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February 11 - Grande Prairie, AB.
March 11 - Camrose, AB.
March 30 • April 27

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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 23, 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.



Happy Holidays from the NBA!

The National Bison Association wishes all of its members a happy and safe holiday season! Members, of course, are the lifeblood of this association and we want to extend our sincere thanks to each of you for supporting this organization. While it's been a very challenging year for producers and processors, it's also been very rewarding and our outlook for 2023 remains very optimistic. Please note that the NBA office will be largely closed next week so our staff can spend time with family and friends, and rest up before our forthcoming Winter Conference and Gold Trophy Show and Sale.

Consider Helping a Bison Community Member in Need

Please consider donating in this season of giving. Tim was planning on sitting on our bison hauling panel at our Winter Conference next month. Please help a good guy out if you can:



For those of you who may or may not know bison trucker, Tim Omilusik of Eastland Bison Transport had an incident this week while unloading a load of bison. In Tim's own words from his social media: "I was unloading and lost my grip on the side of my trailer. I fell to the ground hard, was rushed to Greeley hospital to get checked out. I broke my left wrist, my left bone above my ankle, my right heel bone, and had a seizure while in the hospital. Never felt so helpless and alone while being so far from home had made this very difficult. Hopefully, everything falls into place so I can get back home. Looks like I will be out of service for a while."

Tim has been stuck in Colorado in his truck for days due to weather and lack of finding someone to help drive him back home to Canada. He is a self-employed bison trucker with a family who's business is now forced to be shut down for a few months. His Canadian health insurance does not cover his medical expenses in the

United States. Tim would never ask for help, so let's rally together and help support someone down on their luck in our bison industry. When donating, a reminder to move the "Tip" portion for Go Fund Me to "0" or very little, or they will add 15% to your donation for them. You can donate [here](#).

Thank You 2023 Winter Conference and Gold Trophy Show and Sale Sponsors!

THANK YOU WINTER CONFERENCE SPONSORS 



We appreciate your support for the bison industry!

THANK YOU GOLD TROPHY SHOW & SALE SPONSORS



We appreciate your support for the bison industry!



Today is the Last Day to Save \$25 on Winter Conference Registration

Today, December 23, is the last day for [Early Bird Conference Registration](#) savings!

Please help encourage participation in:

The [Larry Higgins Junior Judging Contest](#) (Advanced registration appreciated)

The [NBA Bison Video Contest](#) (Get submissions in by January 9th)



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, NBA
Infrastructure: Moritz Espy, 777 Bison Ranch
Animal Needs: Austin Puckett, Benjamin Lee Bison
Small Producer Panel
8:30am – 9:30am TEI – Weaning Systems Study:
Tim Goodnight, Turner Enterprises Inc.
9:30am – 10:30am Bison Cooking Demonstration
11:00am – 11:45am Bison Hauling Panel:
4 Bison Hauling Experts Sharing Tips for Success
12:00pm – 1:30pm Lunch & Video Contest Winners
1:30pm – 2:30pm Keynote Presentation:
Massaging Landscapes to Life: Nicole Masters
3:00pm – 4:00pm TEI Grain Vs. Grass Study:
Dr. Stephen Van Vliet & Lydia O'Sullivan
4:00pm – Ken Burns Bison Documentary & Discussion
Featuring Ken Burns Presenting Virtually
4:20pm – 5:30pm Annual Marketers' Panel:
Featuring 3 commercial and 3 direct marketers
5:30pm – 8:30pm Benefit Auction Dinner and 2022
Member of the Year Award Ceremony

DON'T FORGET YOUR BENEFIT AUCTION ITEM!

