

# NATIONAL BISON ASSN. & DAKOTA TERRITORY BUFFALO ASSN.



## Simulcast Bison Auction!

Saturday, February 20, 2021  
6:00 p.m. MST

Ramkota Hotel, Rapid City, SD



Jud Seaman, Auctioneer  
(605) 390-1419

Offering Approximately:  
(12) Bull Calves • (18) Yearling Bulls • (10) Two Year Old Bulls • (6) Heifer Calves  
(3) Pens of 5 Heifer Calves • (48) Performance Tested Girlz Going Wild Yearling Heifers  
(2) Two Year Old Bred Heifers • (3) Pens of 2 Two Year Old Bred Heifers

Photos, information and registration at: [www.qas.hibid.com](http://www.qas.hibid.com)



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

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## NBA Weekly Update for February 12, 2021

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.

 **Thank You, 2021 Winter Conference Sponsors!**

			
			
			

## **NBA Virtual Winter Conference Invitation Sent to Registered Attendees**

The NBA this week emailed the Zoom links for the 2-day live-streaming webinar to those who have registered. If you did not receive the links, and have registered for the virtual winter conference, please email [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com).

The conference presentations will also be recorded on Zoom to be made available to members on the NBA website after the conference.

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## **Section 32 Awards to be Announced Next Week**

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service is scheduled to announce by Wednesday the Marketers who will be awarded contracts to supply up to 1.2 million pounds of ground bison to be used in federal food and nutrition programs, including school lunch programs.

Marketers wanting to sell into the Section 32 program were required to submit their bids by February 9<sup>th</sup>.

The product scheduled to be purchased by USDA will all be 90% lean ground bison in one lb. or two lbs. packages.

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## **Nearly 70 Head of Breeding Stock for Sale Next Saturday at GTSS - Saturday, January 20th - 6 pm MT**

The 2021 Gold Trophy Show and Sale will feature online bidding, as well as live, in-person bidding at 6 pm MT at the Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City, SD.

68 head of premier bison breeding stock will be up for auction in the following classes:

Two Year Old Bulls – 10  
Yearling Bulls – 19  
Bull Calves – 12  
Two Year Old Bred Heifers – 2  
Pen of 2 – Two Year Old Bred Heifers – 3 pens  
Heifer Calves – 5  
Pen of 5 Heifer Calves – 3 pens

Online bidding will be available at <https://qas.hibid.com/catalog/255790/nba-gold-trophy-and-dtba-girlz-going-wild-simulcast-auction/> with the sale catalog to be added to the site next week, as well as at <https://bisoncentral.com/gold-trophy-show-and-sale/>. Download an online bidding instructional guide [here](#) and be sure to register as a bidder well in advance of the sale if bidding online.

### **2021 Consignors:**

101 Buffalo Ranch – CO  
2J Bison – ID  
Badger Basin Ranch, Inc. – CO  
BC Bison – SD  
Beldon Bison Ranch – SK  
Borderland Agriculture – SK  
Brown's Buffalo Ranch – OR  
Buffalo Dance Bison – SD  
Buffalo Run Ranch – UT  
Cammack Buffalo Ranch – SD  
McFarland Ranch – ND  
Nolz Poor Farm Bison – SD  
Prairie Land Bison – SK  
Rafter K Bar – SD

Shoemaker Bison Ranch – ID  
Silver Creek Bison – MB  
Torch River Bison – SK  
Trails End River Bison – SD  
Viking Bison Ranch – SK

Please note, the Saturday dinner prior to the sale is sold out, however seating will be available for bidders not registered for the winter conference. Conference attendees, please bring your dinner ticket(s), to be included in your name badge, to the dinner/sale.

Additionally, the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association will have approximately 55 head of yearling heifers from their Girlz Going Wild class as part of the sale.



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## Marketers to Share 2020 Experiences; Predict Path Forward

Four bison meat marketers will share their experiences from 2021 and will provide a crystal ball forecast for the path ahead during the upcoming joint National Bison Association/Dakota Territory Buffalo Association winter conference February 19-20 at the Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City, and virtually via Zoom.

Bob Dineen of Rocky Mountain Natural Meats, Scott Dineen of Sierra Meat and Seafood, Al Samuelson of North American Bison, L.L.C. will share their experiences of maneuvering as COVID-19 shuttered restaurants across the country and sparked a run on retail meat cases. Meanwhile Alex Heim of Dakota Pure Bison will talk about staring up a new bison meat marketing venture during the pandemic.

The four marketers will also provide some insight into the market trends ahead as the impacts of COVID hopefully begin to recede.

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## Officer's Election Set for Winter Conference

Active and Life NBA Members attending the NBA winter conference in person or virtually next Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, will elect the officers to represent the association during the coming year, and the International Director for the next two years.

