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## Weekly Update



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### *NBA Weekly Update for January 7, 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.*

### **One-Day Virtual Option Added for 2022 Winter Conference**

With many NBA members concerned about rising COVID cases and extended mask mandates in Denver, the National Bison Association is now adding the option for members to participate virtually in the NBA winter conference sessions scheduled for Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Earth Coast Productions will be providing live streaming of all of the sessions planned during Thursday's conference program, including the mentors' sessions, the culinary demonstration, presentations on managing for mycoplasma and engaging in science, and the annual marketers' panel discussion. The presentations will be live streamed on the Zoom platform, similar to what was done at the 2021 NBA Winter Conference.

"We had been looking forward to having everyone gather in person for this year's conference, but the rapidly-changing developments with COVID have prompted us to make adjustments so that everyone can participate, even if they can't join us in Denver," said Jim Matheson, assistant director of the NBA.

Registration for the virtual option participation will be \$50. Members who have paid full registration but want to participate virtually, may do so at no extra charge. Please register

## FSA Administrator Ducheneaux to Address NBA Conference

Zach Ducheneaux, administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency, is planning on addressing the 2022 National Bison Association winter conference January 20<sup>th</sup> in Denver, CO.

Ducheneaux informed NBA Executive Director Dave Carter yesterday that he will attend the conference in person, if possible, but will participate virtually if travel restrictions are in place.



"We are extremely pleased that Administrator Ducheneaux will be joining us at the Winter Conference," Carter said. "He is a strong ally and supporter of the bison business and is working hard to make sure that bison producers impacted by drought and *Mycoplasma bovis* have full access to the agency's Livestock Indemnity Program and Emergency Livestock Assistance program. It will be great for him to have the opportunity to update our members on those efforts."

## Thank You 2022 NBA Winter Conference Sponsors!



## Deadwood Discussion to Explore Market Factors, Opportunities

Some of the leading marketers, finishers and ranchers in the bison business will meet informally Saturday in Deadwood, SD to discuss some of the current economic challenges facing the bison business, and to explore some ideas for regaining stability and profitability for producers.

The informal roundtable will be held prior to the Turner Exchange performance bison sale to be conducted from the Lodge in Deadwood that evening.

"With so many factors impacting people at every level within the bison business, it will be helpful for some of our key industry leaders to start the new year with a discussion of some ideas to help guide us to a profitable 2022," said NBA executive director Dave

Carter, who will be participating in the session along with NBA President Donnis Baggett.

Carter said that the discussion at Saturday's meeting will be designed to develop some thoughts and proposals that can then be discussed in depth during the NBA Commercial marketers Meeting and at the NBA Winter Conference later this month.

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## **New GTSS Handling Facilities To Honor Del Hensel**



The finishing touches are nearly complete on the all-new bison facilities and sale arena that will welcome roughly 100 head of live bison for the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary Gold Trophy Show and Sale at the National Western Stock Show in Denver later this month.

Among the upgrades will be new bison handling facilities, which are scheduled to be dedicated in honor of the late Del Hensel, one of the pioneers of the GTSS and an inductee in the National Buffalo Hall of Fame.

"I'm tickled that Del Hensel will be honored for all of his contributions to the bison industry through the years," said Bob Dineen, bison superintendent for the National Western Stock Show. A lot of people didn't know Del, so this will be a way to recognize all he did to get our business to where it is today."

The dedication is scheduled for 12:45 p.m. Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, at the National Western Stock Show.

The dedication will immediately precede the GTSS awards ceremony, which will be held in the all-new sale arena at the Stock Show.

The annual GTSS auction will take place on Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bid live in person or online at <https://www.cci.live/> at 10 am MT on Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Once again, Buffaloheard Productions will be producing a full color catalog for the event with advertising space available for anyone interested. Advertising does not necessarily have to be associated with the GTSS and presents a great opportunity to reach an engaged audience! Advertisements can be full color or black/white and pricing and availability are shown [here](#).