Friday, January 20, 2023

7:30am – 8:30am GTSS Consignor's Meeting
8:00am – 1:00pm Trade Show Open
8:00am – 9:00am NBA Voter Registration Open
9:00am – 12:00pm Junior Judging NWSS
9:00am – 9:30am NBA Elections
9:30am – 11:00am NBA Membership Meeting and
Canadian Bison Association Update
11:00am – 12:00pm Center of Excellence for Bison
Studies Research Updates & Poster Session
12:00pm – 2:00pm Food Truck Lunch at NWSS
1:00pm – 4:00pm Media Day/Afternoon in the Yards @
NWSS with Buffalero Bison Handling Q&A
1:00pm – 4:00pm Exhibitor Move out
5:00pm – 6:00pm Gold Trophy Show and Sale Social
6:00pm – 9:00pm Center of Excellence for Bison
Studies Fundraiser and Gold Trophy Show and Sale
Banquet Dinner
9:00pm – midnight – Hospitality Room

Saturday, January 21, 2023

8:00am – 9:00am Gold Trophy Show and Sale Judges'
Comments at NWSS
9:00am – 10:00am – GTSS Buyer Registration
10:00am – GTSS Live Bison Auction at NWSS

THANK YOU PRESENTING SPONSOR:



 **National Bison Association**
8800 Wolff Court, Suite 200 Westminster, CO 80013-3646
www.BisonCentral.com Phone: 303-502-2833 Fax: 303-445-9281

 **The Bison Benefit**

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

Winter Break Project!

Get your kids to use their phone skills for cash! For the first time EVER, National Bison Association is offering a Bison Video 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](#).

Over 100 Head Bison Consigned to the 2023 Gold Trophy Show & Sale



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.

We are pleased to announce that 109 quality bison breeding stock have been consigned to the GTSS this year with over 20 consignors from across North America.

The GTSS sale will be on Saturday, January 21st at 10 am MDT. Bidding is available both in person and online. The auction will be facilitated by Quality Auction Services. Learn more about online bidding at <https://www.qasbuy.com/>.

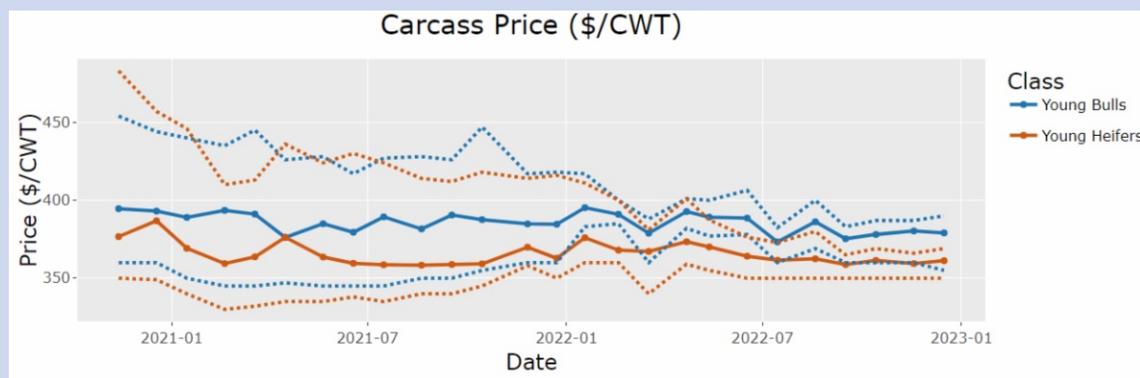
Buffaloheard Productions will be producing a full-color catalog for the event. The catalog will be available to attendees at the NBA Winter Conference as well as the live Gold Trophy Show and Sale. Additionally, it will be posted online on the NBA website for viewing and downloading in advance of the 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.

Bison Carcass Prices Largely Static in November

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.

Based on the November bison carcass price report, the most recent data available from the US Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Marketing Service, young bison bulls brought an average of \$3.79/lb., just one cent less than the previous month and a nickel less than the previous year. Young heifers brought two cents more per pound than the previous month and one cent less per pound than the previous year.

