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### ***NBA Weekly Update for July 1, 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.*



**July is Bison Month!**

## ***Celebrate the United States National Mammal throughout the Month***

July 1, 2022 (Westminster, CO) - The National Bison Association (NBA) kicked off July Bison Month today. As part of the celebration, consumers are encouraged to add this uniquely American, delicious, humanely-raised, supremely healthy protein to their regular diets.

The American Bison, whose population once exceeded 30 million animals, was decimated to near extinction in the late 19th century through hunting, slaughter, and western-introduced disease. However, the bison has made a tremendous comeback and now numbers over 400,000 head across the continent. This comeback is due to a unique collaboration among American farmers and ranchers, Native American tribes, and conservation groups, all working to restore the species to its native landscape of North America. This collaboration also made the American bison the first-ever National Mammal of the United States in 2016.

Bison are “Regenerative by Nature”™ thanks to the fact that the species was never domesticated and, as such, retains those innate instincts that helped shape North America’s great plains. The bison’s natural grazing behavior, hoof-action, fertilization of the soil, and other attributes assist in regenerating healthy soils and the grasslands they graze when properly managed. Bison stewards utilize these instincts today to raise healthy bison and end products that support and expand important grassland carbon sinks and the species. That’s why consumers of bison meat and byproducts are partners in restoring the bison species.

National Bison Month, celebrated each July, is when American bison producers and marketers promote the delicious taste of bison. Burgers, steaks, and even roasts are great summer grilling alternatives. According to the NBA, bison is the leanest protein widely available in today’s marketplace. The meat is nutrient-dense, with 26% more iron than beef and 87% lower in fat. Bison has 76% more B12 vitamins than chicken, and 32% less fat, based on nutrient data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Bison is easier to find than ever, with almost every grocer carrying at least ground bison. Many natural food stores and bison farm-direct marketers offer the same cuts consumers typically see from beef animals. Find a local bison producer near you at our online buyer’s guide at [www.bisoncentral.com/buying-bison-meat/](http://www.bisoncentral.com/buying-bison-meat/) and find bison-specific recipes and instructional cooking videos at [www.bisoncentral.com/how-to-cook-bison/](http://www.bisoncentral.com/how-to-cook-bison/).

The National Bison Association is a member-based, nonprofit trade association made up of bison farmers, ranchers, marketers, conservationists, public herd managers, enthusiasts, and more. Learn more at [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com) and [@nationalbison](https://twitter.com/nationalbison).

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## **NBA Attends 2023 Farm Bill Listening Session**

This week the NBA's Executive Director, Jim Matheson, attended a 2023 US Farm Bill listening session hosted by Colorado Senator, Michael Bennet.

The session, which took place in Eastern Colorado in the farm town of Limon, was part of a series of events across the state hosted by the Senator to hear input from the state's agricultural stakeholders.

The organizers gave an overview of preliminary discussions and hearings on the Farm Bill in Washington, DC and urged attendees to take this summer to obtain input from their own stakeholders as to what they'd like to see in the forthcoming bill.

The NBA encouraged the Senator's staff to continue to include bison producers in all federal relief programs, as our farmers and ranchers face many of the same challenges that our neighbors raising different livestock and crops do. That includes everything from COVID relief programs like CFAP, to drought relief, to small meat processing plant support and expansion programs.

Matheson also encouraged the organizers to increase funding for popular, bison-friendly

federal programs such as the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Farm Service Agency's Beginner Farmer and Rancher Loan Program.

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## **Throlson American Bison Foundation Scholarship Now Accepting Applications!**

Westminster, CO (July 1, 2022) -The National Bison Association (NBA) has announced the 2022 Throlson American Bison Foundation Scholarship, an annual scholarship that supports students pursuing studies related to the American bison.

The Throlson American Bison Foundation is named after its founder, Dr. Ken Throlson, DVM, a pioneer of the modern bison business and awards outstanding college students with an interest in the burgeoning bison industry.

