

WOLF SPRINGS RANCH - NEELY BISON - DORENKAMP RANCH Simulcast Bison Auction!

Monday, January 4, 2021 • 10:00 a.m. MST • Wolf Springs Ranch, Westcliffe, CO

(80) Four to Eight Year Old Bred Cows • (40) Three to Eight Year Old Open Cows
(11) Three and Four Year Old Bred Cows • (7) Cow/Calf Pairs
(20) Two Year Old Bred Heifers • (22) Yearling Heifers • (15) Heifer Calves
(1) Mature Bull • (1) Two Year Old Bull • (25) Bull Calves



Jud Seaman - Auctioneer
(605) 390-1419



Photos, videos and bidding available at:

www.qas.hibid.com



bisoncentral.com

303-292-2833

The National Bison Association (NBA) Weekly Update is an exclusive service for NBA members.

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NBA Weekly Update for December 24, 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.

Happy Holidays from the NBA!

All of us at the NBA hope that this issue of Weekly Update finds you safe, warm, and settled in for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This will be the final issue of Weekly Update for 2020. The NBA staff will be working reduced hours during the week between Christmas and New Year's so that we can enjoy time with our families. We'll be back to our normal publication schedule on Friday, January 8th.



Less Than One Month to Register for the NBA Winter Conference and to Consign in GTSS

We are just under one month from the registration deadline for the 2021 NBA Winter Conference, held in conjunction with the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association (DTBA). As

we head into the very busy holiday season, why not take a moment and [register now](#) for this fun and informative event and take the business deduction for 2020 in doing so. Here's 5 reasons why you should plan to join us in-person or virtually February 19th and 20th in Rapid City, SD at the Ramkota Hotel, or online!

Great Speaker Lineup - The conference agenda is packed with informative presentations from an array of expert speakers and panelists who will address pertinent topics in bison marketing, processing, herd health, nutrition and more. See a full agenda at <https://bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/>.

A Return to Bison Networking - While we will take proper precautions and procedures considering COVID 19, the conference will allow members to once again meet in person conduct past-due business and catch up on lost time while establishing new contacts and friends in the bison community. Social distancing measures will be in place, per CDC guidelines and local regulations. For those who would prefer not to attend in person, we are offering a virtual option that will feature all presentations live-streamed from Rapid City at a reduced registration rate.

The 2021 Gold Trophy Show and Sale (GTSS) - The NBA is expecting to have approximately 100 head of premium bison breeding stock including 2-year-old bulls, yearling bulls, bull calves, bred 2-year-old heifers, and heifer calves, including pens of 2 and 5 respectively for females. Additionally, DTBA will have their Girlz Going Wild Yearling Heifers, all to be sold on February 20th, via simulcast and video auction at the Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City at 6 pm Mountain Time. The GTSS is still taking consignments, get all the details and consign online at <https://bisoncentral.com/gold-trophy-show-and-sale/>.

Bison Feasts, Fun Activities, Trade Show - Your registration includes four bison-themed meals, with additional dinner tickets and kids' meal passes available for purchase [here](#). We'll conduct our popular benefit auction to raise crucial funds for the NBA and the DTBA as these organizations head into a challenging 2021. The conference will also include a small trade show featuring bison art, services, novelties, handling equipment, and more. Vendor booths are still available, measure approx. 10'x10', and are available for just \$150 (includes one-person's meals) for two days of exhibiting.

Lower Fees, In-person registration 100% Refundable- This year's abbreviated conference is being offered at the discounted rate to NBA and DTBA members at \$150/person. Virtual attendance is available for \$50/person, to be offered on the Zoom platform. If local regulations prohibit in-person gathering, and the conference is cancelled, registrations will be fully refunded to in-person registrants.

Register online and get all the details [here](#).

Light Up Giving Tree with Support for NBA

Dear NBA Members,

Looking for a great cause for a year-end contribution? Look no further! Like many worthy organizations, the National Bison Association is scrambling to deal with the economic fallout of the coronavirus crisis. A bison-friendly elf suggested a "giving tree" might be appropriate, so here's our pitch:

You know all the good things the NBA does on a modest budget — lobbying successfully for bison producers to be included in coronavirus aid programs, for example. Developing top-notch training programs for producers on everything from herd health management to gate-to-plate marketing. Paving the way for bison meat exports. Helping processors deal with the complexities of government regulations. And ALWAYS promoting healthful, delicious bison meat and the environmentally regenerative qualities of our national mammal.



