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## Weekly Update



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### *NBA Weekly Update for February 18, 2022*

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*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.*

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### **DTBA Gathers, NBA Update Scheduled**

Members of the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association are gathering this week for their annual meeting, and the Black Hills Buffalo Classic Show and Sale, in Rapid City, SD. Volunteers stepped up to finalize the meeting details following the death of DTBA Executive Director Tammi Cooley.

Dave Carter, NBA Executive Director, is at DTBA to provide an update on the status and outlook of the bison business and the NBA's upcoming consumer outreach initiatives.

Once again, Prairie Edge Trading Company hosted the welcoming reception for the DTBA members last night. Meetings today were held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Rapid City.

The Black Hills Buffalo Classic Auction—featuring the Young Guns yearling bull challenge and a premier heifer offering—will take place at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. Bidders can register for the online auction and watch/bid live at <https://www.qasbuy.com/>.

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**USDA Export Official to Meet With NBA, Bison Marketers on**

## Tuesday

Brooke Jamison, Associate Administrator for USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service, is scheduled to meet with leaders of the National Bison Association, and some bison marketers in Westminster Tuesday to discuss the NBA's trade priority agenda.

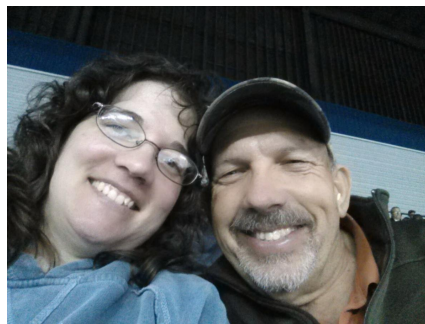
Jamison, who is scheduled to be in Colorado on other business, reached out to request a meeting with bison leaders while she is in the area. Prior to the meeting, Jamison will tour the bison herd at the Est Bijous ranch east of Denver.

"This is a great opportunity to extend the working relationship we have developed with the leadership of the Foreign Agriculture Service over the last several years," said Dave Carter, NBA executive director.

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## Raising Funds to Help Our Own

As many of you are aware, our good friend, Bruce Anderson, suffered a stroke in October of 2021. Bruce is currently in rehab and his wife, Martha, has been by his side every step of the way.



Bruce has been a fixture at the buffalo gatherings and his business, Western Buffalo Company in Rapid City, SD, is known to many. Bruce dedicated much of his time and resources to the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association (DTBA), leading him to a stint on their Board of Directors and eventually serving as the organization's president. He then went on to serve on the board for the National Bison Association (NBA), once again stepping up in leadership as president for two years.

As a testament to Bruce's dedication and service to cause, he was the recipient of DTBA's Pioneer Award, the NBA's Member of the Year award and was recently inducted into the National Buffalo Foundation Hall of Fame. His ability to come up with creative fundraising ideas was second to none!

Bruce's presence has been missed this fall and winter and many have asked what they can do to help the family. It's time for us to rally and give back to a person who has given so much to this business and the people involved in it. Martha has taken a leave of absence from her job to be with Bruce and their children are staying at home with grandparents. There are many expenses that we, as his buffalo family, can help with and share the load.

At the DTBA Fun Auction tonight, some unique prints will be offered at auction with all proceeds going to Bruce and his family. Last weekend at the Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Sale, more than \$5000 was pledged to get the fundraising underway. More outreach will be taking place at spring events and individuals are encouraged to donate as they are able.

An account has been set up locally in Rapid City and Karen Conley is administering donations and will be working with the family to get proceeds to them as needed. Anyone wishing to make donations can make a check to the Bruce Anderson Family and mail to Karen at 15290 225th St., Box Elder, SD 57719.

For more information or any questions, please contact Karen at (605) 381-3738 or email to [buffheard@gmail.com](mailto:buffheard@gmail.com).

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## Winter Bison World Magazine Now Available Online

One of the perks of NBA membership is access to the Bison World magazine before the printed copies



arrive in the mail! Production on the Winter issue has wrapped up and it is now available on the website here: [Bison World](#). You will need to log in to the member area to access the magazine.

