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Weekly Update



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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 February 4, 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.

Feb. 28 is Deadline for Filing 2021 Mycoplasma bovis losses

Bison producers have until February 28th to file claims with their local Farm Service Agency office for Mycoplasma losses experienced in 2021, according to officials meeting with National Bison Association leaders on Wednesday.

The agreement to cover 2021 losses is an exception to normal LIP procedures, which require losses to be filed with FSA within 30 days of the event.

FSA Deputy Administrator and Scott Marlow and Assistant Deputy Administrator Jamie White shared that information when they met Wednesday met with NBA Chad Kremer, Executive Director Dave Carter, Assistant Director Jim Matheson and Center of Excellence Research Director Dr. Jeff Martin to discuss the procedures for implementing the Mycoplasma bovis coverage that was announced by FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux at the NBA winter conference in January.

Marlow and White stressed that all claims must include an accounting of the number of animals lost because of Mycoplasma bovis, as well as any documentation of adverse weather events (including drought) during that period.

Producers will also need to provide verification that the losses were caused by *Mycoplasma bovis*. The NBA is working with FSA to identify methods for verification, and will issue an informational sheet to all members when finalized. Losses will only be covered above the normal mortality rates within the producer's herd.

FSA will continue to cover losses experienced in 2022 and future years, but those losses will need to be filed within 30 calendar days of the incident.

Bison producers can locate the local Farm Service Center office here. farmers.gov/service-center-locator .

Nearly \$5,000 Raised to Support Kids, and for Bison Research

Special projects conducted by NBA volunteers this fall culminated in a special auction, and art sale at the 2022 NBA winter conference banquet that generated nearly \$5,000 to be split evenly between the Tennyson Center in Denver and the National Buffalo Foundation.

In addition to helping plan this year's conference, several Winter Conference Committee members this fall undertook a project to connect students at a Denver center for abused and traumatized children to bison. The students from Denver's Tennyson Center visited the bison herd in nearby Genesee park and put their artistic talent to work in return and painted bison on canvas. Those paintings were sold at winter conference, along with a special auction for two bison rugs donated by Cecil Miskin owner of BBuffalo Gold. Additionally conference attendees could purchase banquet centerpieces created and donated by Brenda and Roland Kroos of Montana.

The NBA wants to thank all those who donated, especially Christina and Robbie Stubbs, who donated \$3800 for the two rugs. In total so far, \$4700 was raised.

Miskin noted, "We will donate additional rugs for this cause for anyone willing to donate \$1,800."

The project was coordinated by NBA Pam Fromhertz of Colorado.

NBA Executive Director Dave Carter said, "I want to thank Pam and the winter conference committee members, along with Cecil Miskin, for putting this together. It's great that our nonproject organization can work with a wider community to connect kids with the healing power of bison."

Please contact *Pam Fromhertz* at pamfrom@gmail.com or 303.845.2033 if you are interested in one of the rugs, and in additional financial support for this project.

Poster Presentations Sought for 2022 international Bison convention

Organizers of the 2022 International Bison Convention are seeking applicants to provide poster presentations at the upcoming confab in Saskatoon, CA July 12-15.

Poster presentations allow researchers to share their hypothesis, methods and findings to a wide audience of bison producers attending the conference.

Categories being invited to submit posters include:

- Bison health: Veterinary research, parasite control, disease research
- Bison production: Low stress handling, herd monitoring, pasture management, transportation, codes of practice, feeding trials, minerals and vitamin, supplements
- Bison marketing and economics: Grading and meat quality, cost of production, benchmarking, novel product development
- Bison - environment and culture: History, cultural impacts, traditional uses, conservation, environmental impact, habitat use

- Other- Other topics with a clear connection to how it helps the bison industry

Eligible entrants: Students (of all ages), academics, veterinarians, industry experts, private companies and government.

Competition / Judging: Only student entries will be eligible to be judged in the competition.

- It will be the choice of the applicant to be in the competition or not.
- It is open to students enrolled in Grade school or post secondary.
- Over 18 and under 18 years of age of entrant, will be judged separately.
- Student entries will be invited to provide a 2-3 minute oral presentation (2-3 slides) about their poster. A 'sales pitch' to entice people to come and visit the poster. This presentation will be part of their overall assessment.
- Prizes will be in place for over and under 18 entrants. All categories of research will be combined for judging.

To Participate: Please submit an application (below) including an abstract (definition below) no longer than 300 words to poster@bisonconvention2022.com by April 15, 2022. Abstracts are subject to review.

Do You Have Bison Trivia to Share?

Do you have a bit of bison trivia that you'd like to share with the general public? If so, share with the NBA. We're cooking up something fun and entertaining this spring, and want all of the fun facts that we would like people to know about bison.

If you have a tidbit to share, send a quick note to NBA Executive Director Dave carter at dcarter@bisoncentral.com.