"The Throlson American Bison Foundation Scholarship program has been established to recognize, encourage and promote leadership among future bison industry professionals," said Jim Matheson, executive director of the NBA.

In November 2022, the Throlson American Bison Foundation will award scholarships totaling, but not limited to, \$10,000 to outstanding college junior, senior or graduate students studying fields related to the bison industry.

A minimum of \$2,000 of the \$10,000 amount will be awarded in the memory of Richard Zahringer to students pursuing a degree in agriculture economics, agribusiness, or accounting. Ideally this student will have future interest in livestock and specifically bison.

The online scholarship application is available [online here](#) and must be submitted by October 1, 2022. Award announcements will be made no later than November 5th. For more information, contact the NBA office at (303) 292-2833, or [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com).

The NBA also has a Youth membership for individuals ages 21 and younger that are interested in learning more about the bison business. NBA Youth Members can access educational resources on the website, receive discounted conference rates, consign animals to the Gold Trophy Show & Sale held in Denver in conjunction with the National Western Stock Show, and receive a e-subscription to Bison World and the NBA newsletter, the Weekly Update, among other benefits. Join online [here](#).

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## **Bison Ranchers and Stewards Asked to Complete Bison Health and Management Study**

*From USDA Press Release*

What comes to mind when you think of South Dakota? Is it the Black Hills, presidential busts and bison? According to USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service's 2017 Census of Agriculture, South Dakota has the largest inventory of bison of any state in the United States, with over 30,000 bison spread across 99 farms and ranches. We will update these numbers and find out if this holds true with the upcoming [2022 Census of Agriculture](#). Census of Agriculture data collection begins this fall.

Did you know that 49 states have bison operations? Can you guess which state does not have any bison operations? The answer may surprise you. Find the answer at end of this article.

This summer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) and the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will partner to conduct a national [study focusing on ranched bison health and management](#) (PDF, 1.6 MB) in the United States.

All known bison producers and stewards will receive a questionnaire in the mail and are encouraged to participate in the study. The study is designed to provide a snapshot of current health and management practices on U.S. bison operations. The information



collected will also allow for the analysis of trends in specific topics related to bison health, based on a similar study conducted in 2014.

For more information, please contact [Margaret.A.Parker@usda.gov](mailto:Margaret.A.Parker@usda.gov), or click on the “NAHMS Bison 2022 Study” link on the [NAHMS program page](#).

Answer: Did you guess Hawaii? Nope, Hawaii has bison operations! Rhode Island does not.

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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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## **Bison vs. beef: Differences in cholesterol**

***From Medical News Today***

Bison are large bovine animals similar to cattle. The [Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#) notes that the bison bull is the largest animal indigenous to North America, standing taller than 6 feet at the hump and weighing more than a ton.

Some people refer to bison as American buffalo or buffalo. Farmers rear bison as livestock, and people prepare and eat the meat in a similar way to beef.

Although bison and beef taste similar, they have differences in their nutritional profile.

The [American Heart Association \(AHA\)](#) recommends that people limit their consumption of saturated fat to avoid raising low-density lipoprotein (LDL). High LDL cholesterol is a risk factor for heart disease and stroke.

For individuals wanting to lower their cholesterol, the AHA advises they should reduce saturated fat to less than 6% of their daily calories. For someone eating 2,000 calories per day, that's around 11–13 g of saturated fat.

Because bison contains less calories, cholesterol, and saturated fat, [2013 research](#) suggests it may be a healthier alternative to beef.

Bison is a good source of protein and some vitamins and minerals.

Read [more](#).

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## **2nd visitor in 3 days gored by Yellowstone park bison**

*From KPLC - ABC*

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. (AP) — For the second time in three days, a visitor to Yellowstone National Park has been gored by a bison.