The flipbook version of the magazine can be viewed right on your computer. Handy links allow you to open it into a new window, make it larger, and even magnify certain features. The realistic page-turning sounds make it feel like you are reading the printed version of the magazine. We are also incorporating links that will take you directly to websites and other areas of interest. Hover and click over links or ads to enable this feature.

The hard copy magazine is currently being printed and will mail shortly, along with our annual printed Membership Directory.

## Advertising Opportunities in the Spring Issue of Bison World

Production is underway on the Spring issue of the Bison World magazine.

Within the pages of our Spring magazine, there are a variety of advertising options available, from 1/8 page all the way to full page. Lifetime and Active NBA members will enjoy discounted rates as part of their membership perks and contract holders can receive a 5% discount for pre-paid advertising. Karen can work with you to tailor an advertising campaign that fits your budget and targets your message!

The advertising space reservation deadline is Monday, February 21 with final materials being due by Wednesday, February 23. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time but will also be subjected to the same deadline for this Spring issue.

For more information about editorial submissions or advertising your ranch, business or events, contact [Karen@bisoncentral.com](mailto:Karen@bisoncentral.com) or call (605) 381-3738.

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***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.***

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## MISSOURI BISON ASSOCIATION



### **SPECIAL SHOW & SALE**

**Saturday, March 19th, 2022**

Mo-Kan Livestock Market, Butler, MO

Buyers Reception/Dinner: March 18th

*Meal provided by MoBA at the Sale Barn Cafe*

#### **For Consignment Numbers Call:**

Carol Morris: 660-998-0990 or

Peter Kohl: 816-585-4779



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**Western Montana ranch launches Costco-exclusive bison**

## **product**

*(From KTVQ)*

CAMAS PRAIRIE — A Montana bison ranch is reaching a new leg of success with the launch of a new product.

A new product from [Roam Free Ranch](#) hit the shelves at regional Costcos earlier this month.

Leave behind the city of Missoula and head north towards Highway 200, and watch that landscape become ranchland — an area that hasn't changed much in some time. That's where you will find this ranch in Camas Prairie, where bison, the national mammal, are raised by Brittany Masters and Job Sepp.

"It's really an American venture to be a part of raising bison, I think, for food production," Sepp told MTN News.

A new product from Roam Free Ranch hit the shelves at regional Costcos earlier this month.

"You don't get into bison ranching because it's a make-money-quick scheme or because it's easy," Masters said, "if you're in bison ranching it's because you love it and it's because you have a real passion for what you're doing."

The Roam Free operation started with just nine bison on 240 acres about 10 years ago.

"When I first started, I was just eating peanut butter and jelly just trying to make it living in a trailer and we've grown a lot since that time," Sepp explained.

[Read more.](#)

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## **More Bison Than Usual to Be Removed from Yellowstone**

*(From KPIC-CBS)*

MISSOULA, Mont. (KECI) – More bison than usual will be removed from Yellowstone National Park this year.

They'll either be slaughtered, hunted or quarantined for brucellosis testing. It comes at the same time the National Park Service is constructing a new Interagency Bison Management Plan.

Biologists say it's all about managing the herd to a sustainable population, referring to what the landscape can tolerate and how to reduce the spread of brucellosis. Bison can pass the disease to livestock, and it causes stillbirths.

But to date, wildlife officials say there is not one documented case of bison-cattle transmission of brucellosis.

"It's just a numbers game," Montana Department of Livestock state veterinarian Dr. Martin Zaluski said. There are so many more opportunities of contact between elk and cattle than bison and cattle, so therefore, the stats just work that even though it's a rare event it happens with some frequency. And so, elk have been the source of infection in Montana."

Over-grazing concerns also led to the slight increase in bison removals in the park this winter.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Riled-Up Bison Nearly Charges at Tourists in Nail-Biting Footage**

*(From Newsweek)*

Footage has captured the moment a riled-up bison nearly charged tourists at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.

Video taken by Cindy Shaffer while on a snow coach tour through the park shows the [tense moment](#) the bison turns to face the vehicle head on.

Bison have injured more people than any other animal at Yellowstone, according to the National Parks Service.

They are large animals and can weigh up to 2,000 pounds. A 2018 study showed that on average, bison injure one or two people in Yellowstone every year.

