring Conference - Fort Collins, CO
- 3/09/2023 - Eastern Bison Association Winter Conference and Auction - PA
- 3/10/2023 - BPA Wildrose - Camrose, AB
- 3/11/2023 - Missouri Bison Assn. & Oklahoma Bison Assn. Show & Sale - MO
- 3/11/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction, Camrose, AB - online
- 3/11/2023 - Irish Creek Bull Sale - Camrose, AB
- 3/25/2023 - SBA Cream of the Crop - Yorkton, SK
- 3/30/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 4/27/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online

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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