The USDA report reflects a more static price position for bison carcass prices. [Click](#) for the full report. USDA Market News provides unbiased, timely, and accurate market information on hundreds of agricultural commodities and their related products, free-of-charge to everyone. Our premier data gives a representative picture of commodity markets and promotes market transparency and fairness.



NBA Winter Conference Preceded by INDIGENOUS LED Bison Workshop

INDIGENOUS LED is a bison conservation and indigenous-focused organization that is coordinating a Continental Bison Working Group Workshop January 17-18 at the Westin in

Westminster, Colorado. It will be their first in-person gathering of the Bison Working Group since 2019. They plan to co-create strategic priorities for collective action in 2023; deepen relationships; investigate and design social acceptance strategies and celebrate Buffalo culture. The workshop will dovetail with the 2023 National Bison Association Winter Conference January 18-21 at the same venue. Wednesday, January 18th, attendees of both events are warmly invited to gather for a Welcome Reception.

Rest in Peace Ty Lucas Ward

Ty Lucas Ward, 46, of Morrison Colorado, passed away on December 13, 2022.

Ty was born on May 25th, 1976, to Brian and Diane Ward in Great Bend, Kansas.

The family moved to Colorado in 1980 when Ty was 4 years old.

After Ty graduated from Niwot High School in 1994, he went on to study business with an emphasis in Entrepreneurship at Colorado State University.



He graduated with a Business Degree from Colorado State University in 1998 and went on to have a 20+ year career at Rocky Mountain Natural Meats. After moving on from Rocky Mountain Natural Meats, Ty purchased his own business, which had always been his dream.

Ty married Ashley Hill in 2006 and together they had two children, Adelyn Mae Ward (14) and Mason Wayne Ward (12). They separated after 11 years of marriage.

Ty was in a happy, loving relationship for over two years with Jill Orsatti of Morrison CO. Ty is survived by his parents, Diane and Brian Ward (Windsor, CO), children, Adelyn and Mason Ward (Evergreen CO), brother and sister-in-law, Ace and Kellie Ward (Keenesburg, CO), sister and brother-in-law, Sunny and Ted Ranieri (Windsor CO) and 4 nieces and nephews (Kylan and Aspen Ward and Duke and Eli Ranieri).

The family will be holding a Celebration of Life in honor of Ty at Pelican Lakes Golf Course in Windsor, Colorado on January 7th, 2023 from 2 – 5 PM.

“When I come to the end of the day and the sun has set for me, I want no rites in a gloom-filled room, why cry for a soul set free? When you are lonely and sick at heart, go to the friends we know, and bury your sorrows in doing good deeds. Miss me, but let me go.”

December Bison Insider Podcast Now Available

The Minnesota Bison Association offers a monthly podcast with a focus on what’s happening within the bison industry. The Bison Insider Podcast features auctioneers in the United States and Canada along with meat processors to give listeners a better sense of animal markets and consumer trends. The cold winter winds are blowing strong but doesn’t stop the bison industry. Today, we’ll talk about the latest live animal sales with Jud Seaman and Brennin Jack. Then we’ll discuss weaning calves with Tim Goodnight. Finally, we’ll learn about bison as a modern keystone species with Zak Ratajczak.

[Click](#) to listen to the podcast.

Editor's Note: The following news stories were distributed by organizations not affiliated with the National Bison Association. They may not reflect the



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

Golden Gate Park's bison used to be chaotic escape artists — until one major change was made

From *The San Francisco Chronicle*

For centuries, until their near-extinction in the 1800s, bison roamed the American plains.

And for several decades in the early 20th century, they roamed San Francisco's Richmond District as well — frequently escaping from their Golden Gate Park home to scare residents, dine on flower beds and force the neighborhood's city-slicker police force into roundup duty.

The current drama-free herd, which continues to live in a paddock west of Spreckels Lake in the park, hasn't had a reported escape attempt since 1995. Contrast that with the 1920s, when 25 buffalo broke free of their fencing — roaming from Fifth to 43rd avenues for nearly a full day before the final bull was captured.