They usually injure people by charging, however only do this when they feel threatened. Most attacks happen when somebody gets too close to the animal to take a photo, the study said.

The footage begins with a pair of bison running at speed across the group's vehicle.

"We're going to get a flat tire," Shaffer can be heard saying, as the bison begin running faster.

[Read more.](#)

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## **A Virtual View of The Fermilab Bison Herd Through New Bison Cam**

*(From Fermilab)*

Fans of the Fermilab bison herd, rejoice: Fermilab has installed a web camera in the laboratory's bison pasture. Now you can watch the storied herd 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The first bison herd at the U.S. Department of Energy's Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory was introduced to the grounds in 1969. It consisted of a bull and four cows. Today, the herd comprises nearly 30 bison.

Since their arrival, countless visitors have come to Fermilab to see the animals. The birth of the season's first baby bison calves always makes the local news and is a proud moment for the lab. In 2015, former Fermilab ecologist Ryan Campbell received results from a genetic study that concluded the lab's herd was 100% bison, with no evidence of cattle genes. And in 2016, bison were declared the national mammal of the United States through the National Bison Legacy Act.

The new Fermilab bison cam provides multi-directional camera capability and offers an image of the herd that's updated every 15 minutes. To see a new view, viewers should refresh their browsers, use the arrows to select a different perspective, or choose the time-lapses option that provides a glimpse into the herd's activity at quarter-of-the-hour intervals throughout the day. With the new webcam, viewers offsite now will be able to watch the bison feed, sleep, walk and shake off snow. Viewers can also observe other remarkable behaviors, such as moments when the dominant female leads the herd out to pasture to graze. If fans are lucky, they may even get to see a bison give birth this April through May.

[Read more.](#)

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## **'Bison Whisperer' Dies, Leaving Behind a Larger-Than-Life Legacy**

*(From the CBC)*

Jim Sautner wore many hats in his time on earth. He was an oil rig manager, a long-haul

truck driver, an entrepreneur, and a rancher.

But perhaps most notably, he was also the owner of two tamed bison that garnered worldwide fame.

Since his death on Jan. 9, his daughter Lisa Sautner says she has received condolences from across the country and expects that more will continue to flood her inbox as the word spreads.

"It's hard enough to lose your father, but it's really overwhelmingly difficult to lose somebody that the whole world knows," Sautner said.

"Dad has touched so many people, and I think his legacy is going to live on for a long, long time, if not forever."

Born and raised on a farm in Kindersley Sask., Jim — who was born in 1947 — had a love of animals from the start, his daughter said.

His lifelong dream of ranching eventually led him to buy a quarter section near Crossfield, Alta., in 1995.

He bought 10 bison calves, the beginnings of a herd which would at its highest reach 400 animals before being tapered down at the onset of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, also known as BSE, in 2003.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Day Trips: Texas State Bison Herd, Caprock Canyons State Park, Quitaque**

*(From the Austin Chronicle)*

The Texas state bison herd roams around Caprock Canyons State Park outside of Quitaque like they own the place.

To say these beasts, which can top 2,000 pounds, are tame would be to underestimate their strength if they feel threatened. On the other hand, the bison in the park are used to humans and their automobiles and don't pay us much mind other than an occasional wary eye.

The Texas herd is one of five foundation herds, says Le'Ann Pigg, assistant park superintendent. The bison in the park are the descendants of the great Southern Plains herd that nearly went extinct, but Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight rescued a few calves on the JA Ranch. Two animals from the Goodnight herd were shipped to Yellowstone National Park to bolster its dwindling herd.

By 1994, the Texas Panhandle herd had dropped to 50 animals. Three years later, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department moved 32 bison to a 300-acre enclosure in the state park. Now the herd has free range of 80% of the park, or nearly 12,000 acres.

The state herd is around 300 individuals, Pigg says, which is the maximum capacity of the park. The small bison herd at San Angelo State Park is not part of the Goodnight lineage. The park, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, expects around 40 calves this year, Pigg says, which makes April and May a good time to visit.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Watch a Bison Pretend to Challenge a Yellowstone Winter Tour Bus**

*(From K2Radio)*

It's true that bison can be fierce when humans get too close. But, a new video shows they can also be incredibly playful as one Yellowstone winter tour group learned.