The current officers of President Donnis Baggett of Texas, Vice President Chad Kremer of South Dakota, and Secretary-Treasurer Joe Graham of Oklahoma are all eligible for a new term and all have announced their intent to stand for re-election. Similarly, the Canadian Bison Association has recommended current International Director Robert Johnson of

Saskatchewan be re-elected for a two-year term. No other members have filed for those offices, but nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Members attending the conference virtually will be emailed ballots which they will need to return via email by Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.

Under the NBA Bylaws also allow for proxy voting. Members can request [proxy ballots](#), which must also be returned 24 hours prior to the elections. Per the NBA Bylaws, NBA Active and Life members who have been members for at least 30 days are eligible for one vote per membership.

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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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## HELP US BUILD A STRONGER BISON MARKETPLACE



**Your voluntary contributions help support the ongoing mission of the National Bison Association. Marketing, outreach, promotion and teaching are just a few of the projects supported by donations to the Growth Fund. Any amount is welcome!**

**DONATE NOW!**

Learn more at <https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-growth-fund-program/>

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### 50 bison transported from YNP

*(From [explorebigsky.com](http://explorebigsky.com))*

It's not only humans who are under quarantine these days—50 bison, transferred from Yellowstone National Park last week to the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, are completing their quarantine period before they are released and slaughtered by tribal members. This is the fifth transfer since April of 2019 and is a part of an ongoing effort to reduce bison populations in the park and divert disease-free bison to tribe-led restoration efforts.

“Thanks to these efforts, more than 16 tribes have started cultural herds with animals from Yellowstone, descendants of the wild bison that once roamed the prairie in the millions,” Chamois Andersen told the [Billings Gazette](#). Andersen is the senior Rockies and Plains representative for Defenders of Wildlife, an organization that helps with the tribe's restoration program

[Source.](#)

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### Bite of the Week: Bison Burger at Columbia's Backstreets Grill

*(From the [Charleston Post and Courier](#))*

I know what you're thinking. Is forking over \$17.50 for an uppity bison burger really the best use of my hard-earned money? Look, you get what you pay for.

Let me frame it this way: If there was an all-bovine football team, the bison would thunder

down the grid iron and ferociously battle for the pigskin while glazed-eyed docile cows would simply stand behind the line of scrimmage munching turf and offering about as much resistance as a tackle dummy.

Sometimes ground beef is not enough in a burger. The leaner meat of the majestic, thick coated, bearded beasts who once roamed the Great Plains and grunt rather than moo is simply far tastier.

Bison is also lower in calories, saturated fat and cholesterol than its domesticated bovine cousin. It's also much higher in protein and has a deeper, richer taste imparted perhaps from centuries of patrolling North America's grasslands before demand for the creatures' hairy hides made them an endangered species by the late 19th century.

Thanks to the efforts of conservationists and ranchers, herd numbers of the huge-headed hardy animals are now plentiful. If you've never indulged before, what are you waiting for?

When I first breached the buttery brioche bun and the thick bison patty's juices exploded in my mouth, I was downright giddy. My first thought was, "Wow, now this is a burger!"

Read [more](#).

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## **Rare Glimpse of Bison Filmed Strolling in Romanian Forest**

*(From Balkan Insight)*

Several wild bison were this week caught on camera at the Hateg Reservation in western Romania by the state agency for forest management, Romsilva. The footage, released on Tuesday, shows a herd of bison wandering in a forest covered by snow.

"The video was taken by our colleagues of the Forest Department of Retezat ... which administers the Bisons Reservation of Hateg," Romsilva said in a statement.

The reservation is currently home to "nine bison – four females and five males," officials added. "They are all in a good condition, which denotes that the bison are well taken care of here," Romsilva said.

According to the state agency, Romanian foresters founded the bison reserve in 1958, "when the first couple of bison from Poland were brought to Romania to reintroduce the species two centuries after its disappearance" from present-day Romania.

"In 1963, another couple of bisons were brought, also from Poland, and in 1966 the population by reproduction reached eight specimens," the same statement explained, adding that a number of these bison from the original group were later transferred to other areas.

At present, Romsilva administers three separate populations of bisons totalling more than a hundred animals in several locations across Romania.

Read [more](#).

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## **House Ag Plan has Aid for Small Processors**

*(From Agri-Pulse)*

The stimulus package under consideration in the U.S. House Agriculture Committee would provide a substantial infusion of aid — \$4 billion — to the food supply chain. Of that amount, \$3.6 billion would go for purchasing commodities and for helping processors, distributors and producers address pandemic-related needs, including personal protective equipment for workers. An omnibus bill enacted in December provided \$1.5 billion for food supply chain needs.

Another \$100 million out of the \$4 billion is earmarked for small-scale meat, poultry and

egg processors to offset the cost of inspector overtime. An additional \$300 million is earmarked for COVID-19 surveillance in animals.