The herd was high maintenance from the start in 1891, when park leaders started a breeding program to help build back U.S. bison numbers — which had dropped from 30 million to just a few hundred in the 1880s. The first animal was purchased for \$1,000, joining deer and antelope in an enclosure near where Kezar Stadium stands now. (The park also had everything from bears to goats that pulled carts with children — serving as the city's zoo until an official one was founded in 1929.)

[Click for more.](#)

North American Bison in New Rockford expanding; pandemic boosts bison consumption

From *The Bismarck Tribune*

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 U.S., but across the globe," CEO and President Jim Wells told Prairie Public. "We saw a need to expand our production capacity."

North American Bison is harvesting around 11,000 animals per year, according to Wells.

"We're going to move our capacity to over 17,000 animals annually," he said.

The company recently was awarded \$250,000 in state aid to help with expansion construction costs, according to state Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. The money is through the Agricultural Diversification and Development Fund, which is administered by the state Agriculture Department and state-owned Bank of North Dakota to support new or expanding value-added agriculture businesses.

The coronavirus pandemic is a big driver of the bison plant expansion.

[Click for more.](#)

Discover the Coldest Place in North Dakota

From *Colby Maxwell, A-Z Animals*

North Dakota isn't known for a lot, but it is known for the cold. The temperatures in this state are shockingly cold during the winter, and many of the continental records are held by cities within the state. Today, we are going to be taking a look at North Dakota in order to learn about the coldest place within it. For anyone native to the Peace Garden State, none of this will probably come as a surprise. Let's discover the coldest place in North Dakota, plus a few other interesting bits about the weather!

Can any animal survive the winter in North Dakota?

Bison are able to survive the extreme cold of the Northern Great Plains by remaining in their native habitat, even as temperatures plummet well below zero and freezing winds sweep across the landscape. They are able to eat by feeding on grasses and tough sedges year-round. When blizzards cover the plains with snow, bison use their heads to plow through the drifts and reach the grasses under it all. They are also able to survive the cold thanks to a winter coat of underfur with coarse guard hairs. The hairs protect and insulate them from the elements and allow them to withstand extremely low temperatures and strong winds. If you ever see a bison covered in snow, that's the insulation in action!

[Click for more.](#)

Partnership brings live bison to the Stuhr Museum

From *KSNB*

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (KSNB) - A partnership between the Stuhr Museum and Lazy K Arena brought five live bison to the museum. As a part of the partnership the bison are still owned by Lazy K Arena. For the museum, it brings great educational and historical value.

People will be able to see the wildlife near the Pawnee Earth Lodge. The bison were an essential part of the early settlers lifestyle, while they occupied the area.

"This area is where we kind of tell that story," said Karen Hurst, Director of Marketing at Stuhr Museum. "The Pawnee used the bison for food, shelter, tools, fuel, and they were also important in the spiritual world for them."

Hurst said the history of the area is intertwined with the bison, and the land the bison will be grazing through was the same land the Pawnee people lived on.

[Click for more.](#)

Budget Adds USDA Carbon Program

From Progressive Farmer

OMAHA (DTN) -- The massive spending bill negotiated for Congress to pass before adjourning includes language allowing USDA to establish rules and verification protocols for agricultural carbon market programs.

The bill also funds \$3.74 billion for agricultural disasters in 2022.

The \$1.7 trillion "omnibus" spending bill, however, does not include any immigration reform for agricultural workers under H-2A, despite an impassioned plea on the Senate floor Monday night by the lead champion in the Senate, Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo.

The spending bill would fund the federal government through the end of next September. Lawmakers are looking to pass the bill before the end of the week to avoid a government shutdown.

Among the agricultural provisions, the bill funds \$3.74 billion for farmer disaster losses in 2022, including losses for crops, dairy products and on-farm stored commodities, as well as crops prevented from planting in 2022. Up to \$494.5 million of the funds are set aside for livestock producer losses as well.