I saw this shared on YouTube and also by Cindy Shaffer on Facebook. It's one of the guided tours through Yellowstone National Park that is available during the winter months. The bison decided to have some fun with these winter strangers.

The second bison that becomes visible in the video got in front of the vehicle and then pretended to throw down a challenge.

The reaction to this big guy on YouTube has varied from funny to being a bit testy. chumdoggie - "Playful bison having fun in the snow. It's as if he knew he'd get a laugh out of them.

[Read More.](#)

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## **FSIS Seeks Comments on Planned 'Product Of USA' Survey**

*(From the Federal Register)*

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) will help with a survey to determine how consumers react/understand "Product of the USA labels" and how they impact buying decisions.

From the federal register: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing its intention to collect information using a web-based survey/experiment to help gauge consumer awareness and understanding of current "Product of USA" labeling claims on meat (beef and pork) products and consumer willingness to pay (WTP) for meat products labeled as "Product of USA" using the current and potentially revised definitions of the claim. FSIS also intends to collect information on consumer understanding of other "USDA" labeling on meat products, such as the "USDA Choice" label and the USDA mark of inspection.

Submit comments on or before April 4, 2022, by one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: This website provides commenters the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on the web page or to attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions at that site for submitting comments.
  - Mail: Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3758, Washington, DC 20250-3700.
  - Hand- or courier-delivered submittals: Deliver to 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700.
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## Watch the Soil for Water Short Film, Panel Discussion

As a camera soars over an impressive piece of Rocky Mountain ranch land, the narrator says, "The soil that covers U.S. farm and ranch land holds a remarkable story. It's a tale of success and setbacks. At its best, the soil beneath our feet is the source of life, food, and economic security."

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) has released its short film, Soil for Water, to highlight a growing network of farmers, ranchers, and land managers across the United States who are taking steps to catch and hold more water in the soil. "Your soil health is going to keep you in business," Texas rancher Tina Weldon says in the film. "If you take care of your soil, the land will give back to you in terms of your productivity."

More than 120 farms and ranches in 20 states have already joined the free and voluntary Soil for Water network. The project aims to include farmers and ranchers who discover and share land management practices that improve soil health, catch more water in soil,

reduce erosion, sustain diverse plant and animal life, and filter out pollutants, all while improving the profitability of their businesses.

“If we’re going to be successful ranching in the long-term, we need to do a better job working together with other ranchers and learn how to do things regeneratively and profitably,” Montana rancher Dusty Emond explains in the short film.

Watch at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eISHeSedx\\_E&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eISHeSedx_E&t=2s).

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## **California Ranchers Start Mobile Meat Processing Plant**

*(From Meatingplace.com)*

Livestock ranchers in California’s Sonoma County now have their own slaughterhouse: a \$1.2 million mobile processing plant run by the 39-member Bay Area Ranchers Co-op. The 36-foot-long trailer is open for business as of this week, according to a report published Saturday.

“It’s a big game changer in our food system,” Duskie Estes, co-owner of the Black Pig Meat Co. and a co-op board member told the Press Democrat.

The Petaluma, Calif.-based co-op “exists solely for the benefit of the ranchers themselves who now have a guaranteed place to process their animals,” Vince Trotter, sustainable ag coordinator at the Marin County UC Cooperative, said, according to the newspaper.

Farmers producing beef, cattle, pig, goat and sheep for meat will no longer have to share their revenue with a commercial slaughterhouse, noted Trotter, who helped get the co-op started.

Some ranchers stopped raising livestock for meat rather than have to cart their animals to slaughterhouses up to 250 miles away, according to the co-op. Its members operate from Santa Cruz to Mendocino County and raise animals in open pastures.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Oregon Taking Applications for Processor Expansion Grants**

*(From Meatingplace.com)*

The application period is open for \$2 million in Oregon Meat Processing Infrastructure and Capacity Building grants, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) announced.