The bill also would:

- Provide \$500 million for a variety of rural health care needs, including vaccine and testing capacity and compensation for lost revenue due to the pandemic.
- Extend through September a 15% increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.
- Provide \$800 million to the Food for Peace Program, which funds purchases of U.S. commodities for distribution to needy countries.

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## **Advocates sue FDA over Impossible Burger's 'bleeding' ingredient**

*(From Meatingplace.com)*

The Center for Food Safety is calling on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to revoke its approval of the color additive that makes the Impossible Burger “bleed” like real meat. In a legal brief [filed](#) last week in federal court, the non-profit said the FDA’s 2019 approval of soy leghemoglobin came without the legally required long-term animal studies to determine whether it’s harmful to humans.

“This includes studies for cancer, reproductive impairment and other adverse effects,” Bill Freese, science policy analyst at the CFS, [stated](#) in a news release.

“We find this to be all the more troubling because a number of potential adverse effects were detected in a short-term rat trial: disruption of reproductive cycles and reduced uterine weights in females and biomarkers of anemia, reduced clotting ability, and kidney problems,” Freese [added](#).

The FDA said in an email that it does not comment on possible, pending or ongoing litigation.

Impossible Foods also declined to comment on litigation involving other parties. It did, however, lash out at CFS as “an anti-GMO, anti-science organization that has been spreading lies about Impossible Foods for years.”

The company also defended its products as having “undergone rigorous safety testing” that has met and exceeded regulatory requirements, a spokesperson stated in an email.

The California-based company this week [credited](#) its growth and economies of scale for its plans to lower the manufacturer’s suggested retail price by 20% across its product offerings, sold at supermarkets and restaurants nationwide.

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## **USDA Extends CRP Signup to Close Enrollment Gap**

*(From Agri-Pulse)*

USDA’s Farm Service Agency is extending the general signup period for the Conservation Reserve Program so it can look at ways to close an approximately 3-million-acre gap between the amount enrolled for 2021 and the CRP cap of 25 million acres.

There is no deadline right now on enrollment, said Steve Peterson, associate administrator of the Farm Service Agency.

“It’s kind of until further notice,” he said, because the new administration “is really looking to do an analysis of some of the incentives and some of the program provisions to see if they can close some of the gap.” Currently, he said 21.9 million acres are enrolled.

Asked what kind of changes producers might expect, Peterson mentioned rental rates as well as incentives for certain conservation practices or water quality measures.

“By extending this signup period, we’ll have time to evaluate and implement changes to

get this neglected program back on track," said Robert Bonnie, deputy chief of staff in the Office of the Secretary, in a [news release](#) issued Friday.

Producers who enrolled after the signup began Jan. 4 will be able to renegotiate their contracts to take advantage of any new provisions in the program, Peterson said.

He said there's no firm timeline on when those changes might be announced. Peterson said FSA is waiting until it has a new agriculture secretary; Tom Vilsack had his [confirmation hearing](#) this week for the position and is widely expected to be confirmed.

"The hope is that once the secretary comes on board, there will be several briefings with regard to options of things that he has discretion on," Peterson said. "And then ultimately, we will get feedback on that. And that's when those announcements will be made."

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## **New Mexico Bill Would Restore State Meat Inspections**

*(From Meatingplace.com)*

Legislation has been introduced in the New Mexico House of Representatives that would pave the way for the return of state inspection of meat products.

House Bill 33 would authorize the New Mexico Livestock Board to conduct meat inspections.

The aim of the legislation is to allow small and medium-sized processing plants in the state to open for business or expand, according to a report in the Rio Grande Sun.

Lawmakers told the newspaper that 90% of the beef grown in New Mexico is harvested outside of the state. State meat inspection would address a backlog for processing created during the pandemic by consumers wanting to buy their meat from individual farms. It would also reduce shipping costs for ranchers, reduce prices for consumers and provide new jobs, according to the article.

The state stopped doing its own inspections in 2007, the report said.

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## **UW Researchers Asking Livestock Producers What Parasites Plaguing Livestock**

*(From the Wyoming Tribune Eagle)*

LARAMIE - University of Wyoming researchers are surveying Wyoming cattle and sheep producers about the pests tormenting their livestock.

"The goal of this survey is to understand the current degree of external parasitism, prevalent external parasites, diagnosis and treatment methods in Wyoming livestock as well as the financial impact on Wyoming producers," said Derek Scasta, UW Extension rangeland specialist.

Parasites are broken down into six categories: flies, lice, ticks, mange, cattle pests and sheep pests.

"We would like to give Wyoming cattle and sheep producers the opportunity to help guide our livestock parasite research and extension efforts at UW and have created the survey," said Scasta.

Full [text](#).