The disaster aid covers losses from a range of natural disasters, including drought, wildfires, hurricanes, floods, derechos, excessive heat, tornadoes, winter storms, freeze, including polar vortex, smoke exposure and excessive moisture.

Also included in the language is the Senate-passed Growing Climate Solutions Act, setting guidelines for USDA to create a new program, form an advisory committee, set up technical advisers for farmers and create a list of carbon credit or environmental credit programs that meet USDA protocols.

[Read more.](#)

Brucellosis Updates in Park and Sublette Counties [WY]

Tri-State Livestock News

December 16, 2022

A cattle herd in Park County was confirmed as "Brucellosis affected" following laboratory testing at the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory (WSVL), Laramie. Laboratory results were confirmed at the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), in Ames, Iowa, December 6, 2022. One cow tested positive on blood tests at both laboratories. Further testing, including bacterial culture, will be conducted in addition to the serology tests already completed.

Brucellosis positive cattle are not uncommon within Wyoming's Designated Surveillance Area (DSA), encompassing all or part of six counties along the western side of the state. Specified cattle from the DSA are required to be tested within 30 days prior to change of ownership or movement from counties within the DSA. The affected herd was quarantined following confirmation of test results, and will remain under quarantine until three consecutive, negative, whole-herd tests have been completed. No contact herd quarantines are expected at this time.

The testing is being conducted as a cooperative effort between herd owners, private veterinary practitioners, Wyoming Livestock Board (WLSB) personnel, and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS),

Veterinary Services (VS) personnel. Epidemiologic interviews with herd owners are ongoing and quarantine herd plans will be developed with each herd owner associated with the case where indicated. Epidemiologic tracing will be conducted in the upcoming weeks by WLSB and APHIS personnel.

"Finding brucellosis in our DSA is not an unexpected event," said Dr. Hallie Hasel, Wyoming State Veterinarian. "We have a reservoir of brucellosis in wildlife in northwest Wyoming that occasionally will spill over into cattle. Our producers do an excellent job of mitigating risks and trying to prevent brucellosis in their cattle herds. This situation illustrates the value and effectiveness of our surveillance program in Wyoming. We found this case before the disease spread to other areas and are dealing with it appropriately."

[Read more.](#)

Montana state vet tracks cattle TB, Johne's disease

By *Jamie Henneman*
AgUpdate.com

December 19, 2022

It had been over 50 years since Montana had a case of bovine tuberculosis (TB), but with an outbreak last year, the Montana state veterinarian is keeping close tabs ensuring the disease does not spread.

According to Marty Zaluski, Montana state veterinarian, an outbreak in 2021 in a herd of 800 cattle was the first outbreak since Montana was determined to be TB-free in the 1960s.

"From the head of 800, 28 animals were suspected to be positive. The second test narrowed that down to four animals and eventually only three were found positive," Zaluski said.

However, due to the highly contagious nature of TB, the entire herd of cattle had to be euthanized. The producer was compensated with Livestock Indemnity Funds from the federal government.

"When these cases occur, because they are so rare now, we are working to see where exactly they come from," Zaluski said during a Montana Cattlemen's Association presentation on Dec. 3. "These cases are slow-moving and can go undetected for several years. We suspect that the high cull rate of cattle last year due to the drought is what brought these ones up."

[Click for more.](#)

USDA trade undersecretary confirmed; meat groups enthused

From *Meatingplace.com*

The Senate on Wednesday confirmed Alexis Taylor to serve as USDA undersecretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs, drawing praise from meat industry groups. Taylor will be a "tremendous asset" to USDA and a champion for U.S. agriculture, U.S. Meat Export Federation President and CEO Dan Halstrom said.

"USMEF had many opportunities to work with Ms. Taylor in her previous roles at USDA and she brings an exceptionally strong background and track record to this key position," Halstrom said in a press release.

