

CLEARWATER RANCH & ROLLING HILLS BISON, LLC

Online Only Bison Auctions!

Clearwater Ranch • Monday, January 25 • 10 a.m. CST
(47) Heifer Calves • (93) Bull Calves

Rolling Hills Bison, LLC • Tuesday, January 26 • 10 a.m. MST

(30) Heifer Calves • (32) Bull Calves
(11) Yearling Bulls



Jud Seaman - Auctioneer
(605) 390-1419



Photos, videos and bidding will be available at:

www.qas.hibid.com



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NBA Weekly Update for January 22, 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.

January 30 is Deadline for USDA Livestock Forage Program

Bison producers impacted by drought in 2020 have eight more days to apply for assistance under USDA's Livestock forage Program (LFP)

LFP provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who have covered livestock and who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage (native and improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or certain crops planted specifically for grazing) that have suffered a loss of grazed forage due to a qualifying drought during the normal grazing period for the county.

LFP also provides payments to eligible livestock owners that have covered livestock and who are also producers of grazed forage crop acreage on rangeland managed by a federal agency if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.

The base payment rates per head for bison producers are \$31.89 for bulls and cows, \$23.92 for yearlings weighing more than 500 lbs. and \$15.94 per head for calves. Those payment rates are multiplied by the number of months that the drought has been designated in the producer's country.

The map listing the counties with drought designations for native pastures, improved pastures and other land bases is available here. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index>

Dave Carter, NBA executive director, noted, "The National Bison Association worked hard several years ago to make sure that bison producers were eligible for the LFP and other disaster assistance programs. Bison producers should be sure to sign up to help offset the costs of providing the feed needed to get their herds through the drought."

More than 200 Register for Winter Conference Next Month

More than 200 NBA members have registered to participate in person at the 2021 NBA Winter Conference scheduled to be held jointly with the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association, at the Ramkota Inn in Rapid City, February 19-20. Another 60 plus members have registered to participate virtually as the registration deadline closed on Wednesday.

"We are working to create an enjoyable conference that will provide valuable information for members, regardless of how they participate this year," said Jim Matheson, NBA assistant director.

Among the key highlights for the conference are:

- Bison Marketing Success in 2020, a panel featuring four U.S. bison marketers,
- Basics of Diet Formulation, presented by ruminant nutritionist Dr. Brad Johnson,
- Meat Processing Challenges and Solutions, a panel on issues facing small meat processing facilities, moderated by NBA Board Member Kristopher Kelley; and
- Bison Mentors' Session, a perennial favorite session that connects bison veterans with new producers.

On Friday evening, February 19, the NBA and DTBA will host a social, Awards Banquet, and benefit auction. On Saturday evening, February 20, the NBA Gold Trophy Sale and DTBA Girlz Going Wild auctions will be simulcast from the Ramkota.

Please note that, while masks will be provided and mask-wearing encouraged, it will not be mandatory. Members who have registered in person but want to participate virtually can adjust their registration without any financial penalty. The South Dakota Department of Health has an on-line dashboard tracking COVID-related issues across the state, including Pennington County, where Rapid City is located. That website can be accessed here. <https://doh.sd.gov/COVID/Dashboard.aspx>

GTSS to Offer 67 head of Live Bison, Catalog Advertising Available

A total of 67 live bison were consigned for the annual Gold Trophy Show and Sale, which was relocated and rescheduled for February 18-20 in at the Rapid City Fairgrounds because of the postponement of the 2021 National Western Stock Show in Denver.

The consignments this year include:

- 19 yearling bulls;
- 10 two-year old bulls
- 2 two-year old bred heifers;
- 12 bull calves
- 4 heifer calves
- 3 pen-of-two bred heifers; and 3 pen-of-five heifer calves.

In addition, 55 yearling heifers will be offered for sale in the DTBA's Girlz Going Wild Performance Tested class.

Finally, cost-effective advertising is available in shared sale catalog that will not only be distributed to those in attendance of the sale, but offered digitally to those viewing the sale

online. Back outside cover has sold, all else still available, prices and specs [here](#). Contact buffheard@gmail.com for availability and to reserve.

Prices Lower in December Wholesale Report

True to form, 2020 ended on a down note, with prices for both dressed bull and heifer carcasses lower in December, according to USDA's monthly wholesale bison market report.