Park officials say a 71-year-old woman from West Chester, Pennsylvania, and her daughter inadvertently approached the bison Wednesday as they were returning to their vehicle at a Yellowstone Lake trailhead.

The woman's injuries were not life-threatening. She was taken by ambulance to a hospital in Cody, Wyoming.

The incident remains under investigation.

On Monday, a 34-year-old Colorado man got too close to a bison and was thrown as he grabbed a child. An Ohio woman was gored in May.

Park officials said bison are wild and unpredictable, and visitors should stay more than 25 yards away.

Read [more](#).

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## **Bison monument going up at south Tulsa park**

*From KRMG*

TULSA, Okla. — A monument is being built in south Tulsa to honor one of Oklahoma's most recognizable animals.

The Tulsa Herd Grand Monument will honor bison and the successful effort to raise their population in the last century.

The monument will be installed at LaFortune Park near East 61st Street and South Yale Avenue in south Tulsa.

[NatureWorks](#) is building the monument, and partners with local, state and national organizations to preserve and protect Oklahoma wildlife and their habitats.

NatureWorks said the bison population numbers had dwindled to about one thousand at the turn of the 20th century. Concerned citizens, including President Theodore Roosevelt, formed the American Bison Society to help relocate 15 bison from the Bronx Zoo to Oklahoma's Wichita Mountains Wildlife refuge to start to repopulate the West.

The Wildlife Conservation Society continues working to grow the bison population in the West alongside the InterTribal Buffalo Council and the National Bison Association.

More information about the project will be released this summer.

Read [more](#).

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## **Bison Gets Head Stuck Inside A Car Window For 30 Minutes At A Wildlife Park In Canada**

*From Whiskey Riff*

With all of these incidents involving bison goading visitors at Yellowstone National Park over the past month, I've found myself going down a rabbit hole of some of the wildest bison encounters people have experienced with the 1,000-plus pound creatures.

With that being said, I found this gem from last year, where a few visitors at a wildlife park

in Quebec, Canada found themselves in a terrifying (yet kind of hilarious from a third person's opinion) encounter with a bison.

Last October, Leonardo Heizer filmed a wild incident, where a bison had his head stuck inside a car window.

Heizer, who was traveling with his family to the wildlife park, and had full intentions of seeing a bison in real life since immigrating to Canada from Brazil four years ago, shared his story with CTV News:

"Somebody opened the window, and ... the bison put the head inside the car, and I was shocked.

I was thinking somebody is going to get hurt for sure."

As you can imagine, nobody was hurt, but the car took a beating from the massive bison:

"The windshield was damaged, and the column between the front window and the windshield was damaged too."

Although it is uncertain how long the bison's head was stuck inside the car, the video is only a minute long, but the caption claims it lasted around 30 minutes.

Read [more](#).

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## **Grand Canyon won't seek volunteers to kill bison this fall** *From ABC News*

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. -- A bison herd that lives almost exclusively in the northern reaches of Grand Canyon National Park won't be targeted for lethal removal there this fall.

The park used skilled volunteers selected through a highly competitive and controversial lottery last year to kill bison, part of a toolset to downsize the herd that's been trampling meadows and archaeological sites on the canyon's North Rim.

Introducing the sound of gunfire and having people close to the bison was meant to nudge the massive animals back to the adjacent forest where they legally could be hunted. But the efforts had little effect.

"They just kind of moved a bit from where the activity occurred, and sometimes they'd come back the next day," said Grand Canyon wildfire program manager Greg Holm.

New surveys also have shown the herd is closer to the goal of about 200, down from an estimated 500 to 800 animals when the park approved a plan to quickly cut the size of the herd. The park is now working with other agencies and groups on a long-term plan for managing the bison, an animal declared America's national mammal in 2016 and depicted on the National Park Service logo.

Read [more](#).

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## **Bison caught on camera running loose on Alberta highway** *From UPI*

A traveler on an Alberta highway captured video when she came across an unusual traffic hazard: a bison running loose in the roadway.