The Oregon Legislature's 2021 state funding package is supporting the grants, which recognize the significant investment that meat processing facilities and equipment require, ODA said. Grant awards will be capped at \$500,000. ODA said it anticipates that requests will exceed available funds; however, the investment will help support long-term economic and market development.

### **State inspection on horizon**

ODA also said it has completed a draft plan to start a State Meat Inspection Program that is expected to begin in July. The inspection program will be equal to USDA's in all its requirements.

The infrastructure grants are open to Oregon meat processors that plan to operate under the State Meat Inspection Program and expand capacity or build a new establishment to process animals raised in Oregon, as well as to establishments operating under USDA inspection with plans to increase processing from animals raised in Oregon.

Applications will be accepted through March 23. For the grant application form and more information about the program, visit the Oregon Meat Initiative webpage.

[Source.](#)



## Minnesota Value-Added Grant Program

Applications must be received by March 24, 2022.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is accepting applications for its Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Value-Added Grant program.

The program offers designated grants from \$1,000 to \$150,000 to help Minnesota processors add value to Minnesota agricultural products by investing in the purchase of equipment, production capacity, market diversification, and market access for value-added products.

Grantees are responsible for at least 75% of the total project cost as a cash match.

[Read more.](#)

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## NASDA Reveals Priorities for Next Farm Bill

*(From Agri-Pulse)*

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture revealed its priorities for the next farm bill as lawmakers begin hearings on the legislation.

The group's 10 priority policy areas include animal disease, conservation and climate resiliency, hemp, invasive species, local food systems, maintaining specialty crop block grants and trade promotion, NASDA CEO Ted McKinney said at the group's winter policy conference.

Programs in the 2018 farm bill generally expire in 2023. The House Agriculture Committee recently began hearings on the legislation.

McKinney said NASDA's focus on animal disease comes amid both concerns about avian flu and "African swine fever, the threat that's there." The association is recommending funding and developing an early detection plan for pathogens that will connect government and industry for a "One Health" approach.

NASDA is pursuing a three-pronged approach to tackle environmental and conservation concerns, including increased funding for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, as well as incentive programs for farmers implementing climate-friendly practices.

[Read More.](#)

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## Megadrought In Southwestern North America Is Region's Driest In At Least 1,200 Years

*(From UCLA Press Release)*

The drought that has enveloped southwestern North America for the past 22 years is the region's driest "megadrought" — defined as a drought lasting two decades or longer — since at least the year 800, according to a new UCLA-led study in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.

Thanks to the region's high temperatures and low precipitation levels from summer 2020 through summer 2021, the current drought has exceeded the severity of a late-1500s megadrought that previously had been identified as the driest such drought in the 1,200 years that the scientists studied.

UCLA geographer Park Williams, the study's lead author, said with dry conditions likely to persist, it would take multiple wet years to remediate their effects.

“It’s extremely unlikely that this drought can be ended in one wet year,” he said.

The researchers calculated the intensity of droughts by analyzing tree ring patterns, which provide insights about soil moisture levels each year over long timespans. (They also confirmed their measurements by checking findings against historical climate data.)

Periods of severe drought were marked by high degrees of “soil moisture deficit,” a metric that describes how little moisture the soil contains compared to its normal saturation. Since 2000, the average soil moisture deficit was twice as severe as any drought of the 1900s — and greater than it was during even the driest parts of the most severe megadroughts of the past 12 centuries.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Save the Date!**

- 2/19/2022 - Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Simulcast Auction - SD
- 2/26/2022 - Beltway Bison Consignment Live Bison Auction - PA
- 2/26/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 3/05/2022 - Rocky Mountain Bison Association’s Spring Conference - CO
- 3/10/2022 - Eastern Bison Association Annual Conference - PA
- 3/12/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 3/18/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Spring Meeting - MN
- 3/19/2022 - Missouri Bison Association Spring Sale - MO
- 4/08/2021 - Illinois/Indiana Bison Association Spring Meeting - IN
- 4/21/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 5/26/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 7/12/2022 - International Bison Conference - Saskatoon, SK

Please visit <https://bisoncentral.com/calendar/> for details and more up-to-date events. If you have a bison event coming up that’s not listed, please send the details to [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com) and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

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[Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events](#)

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