According to the report released this week, dressed bull carcasses averaged \$388.99/cwt. In December, \$4.04/cwt lower than in November and \$41.60/cwt. Lower than the previous December. Heifer carcasses averaged \$369.16/cwt in December, which was \$17.68/cwt lower than in November and \$26.02/cwt. Lower than in December 2019.

The number of bison processed under USDA inspection trended ahead of 2019 throughout the year, a surge in processing in December assured that 2020 would rank as the year with all-time high processing since USDA began recording slaughter figures in 2000. According to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, 63,026 bison were processed under federal inspection in 2020, which was 17percent higher than the 54,051 head processed in 2019.

See the full report [here](#).

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.

MISSOURI BISON ASSOCIATION



22ND ANNUAL SPRING SHOW & SALE

Saturday, March 20, 2021 – 11:00 AM

Mo-Kan Livestock Market, Butler, MO

Dinner & Business Meeting:

Friday, March 19th, Sale Barn Cafe, 6:30pm

To Consign, Call:

Carol Morris: 660-998-0990

or Peter Kohl: 816-585-4779



Tribes Enter New Era of Bison Range Management

(From the Flathead Beacon)

There's a prominent bluff-top perch on the Flathead Indian Reservation overlooking an oxbow section of Mission Creek, above which rises the rolling features of Red Sleep Mountain and the National Bison Range.

In addition to the remarkable scenery, the view has historically offered a stark contrast — for more than a century those foothills upstream have belonged to the federal government, while the overlook and the expanse of wetland in the foreground sits on land belonging to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT).

Much to the delight of tribal leaders, that jurisdictional gulf and the cultural juxtaposition it

signified were repaired on Jan. 15, when U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary David L. Bernhardt signed an order directing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) “to facilitate the transition of property related to the National Bison Range (NBR) to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)” and, by proxy, the CSKT.

“The CSKT have strong and deep historical, geographic and cultural ties to the land and the bison, and their environmental professionals have been leaders in natural resources and wildlife management for many decades,” Assistant Interior Secretary Tara Katuk Sweeney said in a prepared statement. “Interior is pleased to continue its partnership and work with them on the restoration of the NBR to federal trust ownership for the Tribes.”

The transfer was part of an omnibus spending bill signed by President Donald Trump on Dec. 27, 2020 and included as part of the Montana Water Rights Protection Act, co-sponsored by all three members of Montana’s congressional delegation. In addition to transferring the bison range, the act also settled a long-standing treaty negotiation that gave CSKT rights to major water resources inside the Flathead Indian Reservation in return for releasing claims on more than 10,000 water rights outside its boundaries.

Resolving the age-old conflict over water rights on the reservation signals a monumental accord, but the shift of the National Bison Range’s management responsibilities from the oversight of the federal government’s purview to the tribes’ marks an historic occasion. For the past 25 years, the tribes have been actively seeking to restore ownership of the 18,766 acres to a federal trust, which would allow the Salish and Kootenai to assume — or resume — full management responsibilities of the range.

Read more [here](#).

Bondurant Bison Ranch Now Boasts Only Free-Standing Ice Bar in U.S.

(From the Jackson Hole News)

The coldest town in Wyoming now contains another curiosity: the only free-standing ice bar in America.

The Ice Bar at Jackson Fork Ranch was built at the direction of ranch owner Joe Ricketts, who had seen ice structures on his travels and always wanted to create one on his working bison ranch in Bondurant, said representative Morgan Fischer.

The outside of the snow-and-ice structure is nondescript, blending in with small ranch outbuildings. Once visitors pull on the bison horn door handle and step inside, wonder awaits. Glistening blocks of ice form a service bar, cocktail tables and couches. Seating is covered in elk hides with coyote fur armrests.

Created by Mary Gibbons, who worked at IceHotel on the Arctic Circle in Sweden and authored a coffee table book about it, the ice bar interior combines blue, amber and white LED lighting with intricate carving. Gibbons brought in her design-build team Curley Contracting, with her husband Michael Curley, and they hired ranch hands and a local crew to plow and pack snow and erect the building with five wooden trusses, snow blocks and many tons of ice panels trucked in from Idaho and Montana.

At one point during the three-week construction, when the team removed the plywood molds from packed snow and revealed bits of straw, hay and bison patties, Gibbons got a bit demoralized.