Keira Boutilier said she was on her way to visit friends in Stony Plain on Wednesday when she spotted a large animal on Highway 16, near Highway 779.

"The people coming west, they're all like slowed down and I'm, like, just so confused,"

Boutilier told CTV News. "And then I see this giant, like, buffalo bison thing. I thought it was a moose at first and then it started running into my lane."

Boutilier captured video of the bison running out of the median and crossing three lanes of traffic to reach a field at the side of the highway.

"I was so confused. I didn't even realize there was bison close to here. It was so random. I've been driving at night and I've seen moose, but to see a bison, I'm like, 'Where did that come from?'" Boutilier said.

The origins and ultimate fate of the bison were unclear.

An elusive bison was recently captured after eight months on the loose in Illinois. Lake County Forest Preserves officials said the female bison, variously nicknamed Tyson the Bison and Billy the Bison, was captured in late May at Lakewood Forest Preserve in Wauconda by personnel from Loose Cattle Caught.

Read [more](#).

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## **Podcast: Catalina Island Bison Herd**

*From Atlas Obscura*

IN THIS EPISODE OF THE ATLAS OBSCURA PODCAST, we bring you a classic episode: the strange tale of Catalina Island's herd of bison, and the harrowing story of producer Sarah Wyman's encounter with these intimidating residents.

Our podcast is an audio guide to the world's wondrous, awe-inspiring, strange places. In under 15 minutes, we'll take you to an incredible site, and along the way you'll meet some fascinating people and hear their stories. Join us daily, Monday through Thursday, to explore a new wonder with cofounder Dylan Thuras and a neighborhood of Atlas Obscura reporters.

Listen [here](#).

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## **Ranchers, residents want details on massive SD beef plant**

*From Meatingplace.com*

The entrepreneurs behind a proposed beef plant in Rapid City, S.D. have made big promises — and now local residents and ranchers are interested in the specifics.

According to [a report from South Dakota Public Broadcasting \(SDPB\)](#), the plant ([which was first announced in May](#)) would be the largest in the U.S. and one of the largest in the world. It would cost \$1.1 billion to build, would create 2,400 jobs, and would process 8,000 head of cattle and bison a day.

Megan Kingsbury, whose family runs a ranch near Kadoka, S.D., has been the lead spokesperson for the project. According to SDPB, the principals behind the plant are Kingsbury and Associates — which is Megan Kingsbury's consulting business — and Sirius Realty, where Kingsbury is a managing partner. The businesses are based in South Carolina.

Questions have followed the plant's announcement, though. Ritchie Nordstrom, a city councilman, told SDPB, "The principals that are involved still have a lot of homework to do," especially regarding how they'll find 2,400 workers and where those workers will live. Pat Jones, another councilman, said Rapid City already faces an "affordable housing shortage" without such an influx of workers.

Read [more](#).

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## **Dogs are sniffing out disease in animals vital to traditions of the Blackfeet tribe [edited]**

*From Kaiser Health News*

Kenneth Cook used a mallet and a chisel to crack into a pig's skull in the gravel driveway outside his home on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in northwestern Montana. Cook planned to use the pig's brains in brain tanning, practiced by Indigenous people for thousands of years.

The brains are mushed up in water and worked into deer and elk hides to make leather. Cook said the brain's fatty acids both soften the hide and give it a beautiful white color before it's smoked for waterproofing.

"Brain will give you the strongest, longest-lasting leather. So, that's why people prefer it," he said.

Cook uses the hides he tans to make drums, moccasins and tribal regalia. Typically, Indigenous people like Cook use the brains of animals they hunt to tan the hides. But Cook has switched to pig brains for all his tanning, in part because of chronic wasting disease, which afflicts deer, elk and moose.

