

# 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 19, 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!**

			
			
			

## **USDA Awards \$6.93 Million In First Round of Section 32 Meat Purchase**

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service today announced that it had accepted \$6.93 million in bids for grand bison meat from four U.S. bison processors under the Section 32 surplus removal program.

The awards include 1 million lbs. of ground bison, with prices ranging from \$6.46/lb. to \$7.48/lb. The product is scheduled to be delivered from March 1 through June 30, 2020 and will be used in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the national school nutrition program, the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TFAP) and other federal nutrition programs.

The companies awarded bids were North American Bison, L.L.C, High Plains Bison, Rocky Mountain Natural Meats, and Sierra Meat and Seafood.

USDA will be issuing a second round of solicitations to supply products between July 1 and September 30, 2020.

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## **Nearly \$150,000 Raised for Bison Center of Excellence During Conference Opening**

COVID vaccines may be slow in arriving, but the support for bison research received a strong shot in the arm this morning during the opening session of the National Bison Association. Dakota Territory Buffalo Association meeting at the Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City

Following a presentation from Center Director Dr. Kristi Cammack to the more than 200 in-person attendees and the 70 virtual participants, NBA executive director Dave Carter introduced the NBA's new Director of Development Eloise Mongillo, who immediately announced that an anonymous donor had issued a \$50,000 challenge grant to support the Center. That meant that the donor would match, dollar-for-dollar, any amount contributed up to a total of \$50,000.

At that point, former NBA President and NBF Board member John Flocchini of the Durham ranch stood up to announce that the Durham Ranch would match the \$50,000 challenge and would commit an additional \$50,000 as a follow-up challenge matching grant. After Jud Seaman of Quality Auction Services took the mike to solicit contributions for the attendees and on-line participants, a total of \$23,000 in additional pledges were made before the meeting recessed for lunch. Combined with the matched funds, the total amount pledged this morning totaled approximately \$146,000.

Dr. Cammack said afterward, "the commitment made by the bison community today will go a long way to supporting the type of research and outreach that will benefit everyone in our business, and the customers who rely on us for high quality, nutritious products."

Mongillo added, I am thrilled to be working with people who have so much passion and commitment to the future of their business. The fundraising success today, provides a foundation for our development efforts in the months and years ahead."





## **Double Your Impact For the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies**

Dollar for dollar, your donation to the National Buffalo Foundation will be matched up to **\$50,000!**

The Center of Excellence for Bison was formally launched in September 2020 as a partnership between South Dakota State University, the National Bison Association and the National Buffalo Foundation. **The center will focus on research activities to improve the health of our herds, and the economic viability of both private and tribal bison producers.**

Now, an anonymous donor has offered to match up to \$50,000 in new donations in support of the National Buffalo Foundation and the Center of Excellence of Bison Studies. Your Donation is Double - Every dollar you give will become \$2 towards enhancing the future of bison!

**\$25 to become \$50 with matching funds**  
**\$50 to become \$100 with matching funds**  
**\$75 to become \$150 with matching funds**

The National Buffalo Foundation is the philanthropic partner of the National Bison Association and is a 501c3. Its mission is to be the major trusted funding source for bison research and education, and to continue to provide leadership by creating and strengthening partnerships to proactively enhance the future of the bison.

### **DONATE TODAY**

To make a donation online, go to [nationalbuffalofoundation.org](https://nationalbuffalofoundation.org) and click the [DONATE](#) button in the upper right corner.

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## **Meat Processors Cautiously Optimistic on Market Rebound**

Storm clouds remain on the horizon for 2021, but four commercial bison marketers participating in a panel discussion at the NBA/DTBA joint conference in Rapid City expressed cautious optimism that long-term smoother sailing is ahead for the bison business

Leaders of three established markets—Bob Dineen of Rocky Mountain natural Meats, Al Samuelson of North American Bison, L.L.C. and Steve Dineen of Sierra Meat and Seafood—were joined by Alex Heim of the recently established Dakota Pure Bison marketing company as they reviewed how they adopted to the challenges of the past year, and discussed how COVID may redefine the marketplace moving forward.

All panelists noted that closure and/or reduction in capacity in restaurants created the most significant impact on the commercial business because those outlets utilize the overwhelming majority of higher-value cuts of meat such as tenderloins, strips and ribeyes. Additionally, COVID outbreaks impacted the processors' labor force as well.

“We did a lot of pricing exercises, in which we looked at everything possible to cut costs,” noted Al Samuelson of North American Bison.

Bob Dineen of Rocky Mountain Natural Meats, added, “We ended up grinding some tenderloins and strips, and looking at some others in the freezer for a while until we could

get balanced out.” He added that the COVID-19 pandemic also interrupted one of the strongest sales tools in the bison business: the handshake. “We’re a relationship business, so being able to look our customers in the eye and shake their hand is very important.”

Scott Dineen, agreed, and added that they have utilized some new technology to maintain that personal connection. For example, many restaurants implemented QR Codes as a substitute for printed menus over the past year. “Those QR codes provide an opportunity for us to help tell our story.”