“We hand-picked all the hay out of there,” she said, now able to laugh about it. Then they polished and covered the walls with “snice,” a combination of snow and ice. Sitting at about 6,600 feet of elevation, 400 feet higher than Jackson, Bondurant is the coldest place in Wyoming, with an average low January temperature of 5 degrees below zero. It’s surrounded by mountains and is a “cold sink,” as Mountain Weather columnist and meteorologist Jim Woodmencey explains.

Read more [here](#).

Biden Picks Bronaugh For USDA Deputy Post

(From AgriPulse)

President-elect Joe Biden has tapped Virginia Ag Commissioner Jewel Bronaugh to be the next deputy secretary of agriculture, the second highest position at USDA. If confirmed, she would be the first woman of color to hold the position.

Bronaugh, who has run the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services since 2018, served as Virginia state director for USDA's Farm Service Agency during the Obama administration, starting in 2015.

She also has a doctorate in career and technical education from Virginia Tech and spent time as the dean of the College of Agriculture for Virginia State University, where she oversaw extension, research, and educational programming.

USDA's deputy secretary traditionally oversees the department's day-to-day operations. In a statement, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam praised the appointment.

“As Commissioner of VDACS, Dr. Bronaugh has been a true leader — promoting the agency’s core mission while taking on new challenges, including our COVID-19 pandemic response and farmer mental health, focusing economic development to improve food access in underserved communities, and engaging youth in the field of agriculture,” he said. “I am proud that she will be representing both the Commonwealth and all Americans in such a critical role at USDA and in this new administration.”

A bio provided by the Biden transition team notes her efforts to start the Virginia Farmer Stress Task Force in 2019. The task force was “organized in partnership with agricultural and health agencies and organizations, to raise awareness and coordinate resources to address farmer stress and mental health challenges in Virginia.”

Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar Adds Bison Meatloaf To TV Dinner Line Up

(From RestaurantNews.com)

[Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar](#), the casual dining restaurant known for its handcrafted American food and drink, today announces a new TV Dinner option to its menu – BBQ Bison Meatloaf. This TV Dinner features Durham Ranch grass-raised bison, smoked bacon, red skin potato mash, sauteed spinach, haystack onions and is served with a chocolate peanut butter cup brownie dessert. Lazy Dog’s take-home TV Dinners are inspired by the convenient frozen meals that became a mainstay in busy American households in the 1950s.

Lazy Dog’s TV Dinners are the perfect add on for guests who are looking for a delicious, restaurant-quality meal at home. All you have to do is pop Lazy Dog’s scratch made meals in the freezer until you’re ready to dig in.

Starting at only \$10, Lazy Dog’s made-from-scratch individual TV Dinners are just like what you’d expect when dining in the restaurant. Each features an entree, one side and dessert. The meals just need to be heated up in an oven when you’re ready to enjoy. There are seven other different options available:

Read [more](#).

Guide to Federal Funding Opportunities for Agriculture and Forestry Updated

(From ATTRA NCAT)

A new edition of [Building Sustainable Farms, Ranches and Communities: A Guide to Federal Programs for Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry, Entrepreneurship, Conservation, Food Systems and Community Development](#) is available online and in print.

This fourth complete update of the publication incorporates programs from the 2018 Farm Bill. It was produced through the collaboration of SARE, the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute (MFAI), the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC).

Funding was provided by SARE, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), and the McKnight Foundation.

Read [more](#).

Three new deputy undersecretaries named at USDA

(From Agri-Pulse)

USDA is getting three new deputy undersecretaries, including a strong proponent of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, to help lead the department in the Biden administration.

[Stacy Dean](#), who has been with the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities since 1997, most recently as vice president for food assistance policy, will be the new deputy undersecretary for food, nutrition and consumer services, overseeing the Food and Nutrition Service.

Dean “has deep experience understanding the delivery of health and human services programs at the state and local levels,” USDA said in its announcement. Before joining CBPP, Dean was a budget analyst at the Office of Management and Budget, where “she worked on policy development, regulatory and legislative review, and budgetary process and execution for a variety of income support programs,” USDA said in a [news release](#).

Dean has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in public policy from the University of Michigan.

CBPP has consistently supported the SNAP program and opposed Trump administration changes that would limit states’ ability to increase benefits.