Before she was named director of Oregon's Department of Agriculture, the Iowa native and U.S. Army veteran was deputy undersecretary for USDA's Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, where she traveled the world to open new markets and improve the competitive position of U.S. agricultural products. She previously worked on the staff of U.S. congressmen from Montana and her home state.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman David Scott said Taylor's experience offers her "unique insight" into international and domestic farm policy. "I am confident she will be able to advance U.S. agriculture across the globe in her new role," said Scott.

Ethan Lane, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's vice president of government affairs, said his group has worked closely with Taylor in her previous roles at USDA and on Capitol Hill. "She is a proven advocate for farmers and ranchers. We look forward to partnering with Taylor to open new markets to American beef and help U.S. cattle producers see even more benefit from trade," Lane said.

Taylor, who grew up on her family farm in Iowa, received her bachelor of arts degree in political science with a minor in communications from Iowa State University.

Arctic Air Brings Bitter Cold Temperatures to the U.S.

From *USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service*

The Natural Resources Conservation Service produces this weekly report using data and products from the National Water and Climate Center and other agencies. The report focuses on seasonal snowpack, precipitation, temperature, and drought conditions in the U.S.

An extremely cold arctic air mass sent temperatures plummeting throughout parts of the U.S., and the trend is expected to continue as the powerful frontal system is forecasted to move southward. Locations such as the central high Plains saw temperatures drop 50°F within a few hours, and are contending with dangerously cold wind chills. Some areas have declared a state of emergency as they face the coldest temperatures in decades. The arctic air mass is expected to evolve and impact different regions of the U.S. over the next few days, ranging from the Canadian border to Alabama.

[Click for more.](#)

Trademark Registration Increases Cost of Misusing the USDA Organic Seal

From *USDA Agricultural Marketing Service*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) today announced that it has registered the USDA organic seal trademark with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The USDA seal trademark is specifically described in the Organic Foods Protection Act (OFPA) and is currently protected by federal regulation. Registration of the organic seal grants additional intellectual property rights to further restrict the use of the trademark or a confusingly similar one, by uncertified farms and businesses. The trademark registration works in conjunction with OFPA and the organic regulations, providing another enforcement tool against misuse of the seal.

"While we have always had the authority to enforce against fraudulent use of the organic seal, registering the seal with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office significantly increases the cost of fraud and helps us better protect U.S. consumers and farmers" said USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jenny Lester Moffitt.

As the trademark owner, USDA can seek additional civil remedies such as injunctive relief and monetary damages under the Lanham Act. Operations trafficking in counterfeit organic goods or otherwise willfully misusing the USDA organic seal may be subject to fines and imprisonment under the Trademark Counterfeiting Act. This also means the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) can now detain, reject, or re-export imported products confirmed to be fraudulently using the USDA organic seal. Trademark authority and penalties for misusing the seal are in effect regardless of whether the seal is included.

Certified organic operations are authorized to use the organic seal to identify the composition of their products and receive a premium for those products. For consumers, the organic seal registration is just another way USDA is protecting the organic brand and strengthening organic enforcement.

Certified organic operations are not required to change their labels to include the registration mark of the seal, and certified organic products currently in the marketplace still meet the requirements of certification. Operations may choose either version of the seal and existing labels do not need to be revised or discarded.

If operations choose the updated version of the organic seal with the registration mark, it is available for download in multiple file formats on the AMS website. As always, certified operations are to seek approval from their certifier before making any product label changes.

The USDA National Organic Program works with accredited certifiers and law enforcement partners to continually strengthen farmer and consumer trust in products that display the USDA organic label. The Organic Integrity Database (OID) remains a key tool for confirming that imported and domestic products are in fact certified organic.

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](#) .

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.](#)

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

From *USDA- National Agricultural Statistics Service*

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.

[Learn more.](#)

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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