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Thursday, February 11, 2021 • 10 a.m. MST

(195) Mature, Bred, Dehorned Cows (75) Mature, Open, Dehorned Cows (35) Mature Bulls



Jud Seaman - Auctioneer

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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 January 29, 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.

# 70 Head Consigned to Gold Trophy Show and Sale

The 2021 Gold Trophy Show and Sale (GTSS) will offer 70 head of quality breeding stock at its first show and sale to take place outside of Denver, as the sale has moved to Rapid City, SD for 2021. The Dakota Territory Buffalo Association will have an additional 48 yearling heifers for sale as well from their Girlz Going, Wild class. The sale will be held at the Rapid City Ramkota Hotel on Saturday, February 20, 2021.

Consignments as of today – 70 head:

Two-Year-Old Bulls - 10 Yearling Bulls - 20 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

Cost-effective <u>sale catalog</u> advertising is available, contact <u>Karen@bisoncentral.com</u> to inquire about advertising availability.

And a special thank you to our 2021 GTSS trophy sponsors!

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#### We Are Joining Forces to Bring Your Message to Our Audience!

We will be offering a limited amount of advertising in the con bined 2021 National Bison Association/Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Live Auction sale catalog. Ads will be sold on first come, first serve basis with consignors recieving first pick and then we will open it up for anyone else who is interested i advertising in the catalog.

This is an excellent opportunity to get the message out about your breeding program or even animals for sale. The catalog is realeased prior to the auction and is available in print, online at www.bisoncentral.com, www.dakotabuffalo.com and variou other online sites. R is also mailed out to interested parties.

DEADLINE FOR AD PLACEMENT: Reserve space by and have artwork ready by February 5, 2021. Please e- small artwork files to builtheardigental.com and confirm receipt. Advertising is reserved on a first some, first served basis. Advertising rates do not include ad design. AD SPECIFICATIONS 300 dpj (266 min.), 150 line screen. Full bleeds on cover (inside and out) advertising files only in PDF format (finite embedded). Declared please use dimensions above. Camera-ready electronic lifes only in PDF format (finite embedded).

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#### 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. <a href="https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index">https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-forage/index</a>

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."

#### 290 Tons of U.S. Bison Meat Exported to Mexico in 2020

U.S. bison marketers sold nearly 300 tons of fresh chilled bison meat to Mexico during the first six months since the Mexican market was opened for American bison meat, according to the monthly wholesale bison meat report earlier this month by the USDA's

Livestock and Grain Market Reporting Service.

Mexico opened its borders to U.S. bison meat in late May following several years of negotiations between USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service and Mexico's trade officials.

According to the USDA's monthly price report, 581,579 lbs. of fresh chilled bison meat were exported to Mexico through the end of November, with 377,431 pounds exported in November alone. The USDA report did not contain the December export numbers.

Dave Carter, NBA executive director, said, "This success in establishing a foothold in the Mexican marketplace illustrates the opportunity our business has to cultivate new export customers across the globe. This underscores the importance of our work with FAS to open additional markets for our ranchers and marketers."

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



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!

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### Senate Bill Looks to Appropriate Funds for New Custer State Park Bison Center

(From News Center 1 – NBC)

CUSTER, S.D. — A bill could send \$500,000 to Custer State Park to help build a bison center.

Senate bill 54, if passed, would allocate a half-million dollars from general funds for the center.

The Helmsley Charitable Trust has donated a grant of four-million dollars to Custer State Park, where the estimated cost of the project is about 5-million dollars.

C.S.P. officials hope that the bison center will help shine a light on something that is the essence of its existence.

"To have something that deepens that story and to be able to further explain our management practices and our conservation of our bison herd is going to be incredible, because it's the main staple of the park and why a majority of our visitors come," said Kobee Stalder, Visitor Services Program Manager for Custer State Park.

Custer State Park has raised \$175,000 of the original \$500,000 it was planning to raise for the center.

### 15,000-Year-Old Bison Sculptures Are Perfectly Preserved in a French Cave

(From My Modern Met)

Art has been around since the dawn of time; prehistoric cave paintings can be found in grottos and on cliffs around the world. However, intact prehistoric sculpture remains a rare find for archeologists, though not impossible. And when discovered, they provide a fascinating insight into the lives of the earliest cultures. In southwest France, a system of <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/jhttps

This artwork dates back to about 13,000 BCE and offers a mysterious clue to scholars interested in early Magdalenian culture.