[Justin Maxson](#), CEO of the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, has been named deputy undersecretary for rural development. The foundation “works toward poverty alleviation and economic justice in southern states,” USDA said.

Read [more](#).

USDA Offers New Forest Management Incentive for Conservation Reserve Program

(From USDA FSA Release)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is making available \$12 million for use in making payments to forest landowners with land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in exchange for their implementing healthy forest management practices. Existing CRP participants can now sign up for the Forest Management Incentive (FMI), which provides financial incentives to landowners with land in CRP to encourage proper tree thinning and other practices.

“We are offering CRP landowners an opportunity to use forestry practices for a more targeted approach to improve forest health and wildlife habitat on their land,” said Richard Fordyce, administrator for USDA’s Farm Service Agency (FSA). “The Forest Management Incentive enables landowners to maximize the conservation outcomes on their land, such

as supporting wildlife, conserving soil and improving water quality.”

Right now, less than 10% of land currently enrolled in CRP is dedicated to forestland. But, these nearly 2 million acres of CRP forestland, if properly managed, can have enormous benefits for natural resources by reducing soil erosion, protecting water quality, increasing water quantity, and diversifying local farm operations and rural economies.

Only landowners and agricultural producers with active CRP contracts involving forest cover can enroll. However, this does not include active CRP contracts that expire within two years. Existing CRP participants interested in tree thinning and prescribed burning must comply with the standards and specifications established in their CRP contract. CRP participants will receive the incentive payment once tree thinning and/or other authorized forest management practices are completed.

Read [more](#).

RFID ear tags available through TAHC

(From The Texas Farm Bureau)

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) recently announced the agency has a limited supply of no-cost radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tags available for accredited veterinarians and ranchers for use in replacement breeding cattle.

The tags are available thanks to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service program.

Currently, cattle are identified with either a silver metal Brite tag bearing an identification number or an orange metal Official Calfhood Vaccination (OCV) tag indicating the animal has been vaccinated against brucellosis. The next-generation RFID tags will not only indicate vaccination status but allow ranchers and others in the cattle industry to scan and identify individual animals quickly and easily.

“The TAHC is pleased to have received these RFID tags through the USDA’s no-cost program,” said Andy Schwartz, DVM, TAHC executive director and state veterinarian. “We believe this program will help offset the costs of switching to this type of tag, while also helping our state respond to potential disease events more quickly and efficiently.”

There is a limited supply of RFID tags available to veterinarians and ranchers. Two types of tags are available to order: white “840” button tags and orange “840” OCV button tags. Both RFID tags are low- frequency tags.

Veterinarians may receive both white and orange tags, but ranchers may only order white tags.

Read [more](#).

'The biggest obstacle is change': How farmers are being convinced to update their methods

(From The Indianapolis Star)

Regenerative farmer Rick Clark has spoken on his farming methods in Russia, France, Spain, and 25 U.S. states — but he still has trouble finding open ears in his home of Warren County, Indiana.

"The old adage holds true, you don't know what you're talking about unless you're more than 50 miles from home," Clark said. "I can't get anyone in my local community to understand what I'm doing, but I get calls from Russia to come and speak."

Clark, a fifth-generation farmer near Williamsport, has spent more than a decade working on the health of his soil through nutrient-building practices commonly called regenerative

farming.

These methods, which include not tilling the soil, growing cover crops during the off season and rotational grazing, help to reduce erosion and maintain organic materials in the soil, and can even help a farmer's bottom line.

They've also [been shown to sequester greenhouse gases](#), sparking excitement from some in the environmental community, who see regenerative farming as a potential tool in the fight against climate change.

But regenerative farming also requires farmers overcome a mental block to changing everything about the way they, their fathers and grandfathers worked the land for decades.

"That biggest obstacle is change," Clark said. "You have to change your mindset, to 'we're not going to keep doing it the way.' Grab hold of it. You got to take a stand and try something different... it's hard."

Read [more](#).



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Save the Date!

- 1/25/2021 - Clearwater Ranch Online Only Auction - OK
- 1/26/2021 - Rolling Hills Bison, LLC Online Only Auction - ND
- 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
- 2/22/2021 - TNC Smoky Valley & Tallgrass Prairie Online Auctions - KS
- 2/27/2021 - Beltway Bison Consignment Auction - PA
- 3/11/2021 - Eastern Bison Association Annual Winter Conference & Sale - 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 and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

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