Chronic wasting disease has been detected in just one white-tailed deer on the Blackfeet reservation, but once it's present, it's impossible to eradicate, according to wildlife managers. The disease is already forcing tribal members to alter or abandon traditional practices like brain tanning, said Souta Calling Last, a Blackfeet researcher and executive director of the nonprofit cultural and educational organization Indigenous Vision.

Calling Last also worries the spread of chronic wasting disease will prevent tribal members from eating wild game. Some families depend on meat from the deer, elk or moose they can hunt several months out of the year.

Read [more](#).

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## **Drought stresses Texas water supply, ranchers**

*From Meatingplace.com*

Drought in Texas is forcing more ranchers to sell their cattle early, and another hot, dry summer is expected for the state's Panhandle, according to local media reports.

Extreme heat, high winds and below-normal precipitation continued in the state in the latest week, [according to the U.S. Drought Monitor](#).

[ABC News in Amarillo](#) reported Thursday that the atmospheric effect known as La Niña is expected to last for at least several more months, producing dry weather for the third year in a row — a situation that has occurred only two other times since 1950.

[KCBD in Lubbock](#) reported ranchers are bringing calves to stockyards sooner, which will mean fewer cattle arriving in the fall. Heat stress can also harm animal reproduction, which could affect next year's supply, the report noted.

[KLTV](#), covering northeast Texas, said hay prices are up, citing the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, with production estimated at 25% of typical levels.

The Drought Monitor shows [17% of the state in exceptional drought](#) and 93% experiencing some drought conditions.

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## **Ohio EQIP Cover Crop Incentive**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced a second round of funding through the Environmental Quality



Incentives (EQIP) Cover Crop Initiative. Agricultural producers across the state of Ohio are eligible to apply for financial and technical assistance to plant cover crops. Interested participants must apply by the July 5, 2022 deadline.

“Cover crops provide producers with a flexible conservation tool to address multiple natural resource concerns including water quality, soil health and carbon sequestration,” said John Wilson, NRCS Ohio State Conservationist. “This initiative supports widespread practice adoption to accelerate those benefits on the landscape.”

The EQIP Cover Crop Initiative was first announced on January 10, 2022. The program provides an investment of \$38 million to 11 states, including Ohio, to help agricultural producers mitigate climate change through the adoption of cover crops. Though initially only available to producers in the Ohio Western Lake Erie Basin, this second round of funding expands program eligibility to all state producers.

Contact a local Ohio USDA service center or visit the Ohio NRCS EQIP Funding Categories webpage to get started. While applications for EQIP are accepted throughout the year, producers should submit applications by the deadline to be considered for the current funding period.

Read [more](#).

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## **Save the Date!**

- 7/06/2022 - ITBC 4th Annual Buffalo Worker Safety Workshop - SD
- 7/12/2022 - International Bison Conference - Saskatoon, SK
- 7/21/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 8/15/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - Online
- 8/18/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 9/10/2022 - NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop - Mission, SD
- 9/15/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 9/24/2022 - Rocky Mountain Bison Assn. Fall Ranch Tour - WY
- 10/14/2022 - Wisconsin Bison Producer's Association Fall Meeting - WI
- 10/15/2022 - NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop - Villa Grove, IL
- 10/20/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 11/05/2022 - Custer State Park Annual Buffalo Auction - SD
- 11/9/2022 - Antelope Island State Park Bison Auction - Online
- 11/25/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Bison Fundamentals - MN
- 11/26/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Legends of the Fall Sale - MN
- 11/14/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - Online
- 12/01/2022 - Kansas Buffalo Association Sale - KS
- 12/01/2022 - Western Bison Association Meeting and Show/Sale - UT
- 1/07/2023 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Simulcast Auction - SD
- 1/18/2023 - NBA Winter Conference - Westminster, CO
- 1/21/2023 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - Denver, CO
- 2/11/2023 - Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Sale Simulcast Auction - SD

- 3/09/2023 - Eastern Bison Association Winter Conference and Auction - PA

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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