The catalog will be available to attendees at the NBA Winter Conference as well as the live Gold Trophy Show and Sale. Additionally, it will be posted online on the NBA website for viewing and downloading in advance of the conference and auction. Advertisements are sold on a first come, first serve basis. Please contact Karen at (605) 381-3738 or [buffheard@gmail.com](mailto:buffheard@gmail.com) to discuss your options.

*Per the [GTSS Rules and Regulations](#), "The NBA acts only as an agent and assumes no responsibility in the event of injury or death to any animal or for any discrepancy between the buyer and the consignor."*

Get all the details at <https://bisoncentral.com/gold-trophy-show-and-sale/>.

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## **New Year's Resolution to Get Fit? Bison Is a Healthy Choice for People and Pets** (NBA News Release)

People resolving to get fit in 2022 don't have to sacrifice great taste for quality nutrition when making bison part of their New Year's diet, according to the director of the National Bison Association.

"This is the time of year when a lot of people not only want to shed the weight they packed on during the holidays, but also want to improve their health moving forward into the new



year,” said Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association. “Adding bison to their diet is a deliciously healthy way of improving their nutritional quality without sacrificing taste.”

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s nutritional database, lean bison meat has 87 percent less fat and 26 percent more iron than the equivalent cut of beef and has seven times more vitamin B-12 than chicken.

Buying bison today is more convenient than ever. Bison meat is appearing in the meat cases of a growing number of conventional and natural food retail outlets across the nation. And the National Bison Association’s free *BuyBison* app provides a tool for consumers to locate nearby bison farms and ranches selling meat directly to the public.

“Eating deliciously healthy bison is also helping to restore environmental health,” Carter said. “Bison helped shape the grassland ecosystems that sequester carbon. As more people enjoy bison meat, ranchers have more incentive to restore herds to their native rangelands across North America.

“Our companion animals can enjoy healthy bison ingredients as part of their daily diet as well,” Carter added. “A growing number of pet food products are incorporating bison into their formulas. Brands like *Tender & True*, *Evolve*, and *FreshPet* have formally joined with the National Bison Association as Partners in Bison Restoration®.”

More information on bison nutrition and where to buy bison is available on the National Bison Association’s website, [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com).

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## **NBA Photo Contest Seeking Bison Shutterbugs**

The National Bison Association’s annual photo contest is back, thanks to a sponsorship from the Texas Bison Association.

The 2022 contest will feature adult and youth categories.

The adult contest is open to all members 18 years of age or older. This year’s contest will feature cash awards for the top three spots – 1st place – \$200, 2nd place – \$100, 3rd place – \$75 and will be featured in *Bison World Magazine*. See rules and entry form at [bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/](http://bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/). Please submit entry (one photo per entry) by the January 8th deadline.

There will also be a Youth photo contest available in three classes: Grades 5-6, 7-9, and 10-12. This year’s contest will feature cash awards for the top three spots – 1st place – \$100, 2nd place – \$75, 3rd place – \$50 and will be featured in *Bison World Magazine*. See rules and entry form at [bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/](http://bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/). Please submit entry (one photo per entry) by the January 8th deadline.

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## **NBA Junior Judging Event Announced – Honors Larry Higgins**

The National Bison Association Junior Judging Program, now renamed as the Larry Higgins Bison Junior Judging Contest, is set for Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, at the National Western Stock Show in Denver.

This free, annual event is open to individuals between 8 - 21 years of age, who are academically eligible (i.e. passing all classes). Participants judge four classes of bison and provide oral reasons on one class, as selected by the judges. Everyone participates individually and is eligible to earn a scholarship. Additional recognition is provided for the top three registered teams and the top three junior participants (12 years of age or younger).