Looking For Input from Bison Industry Stakeholders

The Center of Excellence for Bison Studies has funded a Colorado State University research team to conduct a project to understand stakeholder perceptions of needs and challenges related to bison meat quality. A survey was developed to understand and quantify the insight of individuals that work in the bison industry. Your participation in this survey is voluntary. The primary targets for this survey are producers, finishers, processors, distributors, and other individuals that work with the bison industry. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes. Your participation is important and greatly appreciated. Please do not answer the survey if you have previously completed it.

You can access the survey via this link: tinyurl.com/2p994szp

Please contact Dr. Lily Edwards-Callaway, lily.edwards-callaway@colostate.edu for more information.

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.

DAKOTA DYNAMITE *Buffalo Sale*

Saturday, February 12, 2022

6:00 P.M. MST

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What role can bison play in the future of sustainable ranching?

(From the Durango Herald)

HESPERUS – Sarah Gleason, 37, shakes a bucket of alfalfa cubes from the flatbed of her Dodge Ram pickup truck as the setting sun turns the Southwest Colorado sky a golden orange.

“Come bows!” she yells, trying to entice her head of 50 bison to leave the comfort of their hillside and venture to the truck for the treats.

After a few minutes and a short trip into the field, a bison walks through a split in the bushes and trees that line the gully between the hillside and the truck. Its head is hulking and a deep brown.

Others appear behind it, and soon about a dozen bison surround the truck using their deep purple tongues to pick up the alfalfa. The animals jostle for the cubes, emptying a 50-pound bag before quickly disappearing back into the hillside where they dissolve into brown lumps.

Gleason started Gleason Bison two years ago after a career shift from public relations and marketing and a return to the Durango area. Her operation has grown from a few pregnant bison to about 100 animals during its annual peak for meat production.

Read more [here](#).

Landmark Study Demonstrates Cultural, Ecological And Economic Benefits Of Tribal Bison Restoration

(From DRG News)

A study published (Jan. 28, 2022) in *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* found that widespread restoration of bison to Tribal lands throughout the Northern Great Plains can help restore the prairie ecosystem while improving the long-running issue of food insecurity and food sovereignty for Native Nations, and may help to mitigate adverse impacts to traditional agricultural systems due to climate change.

Native Nations, universities and conservation organizations came together to examine the environmental, cultural and economic value of bison using case studies from four separate tribally led bison reintroduction programs occurring across the Northern Great Plains in Montana (Blackfoot Nation, Fort Belknap Indian Community, Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes) and South Dakota (Rosebud Sioux).

“The buffalo is important to Indian communities, to our people culturally and ecologically to our lands,” said Ervin Carlson, president of the InterTribal Buffalo Council and Blackfoot buffalo manager. “We know bringing them back will not only heal our people but also help us with the changes we see on our grasslands due to drought. And for Buffalo Nations to be successful, we need funding support for Tribal research partnerships and for the

buffalo that our communities benefit from.”

Read [more](#).

Want to Own Some Bison? Big Bone Lick Accepting Bids

(From The River City News)

Anyone who desires to own bison can now shoot their shot through sealed bid. The Kentucky Department of Parks is accepting sealed bids now on two American Bison lots from Big Bone Lick State Historic Site.

The bison will be sold as a lot, not individually.
Bids will be accepted through 4 p.m. February 14.

Sealed bids must include printed name, signature, address, daytime phone number, and bid amount.

Bids should be submitted to:

Kentucky Department of Parks Bison
Sealed Bid Attn: Greta Gay-Park Manager
3380 Beaver Road Union, Ky. 41091

A \$100 deposit in the form of check or money order is required for all bids.

Deposits will be returned to all non-winning bidders.

Checks should be made payable to Big Bone Lick State Historic Site.

[Source](#).

Yellowstone Looks At New Bison Plan, Less Focus On Slaughter

(From The Associated Press)

Billings, Mont. (AP) - Emphasizing the importance of bison hunts outside the park and the transfer of live bison to tribes, Yellowstone National Park is developing a new bison management plan to update a 20-year-old document.

The announcement of the park undertaking the process will be formally announced in the Federal Register on Jan. 28. Montana state veterinarian Marty Zaluski on Monday informed the Environmental Quality Council during its Helena meeting that the scoping effort is underway to gather information from cooperating partners. The EQC is an interim legislative working group.

The new document will incorporate recent studies related to bison in the park, according to Superintendent Cam Sholly, including one that examined the park's vegetation and carrying capacity.

[Full text](#).

Oregon's beloved blind bison, Helen, remembered as a 'light'

(From The Statesman Journal)

The humped and bearded bison, who roamed the pastures of [Lighthouse Farm Sanctuary](#) near Scio, brought light and love to everyone she met, said sanctuary executive director Gwen Jakubisin.

"Anybody who was in the presence of her was automatically transfixed," Jakubisin said. "She just had this incredible love that just sort of emanated from her. And she was so kind and so patient and so compassionate."