The River Volp flows through the foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains range which separates France and Spain. Near the commune of Montesquieu-Avantès in southwestern France, the river flows under rocks for some length. The river actually disappears into caves, which were first explored in 1912 by Henri Bégouën and his three teenage sons. The system of caverns is technically three separate caves, only two of which are connected. Called Trois-Frères (three brothers), Enlène, and Tuc d'Audoubert, the three caves contain three levels. The river flows through the lowest, while the other levels host rooms of varying sizes. It was inside Tuc d'Audoubert that the young men encountered cave walls engraved and painted with paleolithic art. Under the direction of a family friend and archeologist, Émile Cartailhac, the caves began to be researched to see what other treasures they might hold.

Careful exploration of the caves turned up hundreds of <a href="examples of artwork">examples of artwork</a> by the Stone Age Magdalenian peoples. These ancient humans were known to hunt reindeer, horses, and other big game during the waning of the Ice Age. Their ancient living and ritual sites have been found in France and Spain and include cave art, engraved bones, and other artifacts. The findings at the three caves added to the repertoire of ancient art attributed to the culture. In the Enlène cave, bone and ivory fragments carved with animal depictions were discovered. The craftsman chose to depict a <a href="https://norse/shead">horse/shead</a> on a hyoid bone of a horse; a <a href="maintename">chamois</a> (a goat-antelope creature native to the region) is also carved on the mandible bone of a bison.

Read more.

#### Are Bison Hard to Handle?

(From AgInfo.net)

Today's shoppers are increasingly seeking more information about the source of their food, and the way it was produced. This is particularly true of bison customers. They tend to be discriminating shoppers, with a strong interest in responsibly raised meat. Because they pay a premium price for bison meat, they expect—and deserve—to know how the animals were raised and finished.

Every responsible bison rancher develops finishing protocols based upon their available land base, access to feedstocks, customer expectations, and a myriad of other factors. While those factors vary, bison producers are united in their commitment to responsible animal husbandry, environmental stewardship, and providing their customers with a great tasting, nutritionally superior product.

All of this sounds terrific, but I asked Jim Matheson, Asst. Director of the National Bison Association if bison, being far less domesticated than cattle, were dangerous or difficult to handle.

"In the big picture, no, they're not. And essentially these animals were never domesticated, so technically we are raising a wild animal because it takes so long to domesticate a species. Of course, we try to use those wild instincts to our advantage. They still calve on their own. We're not out there pulling calves. They fend for themselves. Predation is not an issue. Their metabolism slows way down in the wintertime. So, handling can be a little bit tricky. The good part, I suppose, is that we only handle about once a year out West in your neck of the woods, and we're here in Colorado. So typically, we round those animals up in the fall and do any weaning, any vaccinations that we have to, etc. But otherwise, they are out fending for themselves out in the pasture."

Read more.

# American Prairie Reserve to Expand Bison Testing, Transparency In Settlement Agreement

(From Montana Public Radio)

Conservation and livestock groups have found a resolution to a long simmering bison disease management disagreement in northeast Montana. The compromise could help inform similar agreements if the American Prairie Reserve continues to expand its bison range.

Under the new 10-year settlement, the American Prairie Reserve will expand its disease management plan by testing 325 total bison for the bacterial disease brucellosis during the first five years and then another 150 bison over the following five years. All bison that have been tested will be tagged. Brucellosis, which can spread between cattle, elk and bison, can cause miscarriages and infertility.

The American Prairie Reserve will also vaccinate all newly introduced pre yearling bison heifers.

A board appointed by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation last week approved the agreement between the nonprofit that manages roughly 800 enclosed bison in Phillips County and the Phillips Conservation District, along with the South Phillips County Co-Operative State Grazing District and Phillips County Livestock Association.

Jay Bodner, executive vice president of the Montana Stockgrowers Association, was the presiding officer for the board.

"I would just commend each one of the parties for the work you put into this, and I know it was a difficult situation and, but there was a lot of good work that was done," Bodner said. The Phillips Conservation District passed a bison grazing <u>ordinance</u> in 2016 that requires all bison in the county to be tested and certified by a state veterinarian to be disease free and branded, tattooed or tagged to "track its health status."

Read more.

## Triple amputee Marine veteran finds challenge in Montana bison harvest

(From the Marine Corps Times)

Late in life, Brian Meyer found his people. They are hunters.

"My parents were not those kinds of people," he said.

Yet as a child growing up in Arizona, he loved to shoot his BB gun and would fashion a bow and arrows from the string and wood of the kite his father bought him, The Billings Gazette reported.

"My dad said, 'I don't know about you, Brian," Meyer said and laughed.