The list goes on: Staging informative and enjoyable winter and summer conferences. Helping found the Bison Center for Excellence to facilitate bison research. Operating the North American Bison Registry. And so much more.

It all costs money, and operating funds are tight with 2021 on the doorstep. If you or your company is in a position to help, we hope you'll do so.

It's simple to contribute, just send an email with your pledged amount to our bookkeeper, Barb Dowdy, at barb@bisoncentral.com. Or, you can call the office at 303 292-2833 x103 and Barb will record your contribution.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,
Donnis Baggett
NBA President

NBA Membership Tell Us Why It's Important to You!



As 2020 comes to a close, the NBA is preparing to roll out a new membership structure for future years. Loaded with benefits and perks for all levels of membership, we'd like to enlist the experts to help us promote all the NBA has to offer!

As part of a grassroots membership drive, we'd like you, our valued members, to tell us why NBA membership is so important to you. What value do you get for the money spent? Are there services or products you find helpful? Why do you think it's important for producers to become a member of the National Bison Association?

Ideally, we'd like to have members submit a short 30-60 second video telling us why membership is important to you. Make sure to tell us your name and your ranch or business name and location. You can video yourself on your phone, have a friend or family member video you, or record yourself on some type of online video platform. Then download and submit your video files and we'll do the rest!

The videos will be used as testimonials on our social media platforms, YouTube, website, and could become part of in-person presentations. By submitting your video, you will be giving us permission to use them in that manner. Members will be able to share these promotions on their own social media platforms or their websites, etc. Your testimonials are the most powerful way for us to tout the benefits of membership.

If you are not comfortable doing this on video, you are welcome to send a photo and written testimonial and we'll use those much the same way.

Please email video or written testimonials/photos to Communications Director, Karen Conley at Karen@bisoncentral.com. If you prefer, you can also upload them to Dropbox and email the link.

We are excited to hear from you and look forward to sharing your thoughts about membership in the National Bison Association!

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.



Turner Bison Exchange
Prairie Performance
Simulcast Bison Auction

Saturday, January 9, 2021
at 6:00 p.m. MST

Hilton Garden Inn, Rapid City, SD

130 Head from 7 ranches in 3 states!

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Jud Seaman, Auctioneer
www.qas.hibid.com

Meet Luna, the new bison at the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary in Red Lodge

(From KTVQ - Billings)

RED LODGE — For more than 30 years, the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary has been home to many animals, including bears, wolves and mountain lions, that couldn't survive on their own in the wild. Most brought to the sanctuary stay and are provided with a forever home.

Such is the case of Speedy, the sanctuary's 19-year-old bison. She was abandoned by her mother as a calf, raised and bottle-fed by humans and brought to Red Lodge as a yearling. For 17 years, Speedy has been the only bison at the sanctuary, but since bison are herd animals, Director Gary Robson thought it was high time that Speedy had a friend. Enter Luna.

"Luna actually came from a captive herd," says Robson. "She was born in the Midwest, came out here to be a part of the herd at Hope Ranch. And Hope Ranch has been selling off their bison. And this particular bison was acquired by an individual that did not want to see her become meat...Not that there's anything wrong with that, they are raised for meat....But, Luna was rescued, and the person that rescued her then brought her to us."

As with all new residence at the sanctuary, Luna is in strict 30-day quarantine to make sure no outside diseases are passed to the other animals. But she doesn't seem to mind being closed off very much. Maybe it's because she's within sight of her new sister Speedy.

Read [more](#).

Biden introduces 'climate team,' promises 'unified' attack on issue

(From Agri-Pulse)

President-elect Joe Biden on Saturday introduced members of his "climate team," six key Cabinet and White House positions that he's charged with coordinating his administration's plan to slash U.S. greenhouse gas emissions while also tackling environmental justice concerns.

The group includes his picks for EPA administrator, North Carolina regulator Michael Regan; Interior secretary, Rep. Deb Haaland, D-N.M.; and the new position of White House climate czar, former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy.

Agriculture Secretary-designate Tom Vilsack was introduced earlier and was not included

in Saturday's event, but he will have a key role to play in carrying out Biden's plans to financially reward farmers for undertaking climate-friendly practices.

"Just like we need a unified national response to COVID-19, we need a unified national response to climate change," Biden said.