The annual event returns with a total of \$3,200 in scholarship money for the top three contestants. Register ahead of time here: [The Larry Higgins Bison Junior Judging Contest](#)

The annual Junior Judging contest was renamed this year for Larry Higgins, longtime champion and promoter of bison who died of cancer in early 2021. Larry shared his knowledge and passion for bison with everyone, including children. In 2008, his son Josiah was the first person to join the NBA as a junior member. Larry saw the value of getting kids, including his own, involved in the industry at a young age. The National Bison Association launched the Junior Judging Contest in 2008 and it wasn't long before Larry volunteered to help. RMBA now partners with the NBA to run the competition. Unfortunately, Larry passed away in 2021. That same year, the event's name was officially changed to The Larry Higgins Bison Junior Judging Contest to memorialize Larry's impact on the bison community.

Special thanks to scholarship sponsors, the National Buffalo Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Bison Association, and Rocky Mountain Natural Meats.

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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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## **Biden announces \$1B to expand “independent processing capacity”**

*(From Meatingplace.com)*

[The Biden administration announced](#) Monday that it will commit \$1 billion of American Rescue Plan funds to expand “independent processing capacity” in the U.S.

This afternoon, President Biden is meeting with farmers, ranchers and independent processors to, in the words of the administration, create “a more competitive, fair, resilient meat and poultry sector, with better earnings for producers and more choices and affordable prices for consumers.”

Specific components of the administration’s plan include:

- \$150 million of Phase I funds this spring to “jump-start an estimated 15 projects,” with focus on “financial support for projects with the greatest near-term impact.”
- \$225 million of Phase II funds this summer to “expand capacity outside the largest meat and poultry processors,” with funding going “only [to] independent operations.”
- \$275 million in partnerships with lenders to provide loans and other support to businesses at rates and on terms that increase access to long-term, affordable capital. The USDA will solicit applications from potential partners by this summer, with focus on underserved communities.

- \$100 million in guaranteed loans towards processing/distribution infrastructure like cold storage and specialized equipment.
- \$100 million to support development of workforce training.
- \$100 million to reduce overtime inspection costs to help small/very small processing plants keep up with demand.

More [here.](#)

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## **Missouri Bison Part of National Effort**

*(From the Maryville, MO Forum)*

HATFIELD, Mo.— All across the U.S., buffalo are being restored to Native American tribal lands, due to a partnership between Native American tribes, the InterTribal Buffalo Council and The Nature Conservancy.

According to a press release, restoration involves expanding the population size and genetic diversity of herds in indigenous communities.

As of Oct. 16, the partnership allowed 47 bison to be transferred from TNC's Dunn Ranch Prairie preserve in Hatfield to the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Nations on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. In spring 2022, three more Missouri bison will join the Wyoming herd.

According to TNC's website, the bison from Hatfield are descendants of the Wind Cave National Park bison herd, one of only two U.S. herds that were never crossbred with cattle.

Read more [here.](#)

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## **Efforts To Reintroduce Bison to Dakota County Park Advancing This Winter**

*(From Minnesota Public Radio)*

Work continues at Dakota County's Spring Lake Park Reserve to prepare for the arrival next fall of new residents: bison.

It's a new part of a statewide effort to maintain a self-sustaining bison herd in Minnesota. The bison reintroduction project at Spring Lake Park Reserve, southeast of the Twin Cities, is being supported by a \$560,000 state grant. Tom Lewanski, natural resources manager for Dakota County Parks, said they're on track to relocate 15 bison to the park in fall 2022.

Lewanski said last month that about 80 percent of the necessary fencing has been installed, and some habitat restoration — such as removing trees and stumps from the ground — is expected during the winter months. Additional habitat restoration will occur before finishing the fence in the spring.

Restoring bison to the preserve will help to restore the land to the prairie habitat that was more common in the region prior to the arrival of European settlers.

“The area that is Spring Lake Park Reserve — prior to European settlement, this area was made up of prairie and oak savanna,” Lewanski said. “What we're doing is going back to make it more like it was, pre-settlement. We're trying to open this up to more mimic what the bison may have experienced in this area when they used to roam 200 years ago.”

The bison at the park reserve will also help a statewide effort that includes the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Zoo and other parks to establish a stable population of bison within the state.