A love of hunting is what propelled the 39-year-old to the remote prairie of Eastern Montana on a gray January day. Wounded Warriors Outdoors had arranged for Meyer to participate in a donated bison harvest on land owned by American Prairie Reserve. The nonprofit conservation organization has a goal of preserving the unique badlands ecosystem but has faced opposition from some county officials and legacy ranchers.

It is wild country. Crows squawking and coyotes mournfully howling are the few sounds to pierce the heavy overcoat of silence on a calm day. The clean air feels as cool on gasping lungs as evaporating rubbing alcohol, and the sharp tang of sagebrush crushed under hiking boots adds a pinch of spice to the untamed atmosphere.

On the APR's 27,000-acre Sun Prairie unit more than 400 bison roam the coulees, bluffs and creek bottoms. Two smaller herds occupy other areas for a total herd of about 800 bison. The conservation group now manages more than 419,600 acres in the region — about 315,000 of which are public and state lands leased for grazing bison and 13,000 head of cattle.

Although annual drawings have been held the past four years allowing 67 individuals to shoot a bison, the organization is adamant these are not hunts.

Read more.

# Confederated Salish And Kootenai Tribes Plan Future of National Bison Range

(From the Missoulian)

As the new stewards of the National Bison Range, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are looking to the future with a vision for continued conservation, bolstering the herd, improving the landscape and telling the story of why the bison and the land they live on is so important to their culture and history.

"Our vision is to continue to keep it as is, and maybe enhance the bison that we see there, as well as managing the other species that are there, predominantly rocky mountain elk," said Rich Janssen, head of the CSKT Natural Resources Department, this week. He said they're also looking to improve nutrition value of the vegetation on the land used for grazing. "We want to keep them doing what they're doing, which is being wild animals."

On the outside, the public will likely not notice any difference as the Tribes take over management, according to Rob McDonald, CSKT spokesperson.

"Everything's operating as it was before," he said. "In the legislation that was passed, the Bison Range will still be managed and operated under the same conservation plan it has been for years."

While plans are preliminary, the Tribes hope to increase the number of bison on Red Sleep Mountain.

"We want to protect and enhance this majestic animal that is so dear to our tribes," Janssen said. "We're going to continue to do that and will work really closely with the (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service, as we are working with them on a transition plan."

CSKT officials will spend the next two years working in conjunction with the federal employees currently managing the Bison Range to ensure a smooth transfer. Eventually, Red Sleep Mountain will be staffed by tribal members and managed by CSKT natural resources officials.

"We want to make sure we get the necessary qualified staff and the necessary qualified people to be able to fill that role at the Bison Range," Janssen 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.

### Caprock Chronicles: Saving the bison on the Texas high plains (From the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal)

The bison is a symbol of the Wild West and a symbol of America. Yet the bison came close to extinction in the United States. In the 18th century, between 30 and 60 million bison roamed the American West.

During the 1870s, hunters in search of hides, meat and glory rushed to the West, which led to the near depletion of herds by the 1880s. More than 5.4 million bison were slaughtered in the three years between 1872 and 1875. By 1888, there were an estimated 1,000 bison left in all of North America.

By 1875, most of the bison in Texas had been killed, and conservationists worked for a bill in the state legislature to protect the remaining animals. However, General Phillip Sheridan testified that extermination of the bison would lead to Indians being forced onto the reservation which would allow "civilization" to advance.

The conservation bill did not pass.

Legendary cattleman Charles Goodnight had experience with bison recalling that when he first arrived in the Panhandle herds covered miles with up to 12,000 head in Palo Duro Canyon. He also recalled the carcasses of the giant beast strewn over the prairie, and the "sound of buffalo guns from sunup to sundown" from what Goodnight estimated to be 3,000 hunters in the Panhandle.

Read more.

#### **Processing in Minnesota**

(From the Minnesota Post)

When several large pork processing plants shuttered last spring because workers got sick with COVID-19, it sent many who raise livestock into a panic.

"Farmers would call me and say: 'My pigs are too big, I have nothing to do with them,'" Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen said at a hearing before the Minnesota House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee.

Petersen said one desperate farmer even asked: "Is there going to be any help for me? Because I'm going to go buy two pistols today and shoot a thousand pigs."

"I had farmers calling me in tears extremely just not knowing what to do, saying: 'I'm going to haul all my hogs up to northern Minnesota and turn them loose,'" Petersen said.

Read more <u>here</u>.

### Biden Order Seeks Ag Sector Input to Fight Climate Change

(From Meatingplace.com)

President Joe Biden on Wednesday signed an <u>executive order</u> that prioritizes addressing the challenge of climate change and directs the secretary of agriculture to collect input from farmers, ranchers and other stakeholders on how to use federal programs to encourage adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices.