He reiterated his pledge to enlist farmers in reducing carbon emissions but didn't provide any detail on how he will carry out that or other aspects of his climate policy.

"We see farmers making (U.S.) agriculture first in the world to achieve net zero emissions and gain new sources of income in the process," he said.

But he also emphasized his plan to move Americans into electric vehicles, a shift that would likely decrease demand for biofuels over time. He reiterated his pledge to have 500,000 charging stations installed around the country and said he would ensure the federal government is buying electric vehicles for its own fleet.

Read [more](#).

USDA would take over regulation of GE livestock under proposal *(From Agri-Pulse)*

The Agriculture Department proposed Monday to take over the Food and Drug Administration's oversight of gene-altered animals, a potential victory for livestock groups seeking to speed approval of genetic modifications.

Whether the plan becomes a reality depends on the priorities of the incoming Biden administration, however. Any regulatory changes not finalized by the outgoing Trump administration, including this one, can easily be shelved.

In an advance notice of proposed rulemaking, USDA said that "in consultation with FDA, USDA is contemplating regulations that would establish a flexible, risk- and science-based regulatory framework for the regulation of certain animals modified or developed using genetic engineering that are intended for agricultural purposes."

USDA's undersecretary for marketing and regulatory programs, Greg Ibach, said USDA "worked very closely with FDA figure out a path that would include us taking the lead on food animals and allow them to maintain the regulatory authority over those genetic technologies that would enhance biomedical and pharmaceutical uses."

"USDA will consult with FDA to ensure our reviews benefit from FDA's expertise, while providing developers with a one-stop-shop for their products at USDA," the department said in a [news release](#).

"USDA looks forward to FDA experts participating in the development of our review process."

Read [more](#).

Nevada researchers study cattle microRNA effects on meat quality, human health *(From Nevada Today - Univ. of Nevada at Reno)*

A team of scientists at the University of Nevada, Reno are investigating how cattle microRNAs and the genes they influence affect the human body and health. MicroRNAs are small RNA molecules involved in the regulation of gene expression that convert DNA code into proteins that carry out cellular functions, such as development, differentiation, growth, and metabolism.

The interdisciplinary team of researchers is seeking to understand how feeding cattle

different diets will affect the microRNA profile in beef; how microRNAs may be used as biomarkers for meat quality; and how these small molecules may affect human health, specifically chronic diseases.

In cooked and digested beef, the team will identify microRNAs that may be absorbed by the intestines and further regulate pathways associated to cancer, coronary artery disease, apoptosis of cardiac cells, repression of breast cancer, inflammatory diseases, and diabetes.

"This nutritional value relationship to elements of meat has never before done in Nevada," Amilton de Mello, a veterinarian and assistant professor of meat science and food safety in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources, said. "We're looking at grass fed versus grain fed - and their nutritional values. We're not looking at vitamins and minerals, but at a molecular level, small nucleotides, part of our DNA and how much from the animal goes to our genes."

The team, including three graduate students, will also look for biomarkers for meat tenderness when comparing grain-fed versus grass-fed cattle and map all the variables. "We're also looking for what modulates sensory traits like flavor and tenderness," de Mello said. "So, we're looking for microRNAs for tenderness and will silence the gene so it doesn't let the meat get tough."

Full [text](#).

Relief on The Way for More Meat Processors

(From Meatingplace.com)

The second round of coronavirus relief, approved late last night by both chambers of Congress, reportedly includes aid for cattle and dairy farmers, livestock producers and small meat processors.

The roughly \$900 billion package includes support for those left out the first go-round, such as "contract livestock and poultry growers, ethanol producers that saw a drop in demand and livestock and poultry producers who had to depopulate herds and flocks as a result of supply chain disruptions," House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin C. Peterson said in a statement on Monday.

"The bill also contains much-needed help for dairy farmers, funding for small and mid-sized livestock processors to attain federal inspection in order to accommodate increased demand, as well as animal health work and grants to state departments for ongoing farm stress programs," [the Minnesota lawmaker added](#).

According to [Politico.com](#), the stimulus proposed includes about \$13 billion in new agricultural aid, including \$5 billion in additional \$20-per-acre payments for row crop growers and \$3 billion for cattle and dairy farmers, contract livestock producers and those forced to euthanize animals due to the pandemic. Smaller programs offer help to local agricultural markets and small meat processors.