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## **WHO Team: Coronavirus Likely Jumped to Humans from Animal**

*(From WHYY.org)*

The coronavirus is unlikely to have leaked from a Chinese lab and is more likely to have

jumped to humans from an animal, a World Health Organization team has concluded, an expert said Tuesday as the group wrapped up a visit to explore the origins of the virus.

The Wuhan Institute of Virology in central China has collected extensive virus samples, leading to allegations that it may have caused the original outbreak by leaking the virus into the surrounding community. China has strongly rejected that possibility and has promoted other theories for the virus's origins. The WHO team that visited Wuhan, where the first cases of COVID-19 were discovered in December 2019, is considering several theories for how the disease first ended up in humans, leading to a pandemic that has now killed more than 2.3 million people worldwide.

"Our initial findings suggest that the introduction through an intermediary host species is the most likely pathway and one that will require more studies and more specific targeted research," WHO food safety and animal diseases expert Peter Ben Embarek said at a news conference Tuesday.

"However, the findings suggest that the laboratory incidents hypothesis is extremely unlikely to explain the introduction of the virus to the human population" and will not be suggested as an avenue of future study, Embarek.

Full [text](#).

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## **Raising the Steaks: First 3-D-Printed Rib-Eye Is Unveiled**

*(From the Washington Post)*

An Israeli company unveiled the first 3-D-printed rib-eye steak on Tuesday, using a culture of live animal tissue, in what could be a leap forward for lab-grown meat once it receives regulatory approval.

During the coronavirus pandemic, alternative protein products have soared in popularity, prompting nearly every multinational food corporation to hasten to bring its own versions to market. Frequently plant-based products have been patties or processed nuggets - "everyday" foods easier for companies to produce - that aim to ease the climate effects of the worst offender: Americans eat nearly 50 billion burgers a year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Aleph Farms' new 3-D bioprinting technology - which uses living animal cells as opposed to plant-based alternatives - allows for premium whole-muscle cuts to come to market, broadening the scope of alt-meat in what is expected to be a rich area of expansion for food companies. A survey of more than 1,000 U.S. adults, conducted by MRS research company for agriculture company Proagrica, showed that 39 percent of American consumers have considered going vegetarian or vegan since the pandemic began. Health concerns, climate change and animal welfare are drivers.

Full [text](#).

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## **House Ag Adds Democratic Members**

*(From Agri-Pulse)*

The panel charged with addressing farm and food policy in the House of Representatives is adding four new Democrats and bringing one more member with previous experience back to the committee.

Reps. Bobby Rush, D-Ill., Ann Kuster, D-N.H., Ro Khanna, D-Calif., Lou Correa., D-Calif., and Del. Gregorio Sablan, a Democrat from the Northern Mariana Islands, are the newest members of the committee, which now has a full complement of Democrats and Republicans.

House Ag Committee Chair David Scott, D-Ga., rolled out the committee roster Wednesday and made special note of the new members at the beginning of a committee



business meeting that afternoon.

"The issues facing the Agriculture Committee are as important now than ever before," Scott said in a statement. "While this roster includes an impressive diversity of region, background, and agricultural priorities, I have faith that each of these Members will work diligently to fight for the interests of our consumers, food and fiber producers, and rural communities."

In all, 25 Democrats will serve on the committee. All have previous experience in Congress; no freshman Democrats will serve on the panel. The panel's Republican ranks include 23 members and six freshmen.

Read [more](#).

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## Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund

(From ATTRA/NCAT)

The Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund is a small grant program that provides direct assistance to veterans who are in their beginning years of farming or ranching. The Fellowship Fund does not give money directly to the veteran, but rather to third-party vendors for items the veteran has identified will make a crucial difference in the launch of their farm business. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$5,000, and nearly \$3 million has been awarded to veterans since 2011.

Who is eligible?

- Veterans of any branch of the U.S. Military from all service eras—including those currently serving
- Those who received a characterization of service of 'Honorable' upon discharge
- Must have an agricultural business in operation and a functional business plan
- Must be willing to fully participate in the Fellowship Program, which includes periodic progress reports, mentoring other farmer veterans and a desire to make a positive impact on the farmer veteran community

How to apply

The application for the Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund can be found [HERE](#). The 2021 application will open on January 1 and remain open through February 14, 2021.

Read more at <https://farmvetco.org/fvfellowship/>

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## Save the Date!

- 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

- 2/27/2021 - Beltway Bison Consignment Auction - PA
- 3/01/2021 -TNC Smoky Valley & Tallgrass Prairie Online Auctions - KS
- 3/05/2021 - Denver Mountain Parks Genesee Bison Auction - CO
- 3/08/2021 - Three Cross Ranch Bison Webcast Auction - SD
- 3/12/2021 - Eastern Bison Association Annual Winter Conference - 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](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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