The effort aims to produce verifiable carbon reductions and sequestrations and create new sources of income and jobs for rural Americans, <u>according to the White House</u>.

The order commits to the goal of conserving at least 30% of U.S. lands and oceans by 2030 and launches a process for stakeholder engagement to identify strategies that will result in broad participation.

The action also calls for the establishment of a Civilian Climate Corps that would create jobs in conserving and restoring public lands and waters, increasing reforestation, increasing carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protecting biodiversity, improving access to recreation, and addressing the changing climate.

"America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners have an important role to play in combating the climate crisis and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, by sequestering carbon in soils, grasses, trees, and other vegetation and sourcing sustainable bioproducts and fuels." the order states.

Efforts also will include moving to rejoin the Paris Agreement and building on its objectives of safe global temperature, increased climate resilience and a pathway toward low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development, the order said. "Responding to the climate crisis will require both significant short-term global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and net-zero global emissions by mid-century or before," the order states.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), in a statement issued in response to the executive order, said the group looked forward to working with the Biden administration as it addresses climate change and sustainability in the U.S. agriculture sector.

#### Four Technologies Changing the Meat Case

(From Meatingplace.com)

Midan Marketing has identified four technologies that it expects to create a more interactive meat case for consumers over the next five years: DNA traceability, processing automation, packaging innovations and e-commerce.

In a recent <u>blog post</u>, managing principal Michael Uetz said consumers have begun to expect a certain level of "interactivity" from the brands they buy. Interactive marketing involves a more personalized approach, with initiatives triggered by customer behaviors and preferences.

"Staying on the cutting edge of technology will likely mean better and safer meat, plus a more streamlined buying experience," Uetz said.

DNA traceability. With consumers gravitating to brands that provide detailed product information, livestock producers are being asked to adopt traceability efforts to improve transparency. Miden cited recent survey data that showed 73% of consumers worldwide said traceability is important to them, and nearly all were willing to pay a premium for it. "Today's consumers are used to having a world of information at their fingertips and want the same kind of access to information about their food," Uetz said.

Processing automation. Automation in the meat industry was considered too difficult for years due to the complexity of dissembling carcasses. Now, artificial intelligence, robots and machine learning are at a point where a true conversation can be had about automated meatpacking, Uetz said. In addition to increased food safety, automation saves time in processing, so the product is fresher when it reaches the customer, noted Paul Armstrong, business development director for Hilton Food Group, in the blog. "Plus, we have the ability to quickly retool our operations for changing retailer and consumer needs," Armstrong said.

Packaging innovations. COVID-19 increased consumers' desire for vacuum-sealed meat because it could be sanitized easily as well as frozen. Recyclable packaging has seen significant growth in the meat case, where future innovations may include smart packages that can weigh contents and automatically reorder to a grocery list, Midan said.

E-commerce. COVID-19 accelerated the adoption of e-commerce by several years, notably in refrigerated, frozen, breakfast and luncheon meats, IRI consultant Erkin Peksoz said in the blog. Midan said its own research showed 34% of meat consumers plan to use online shopping as their primary meat purchasing method once the pandemic has ended. For those who want to see their meat before they buy it, "extended reality" technologies may allow selection of an actual package over the phone, the blog said.

### OSHA issues new COVID-19 workplace guidance

(From Agri-Pulse)

Responding to an executive order issued by the Biden administration, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued <u>guidance</u> for companies to help stop the spread of COVID at workplaces and said it was looking at setting an emergency standard for COVID-19.

Speaking to reporters Friday, OSHA officials also said the guidance was just the start of its efforts to protect workers from COVID.

"It's morally and economically imperative that we ensure the health and safety of our workers," senior counselor to the Secretary of Labor M. Patricia Smith said. "The guidance that we're announcing today is an important first step towards that end."

It with coronavirus outbreaks at facilities throughout the country, did not seem concerned about the impact of the guidance. "These recommendations are similar" to previous guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and OSHA, North American Meat Institute spokesperson Sarah Little said. "Our members have implemented these protections and more."

The guidance "recommends several essential elements in a prevention program," OSHA said in a news release:

Conduct a hazard assessment.

- · Identify control measures to limit the spread of the virus.
- Adopt policies for employee absences that don't punish workers as a way to encourage potentially infected workers to remain home.
- Ensure coronavirus policies and procedures are communicated to both English and non-English speaking workers.
- Implement protections from retaliation for workers who raise coronavirus-related concerns.

Read more.



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- 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

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