Republican and Democratic congressional leaders [late Sunday released summaries of their deal](#).

COVID-19 Relief Package: What's Inside for Agriculture Producers?

(From KRVN Radio)

Congress passed a COVID-19 relief package on December 21 as part of a package to fund the federal government through September of 2021.

Inside the bill are several provisions and items that relate to the agriculture industry. On Tuesday, the Nebraska Farm Bureau released a "Key Provisions" document outlining

some of the items that pertain to farmers and ranchers.

The following content is courtesy of the Nebraska Farm Bureau, shared to Nebraska Farm Bureau members.

Agriculture

- The bill changes the rules under the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) allowing farmers, ranchers, and other business owners to deduct business expenses paid for by using PPP loan funds. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) had opposed this move during the program's initial rulemaking earlier this year, which would have subjected those who utilized PPP to a "surprise" tax bill as these expenses had always been tax deductible.
- Provides \$26 billion to USDA with \$13 billion going to programs targeted to farmers and ranchers.
- For farmers, the bill provides another round of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) payments of \$20 per planted acre of non-specialty crops. This is expected to hit a total cost of \$5 billion.
- Livestock producers are expected to receive support totaling \$3 billion divided between cattle producers, contract livestock and poultry growers, dairy farms, and producers who were forced to euthanize livestock or poultry due to disruptions in processing plants.
- For cattle producers, the bill provides an inventory top-up payment to address a portion of the gap in support provided by both CFAP and CFAP 2 for those who sold cattle before April 15, 2020, as well as those who sold cattle after. American Farm Bureau Economist John Newton estimates the additional top-up assistance to cattle producers based on CFAP 1 and CFAP 2 inventory rates at \$63.00 per-head for slaughter cattle: fed cattle, \$14.75 per-head for slaughter cattle: mature cattle, \$25.50 per-head for feeder cattle: 600 pounds or more, \$7.00 per-head for feeder cattle: less than 600 pounds, and \$17.25 per-head for all other cattle.
- For producers who had to depopulate animals due to insufficient processing capacity, payments will be made at 80 percent of fair market value of the animal plus the cost to depopulate, minus money received from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or from state assistance.
- Also included was language to provide up to 80 percent of lost revenue for contract growers who were affected by cancelled or delayed contracts.
- The bill gives the USDA Secretary the ability to aid biofuels producers.
- Small meat processors also received aid to help them make improvements to their facilities for them to move to federal inspection or state inspection that allows them to sell product over state lines.
- Lastly, the bill establishes a livestock dealer trust to give unpaid sellers of livestock priority in collecting receivables in the event of a dealer default.

Read more [here](#).

Trump Attacks COVID Aid Package

(From AgriPulse)

President Donald Trump announced via a video Tuesday evening that he doesn't support the sweeping year-end bill combining new coronavirus relief with fiscal 2021 government funding.

Trump didn't directly threaten to veto the legislation, which passed both the House and Senate by overwhelming margins. But [Trump called in the video](#) for increasing the bill's stimulus checks from the "ridiculously low" \$600 to \$2,000 per person and eliminating what he considered wasteful spending. Administration officials had signed off on the bill.

The legislation would provide \$13 billion in agriculture relief, including a third round of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, plus another \$13 billion in nutrition assistance, including a six-month, 15% increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., challenged Republicans over Trump's attack on the bill. They "repeatedly refused to say what amount the President wanted for direct checks," tweeted Pelosi. "At last, the President has agreed to \$2,000 — Democrats are ready to bring this to the Floor this week by unanimous consent. Let's do it!"

Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., called on Trump to sign the legislation. "We spent months trying to secure \$2000 checks, but Republicans blocked it. Trump needs to sign the bill to help people and keep the government open and we're glad to pass more aid Americans need," [Schumer tweeted](#).

The bill passed the Senate and House by margins far larger than the two-thirds majority needed to override a veto. The Senate approved the bill, 92-6. The House, which considered the legislation in two parts, passed the COVID aid portion, 359-53.



REACH THE WHOLE HERD!

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Save the Date!

- 1/02/2021 - Prairie Legends Bison Auction - NE
- 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
- 03/11/2021 - Eastern Bison Association Annual Winter Conference & Sale - PA
- 3/20/2021 - Missouri Bison Association Spring Sale - MO
- 4/09/2021 - Minnesota Bison Association's Annual Education Conference - MN
- 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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