“They’re part of our larger project we call the Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd,” said Ed Quinn, the natural resource management program supervisor for the Department of Natural Resources. “That’s an effort in the state to have a herd of bison. Now we’re trying to bring back a herd that has no detectable evidence of cattle DNA. So they look — both genetically and from an appearance perspective — and act like wild bison.”

Because of historical crossbreeding, most bison herds have some measurable amount of cattle DNA. Tony Fisher, the animal collections manager with the Minnesota Zoo, said studies show pure bison handle prairie ecosystems better than bison who also have cattle DNA.

“That makes sense because that’s how evolution improved them to survive,” Fisher said.

Read more and listen to the audio [here](#).

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## **Six Of Seven Bison Back Home, Safe and Sound**

*(From Mywestnipissingnow.com)*

It looks like the Bison who have been on the lam in West Nipissing since mid-December are just about all back home.

The OPP reported back on Dec. 16 that an officer responded to a single motor vehicle collision on HWY 64 in West Nipissing, after a vehicle had hit a bison from a local farm. Since then, many community members have aided in finding and corralling the large animals.

Some of the volunteers have been documenting the community’s efforts on the [Sturgeon Falls Facebook Group page](#). Last night, an update was shared saying six of the seven bison are now back home, safe and sound.

[Source:](#)

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## **New FDA Guidance Requires Foods With GMO Ingredients Be Labeled 'Bioengineered'**

*(From NBC News)*

Labels on some food products are changing, thanks to new guidance now in effect from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Foods that had been labeled as containing “genetically modified organisms (GMOs)” will now be known as “bioengineered,” or having been “derived from bioengineering,” under standards set by the USDA’s National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard that took effect on Saturday.

This change has been in the works since 2016, with passage of the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Law.

In 2018, then-Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue hailed the new label as another step toward the “transparency of our nation’s food system” to ensure that there’s “clear information and labeling consistency for consumers about the ingredients in their food.”

But critics of the new labeling system cast it as nothing but a win for big food businesses — particularly by jettisoning the term “GMO” from aisles, according to Marion Nestle, a semiretired professor of nutrition and food studies at New York University.

Read more [here](#).

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## AG Garland Announces Plan to Protect Meat and Poultry Supply Chain

(By Bennah Brem, U. Pittsburgh School of Law, USJurist.org)

Attorney General Merrick Garland announced Monday steps to foster competition and protect consumers in the meatpacking and poultry industry amid national supply chain issues. Garland announced the new measures at President Biden's roundtable meeting on "promoting competition and reducing prices in the meatpacking industry."

In the coming year, the Department of Justice (DOJ) will partner with the Department of Agriculture to better administer the Packers and Stockyards Act. The Act, passed in 1921, assures "fair competition and fair-trade practices" to protect ranchers, farmers and customers from unfair practices in the livestock, meat and poultry industries. The DOJ will launch a "centralized, accessible portal" within 30 days to collect reports of potential violations of the three key pieces of antitrust legislation: the Packers and Stockyards Act, the Clayton Act and the Sherman Act.

According to a press release from the White House, one independent poultry producer "described the dominant poultry production model in which large, integrated companies dictate the terms of restrictive contracts that leave growers with little control over their own operations and laden them with debt." In his remarks, Garland argued that such "anticompetitive practices in agriculture, as in any industry, hurt the American people - producers, consumers and workers alike. And they hurt the American economy." Garland assured the roundtable attendees that his department will protect any whistleblowers under the new anti-retaliation protections passed by Congress in 2020.

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said he was "heartened" by the renewed efforts of the Biden Administration to enforce "complex [and] difficult" areas of law in order to protect producers and consumers.

[Source.](#)

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- 1/8/2022 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Simulcast Auction - SD
- 1/19/2022 – 1/22/2022 – National Bison Association Winter Conference - CO
- 1/21/2022 - NBA/RMBA Junior Judging Event - National Western Stock Show - CO
- 1/22/2022 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - National Western Stock Show - CO
- 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
- 4/21/2022 - 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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