Helen suffered from health issues, including reoccurring pneumonia, in the months before her passing but ultimately died of old age. She passed away peacefully in her recently-

constructed barn on Jan. 24.

She would have been 23 years old this year.

[Read more.](#)

Poland's Bison-Unfriendly Border Barrier

(From Politico)

WARSAW — Poland is building a border wall to keep out illegal migrants, but the barrier will also cut through one of the Continent's most significant wild areas, scientists warn. The planned wall slashes through the Białowieża Forest, regarded as one of the last surviving patches of the primeval forest that once covered Europe.

Part of the forest lies in Poland, and some areas are covered by the EU's Natura 2000 environmental protection network, while the rest is in Belarus. It is also a cross-border UNESCO World Heritage Site, one of just 218 such sites worldwide.

But Białowieża Forest became the site of a [border crisis](#) last year after Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko encouraged people to fly to Minsk and try to enter the EU. Poland declared a state of emergency along the frontier and put up a temporary wire fence, which is now being replaced by a 5.5-meter steel wall with surveillance equipment.

Poland's right-wing government is coming under fire for racing the project through without due regard for EU nature protection rules.

In a [letter](#) sent to the Commission on Monday, more than 600 scientists and researchers called on Brussels "to take all the possible measures to immediately halt the construction of the wall."

"The construction of the wall will create a barrier with devastating consequences, leading to permanent interruption of the functional connectivity of the ecological corridors of the Natura 2000 network on the national and European scale," the letter said.

[Read more.](#)

You Can See Wild Elk & Bison at an Iowa Wildlife Refuge

(From KHAK)

Thanks to a new article from the website [Only in Your State](#), we just discovered that the state of Iowa is home to an incredible nature preserve called the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. Established in 1900, the [official website](#) says that "the mission of the Refuge is to actively protect, restore, reconstruct and manage the diverse native ecosystems of tallgrass prairie, oak savanna, and sedge meadow. These were the native habitats existing on the Refuge's more than 6000 acres prior to Euro-American settlement."

The refuge, which is about an hour and 40 minute drive from Cedar Rapids, is home to a variety of animals, but it's the bison and elk that really seem to draw people in. The [site](#) says there is a conservation herd of around 50-70 bison that wander free throughout the 800-acre prairie, and they are very carefully managed and monitored to not only ensure the health of the herd, but to maintain "genetic diversity."

The number of elk at the refuge is much smaller in order to protect the land from overgrazing. There are only around 15-20 elk roaming the area. The [website](#) mentions that "elk once outnumbered bison in Iowa, but were hunted so heavily that they disappeared from the state by 1870," which is why you don't see them in any other parts of Iowa.

[Read More.](#)

Cattle Report Points To More Herd Contraction, Higher Prices

(From Meatingplace.com)

USDA's [Cattle Inventory report](#) for January showed a 2% decline in all calves and cattle in the U.S. from a year ago, to 91.9 million head.

Beef heifers held back for replacements were down 3.3% from last year and represented the fewest replacement heifers held back since Jan. 1, 2014, according to the semi-annual report, released Monday.

While fewer replacements would be needed with a smaller cow herd, a reduction this large indicates some expectations of more herd contraction, said Texas A&M professor David P. Anderson, writing in the Livestock Marketing Information Center's "In the Cattle Markets" newsletter.

"This report is particularly important this year as a longer-term indication of the direction of the cow herd, given drought conditions, pandemic market turmoil, and relative cattle prices and costs," Anderson wrote.

[Read more.](#)

Revel Meat Wins USDA Grant To Expand Traceability

(From Meatingplace.com)

With the help of a \$661,000 USDA grant, Oregon's Revel Meat Co. will create an expanded *program giving ranchers in its network full traceability of their products back to an animal's specific pasture and breeding pair*, the company announced Tuesday.

The meat processor and wholesaler received the grant through the USDA Local Food Promotion Program (LFPP). The traceability program taps into consumers' growing interest in knowing where their meats come from and how they are raised. The program makes it easier to answer those questions, the company said. Revel works with local and regional small-to-midsize ranchers across the Pacific Northwest.

"We are extremely excited to have won this generous grant, proving to not only us but others the need and viability of a true traceability program," James Serlin, co-founder of Revel Meat, said in a press release. "We know that investing in such a program is of utmost importance to ensure a more transparent meat supply chain. The new program will allow producers to differentiate their products in the marketplace and reach new customers."

Implementing the program will require training and technical assistance for a network of ranchers, additional monitoring of animals via a radio-frequency identification (RFID) ear tag system, and logistical support. It will also involve enhanced promotion and rebranding of products that will help farmers market their meats more effectively to customers, Revel said.

[Read more.](#)



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Save the Date!

- 2/3/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 2/12/2022 - Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Simulcast Sale - SD
- 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
- 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 and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events

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