Heim said that Dakota Pure Bison has relied heavily on social media to launch their new business, which is primarily marketing meat on-line. “We had one chef say, ‘I saw that video of you in the pasture. Were you the one driving the Gaiter, or were you opening the gate?’”

All panelists agreed that on-line marketing will be a growing segment of the marketplace, but that brick-and-mortar retail outlets will continue to be important. They also expressed optimism that the restaurant business will revive after the pandemic ebbs, but the foodservice sector may look different.

“Businesses across the country have found that employees can work from home and get business done without as much travel. That impacts us because we serve a lot of high-end restaurants that cater heavily to business travelers on expense accounts.”

However, all agreed that the future for the bison business is bright and encouraged conferees to support the entire industry.

“When you go on social media, be sure to ‘like and share’ all of us. It’s not just about building one company. It’s about building the bison business,” Heim said.

“Bob Dineen added, “The long-term solution for us is to grow our market overall. We need to promote our product industry-wide.”

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## NBA members Urged to Enlist Support for Small Meat Processor Bill

### U.S. REPRESENTATIVES AG AIDE CONTACTS

STATE	Dist	REPRESENTATIVE	Party	AG AIDE	EMAIL	PHONE NO.
CA		20 Jimmy Panetta	D	Riya Mahta	<a href="mailto:riya.mehta@mail.house.gov">riya.mehta@mail.house.gov</a>	202 225-2861
IL		17 Cheri L. Bustos	D	Trevor Reuschel	<a href="mailto:trevor.reuschel@mail.house.gov">trevor.reuschel@mail.house.gov</a>	202 225-1500
IL		15 Mary Miller	R	Mimi Teixeira	<a href="mailto:mimi.teixeira@mail.house.gov">mimi.teixeira@mail.house.gov</a>	202 225-5271
IN		4 Jim Baird	R	Cory Harris	<a href="mailto:cory.harris@mail.house.gov">cory.harris@mail.house.gov</a>	202 225-5037
IN		9 Trey Hollingsworth	R	Maddy Mitchell	<a href="mailto:maddie.mitchell@mail.house.gov">maddie.mitchell@mail.house.gov</a>	202 225-5315
IA		3 Cindy Axne	D	Sam Ward	<a href="mailto:sam.ward@mail.house.gov">sam.ward@mail.house.gov</a>	202 225-5476
KY		1 James Comer	R	Elissa Gilliam	<a href="mailto:elissa.gilliam@mail.house.gov">elissa.gilliam@mail.house.gov</a>	202 225-3115
MT	A-L	Matt Rosendale	R	Makenzie Shellnutt	<a href="mailto:makenzie.shellnutt@mail.house.gov">makenzie.shellnutt@mail.house.gov</a>	202 225-3211
ND	A-L	Kelly Armstrong	R	Nicholas Tortorici	<a href="mailto:nicholas_tortorici@mail.house.gov">nicholas_tortorici@mail.house.gov</a>	202 225-2611
VA		7 Abigail Spanberger	D	Samuel Wojcicki	<a href="mailto:sam.wojicki@mail.house.gov">sam.wojicki@mail.house.gov</a>	202 225-2815

National Bison members in California, Illinois, Indiana,

Iowa, Kentucky, Montana, North Dakota and Virginia are being urged to reach out to U.S. House Committee members from their state to co-sponsor legislation being introduced to bolster small meat processing plants.

U.S. Reps. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) are preparing to introduce H.R. 8431, the Strengthening Local Meat Processing Act. This legislation contains several provisions to support small, local meat processors. Reps. Pingree and Fortenberry are now trying to enlist co-sponsors, and are targeting their colleagues listed above.

Here's a sample email to send:

Dear Rep. \_\_\_\_\_  
Attn.: \_\_\_\_\_(ag aide name)

I am a bison producer in your district (or state) who relies on small meat processing plants to connect me with my customers. The COVID-19 pandemic and other market forces have placed serious strain on these small plants that are vital to the economic survival of many livestock producers in this area.

That is why I am writing to urge you to sign on as a co-sponsor to H.R. 8431, The Strengthening Small Meat Processing Act, by Reps. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) and Jeff

Fortenberry (R-NE). This legislation would implement a series of important provisions, including:

- Appropriating funds to establish the ability for FSIS to assist plants in developing the HACCP plans and food safety procedures;
- Expanding the cost-share amount for state meat and poultry inspection programs;
- Establishing a Small Plant Grant Program that will provide financial resources to assist small facilities in expanding and improving their infrastructure; and
- Expanding the Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program.

If you can co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Katie Bergh in Rep. Pingree's office at [katie.bergh@mail.house.gov](mailto:katie.bergh@mail.house.gov) or Alan Feyerherm in Rep. Fortenberry's office at [alan.feyerherm@mail.house.gov](mailto:alan.feyerherm@mail.house.gov).

I certainly hope that you will sign onto this important legislation to assist livestock producers throughout your district and our entire nation.

With Best Regards,  
(Your Name)

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## Gold Trophy Sale Tomorrow Night

Nearly 120 premium live bison will be offered for sale tomorrow night during the combined auction for the NBA's Gold Trophy Sale and the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Girlz Gone Wild performance tested yearling heifer sale.

The auction will be conducted via livestream from the Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City, SD, beginning at 6 p.m. tomorrow night. You can now view the sale catalog [here](#).

Online bidding, and the sale catalog, is available at <https://qas.hibid.com/catalog/255790/nba-gold-trophy-and-dtba-girlz-going-wild-simulcast-auction/>. If bidding online, we suggest that you register as a bidder in advance. Please see an instruction guide to do so [here](#).

### 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

### 2021 GTSS Consignments:

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



## Thank You, 2021 GTSS Sponsors!



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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.***

## HELP US BUILD A STRONGER BISON MARKETPLACE



GROWTH FUND

**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/>

### **Bills Would Put County Authority Over Wild Bison Transplants, Change Definitions**

*(From the Helena Independent Record)*

Montana lawmakers brought a pair of bison management bills to the House Agriculture Committee on Tuesday that drew support from livestock interests and opposition from tribal representatives and wildlife advocates.

Bison classification and management in Montana has long been a challenging and, at times, contentious issue. A percentage of wild bison from Yellowstone National Park are known to carry the disease brucellosis, which can cause cattle to abort their calves.

A case of a wild bison transmission to domestic cattle has never been confirmed but has been seen between research animals. Wild Yellowstone bison that are captured and later transported to tribal reservations must first undergo disease testing under quarantine.

**House Bill 318 from Rep. Kenneth Holmlund, R-Miles City**, seeks to clarify the legal definition of domestic and wild bison or buffalo. The bill would add payment of livestock per capita fees to the criteria defining a domestic bison. A per capita fee is a per-animal fee paid by livestock producers to the state for certain programs under the Montana Department of Livestock.

Under the bill, a wild bison or buffalo would be an animal that has not been reduced to captivity, never been owned by a person and never been subject to a per capita fee. The bill states that a per capita fee may not be imposed on bison owned by a tribal member or that resides on tribal land within a reservation.

Holmlund said the intent of the bill is to ensure that animals subject to the per capita fee could not be classified as wild.

Jason Rittal with the Montana Association of Counties said the bill is important because it reinforces and further clarifies the differences between domestic and wild bison. "It clarifies buffalo or bison that have been subject to the per capita fee are not nor will they be considered wild," he said.

A number of livestock groups also came out in support of the bill, agreeing it would bring further clarity to the law.

Those opposing the bill felt it was both unnecessary and jeopardizes the state's ability to manage the animals.

Chamois Andersen with Defenders of Wildlife said the change would complicate restoration of wild bison or the supplementing of existing herds.

"The bottom line is this bill limits the state's ability to manage bison as wildlife," she said. Read more [here](#).

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## **35 Montana Bison Moved To South Dakota Reservation**

*(From the Seymore Tribune)*

BILLINGS, Mont. — Thirty-five bison have been moved from Montana to their new home on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota as part of an effort to expand the herd.

The bison were a gift from the American Prairie Reserve in north-central Montana. The [Billings Gazette](#) reported that the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's goal is to expand the herd near Mission, South Dakota, to 1,500 bison spread across 28000 acres (113 square kilometers), which would make it the largest tribal-managed bison herd in the U.S.

The herd is currently numbered at 134 bison, and American Prairie has agreed to contribute up to 170 bison.

"When the buffalo are strong, we will be strong," said Wizipan Little Elk, chief executive of Rosebud Economic Development Corporation, which oversees the Wolakota Buffalo Range near Mission, South Dakota.

"We are doing our part to ensure the genetic health and longevity of our buffalo relatives," Little Elk said in a post on the tribe's website.

American Prairie Reserve has also shipped four bison to One Spirit, a nonprofit organization serving the Lakota people of the Pine Ridge Reservation in southwestern South Dakota. One Spirit's website says it supports the Lakota community by providing resources that "allow them to meet the needs of their people according to their own culture, traditions and values."

"We prioritize partnerships with native tribes who are working to restore a deeper cultural,

spiritual and economic connection to the animal,” said Alison Fox, chief executive of American Prairie Reserve.

Read more [here](#).

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## Dakota County Considers Reintroducing Bison in Regional Park

*(From Patch.com)*

ROSEMOUNT, MN—Dakota County Parks is considering reintroducing bison to Spring Lake Park Reserve, located mainly in Rosemount and Hastings, as part of its master plan for bringing back wildlife that is natural to the park.

The master plan includes a 10-year guide for future decisions regarding the park. The draft of the plan is available to review and [make comments](#) on until April 4, 2021.

The Dakota County Parks and Recreations Department views this as a way to return this portion of the park to its natural habitat, the plan says. Nearly 80 percent of Dakota County was covered in prairie and oak savanna until the 1840s, and the county has been working on reintroducing these natural plants to the area.

"Historically, bison were an important part of the County's landscape but are no longer found here in the wild," the plan says.

According to the plan, Dakota County is currently looking into reintroducing prairie and oak savanna in order to return some of the wildlife to its original biodiversity. This would include adding plants native to the area, removing exotic shrubs and opening the tree canopy. This would allow the sun to reach the ground, helping to start the growth of the native plants.

Read more [here](#).

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### **Save the Date!**

- 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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