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### *NBA Weekly Update for July 22, 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.*



**Registration Now Open for Sept. 10th South Dakota**

## Regenerative Field Day

The National Bison Association this week opened registration for the 2nd of its Regenerative Bison Ranching Field Day series, which includes six field days in six states at working bison operations.

The September 10th event in Mission, SD will take place at Antelope Creek Bison and will be hosted by the [Dakota Territory Buffalo Association](#) (DTBA). The event will not only feature the field day, but also a DTBA membership meeting and a dinner provided by the association and [Dakota Pure Bison](#).

The National Bison North Central Regenerative Ranching Workshop Series, which is being funded by the North Central Sustainable Agriculture Education and Research (NCSARE) program at the University of Minnesota, will be facilitated in the summers of 2022 and 2023 and will feature six one-day workshops on bison farms and ranches in the states of IL, MN, ND, OH, SD, and WI. The field days will include expert speakers offering first-hand knowledge on properly managing bison grazing and handling to maximize their regenerative potential as a livestock species.

See the tentative agenda below and please register by September 7th the latest at <https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-south-dakota-regenerative-workshop/>. Cost is only \$30/person and includes the workshop and two bison meals. Please direct questions to Jim Matheson - [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com).

# NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day #2

## Sept. 10th - Antelope Creek Bison - Mission, SD

**Just \$30 per person!**

Register at [bisoncentral.com/product/nba-south-dakota-regenerative-workshop/](https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-south-dakota-regenerative-workshop/)



### Saturday, September 10th:

- 9:30 am: Register and network
- 10:00: Welcome from NBA and Host Ranch
- 10:15: Pasture walks and bison herd tour
- Noon: Lunch
- 1:30: NRCS Presentation - What can NRCS do for my bison operation?
- 2:30: Break
- 3:00 – TBD – Regenerative/Holistic Bison Management
- 4:00 – Antelope Creek Bison Ranch corral and handling facility tour
- 5:00 – Dakota Territory Buffalo Association (DTBA) meeting
- 6:00 - DTBA dinner



Thanks to North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Education and Research (SARE) and the University of Minnesota for their support in this project. Learn more at <https://www.sare.org/>.



Sustainable Agriculture  
Research and Education

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## **Bulls and Heifers Lower in Latest USDA Report**

Prices paid on dressed young bull carcasses were lower in June according to the latest USDA monthly wholesale price report released last Friday.

Dressed young bulls brought an average of \$3.73/lb. in June, which was \$.15 lower than the previous month, and \$.16 lower than the previous June.

Dressed heifer carcasses were about the same as the previous month, which averaged \$3.61/lb. in June, and was \$.03 lower than in May, yet \$.03 higher than June 2021.

Through July 15th, 35,938 bison have been processed under USDA inspection



this year.

The monthly USDA price report is available [here](#).

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## NBA Interviews Program Manager Candidates

This week NBA Executive Director, Jim Matheson conducted 11 interviews with the final candidates for the position of NBA Program Manager. These finalists made the cut from over 50 applications that were submitted to the NBA for the position.

Matheson, along with President Chad Kremer and Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Leier, will conduct 2nd interviews with the final candidates the first week of August with the position starting on August 15th.

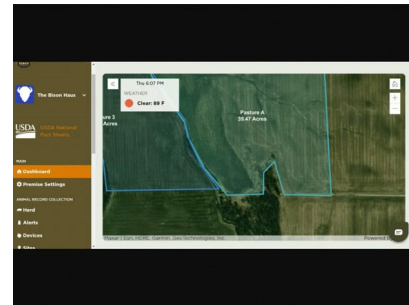
Job candidates came from across the country from both within and outside the bison industry and represented a very talented pool of applicants.

The NBA thanks the many NBA members that applied for the position. Said Matheson, "It was really nice to see so many NBA members apply, as well as those working within our industry! We had a slew of qualified candidates and narrowing the options down has been pretty challenging, but I'm confident that we'll have the right person for the job here in just a few short weeks who will round out our awesome NBA team."

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## NBA Bison Producer App Webinar #2 Now Available

The NBA this week hosted its second Bison Producer App How-To Webinar for NBA members to learn how to use this powerful herd management tool, which is free to NBA members. Watch the webinars at <https://bisoncentral.com/publication/conference-presentations/>.



The app, which was developed five years ago through the support of the USDA's Risk Management Agency, is the only bison-specific field app in today's marketplace.

The app allows users to track their herd's vital data in the field, no internet or cell access is required, which includes weight, calving rates, vaccination schedules, herd moves, and much more.

Enhance your herd management with HerdDogg DoggTags. Patented ear tag technology that collects animal identification, location, movement, and welfare at long range. The data is delivered directly to your phone—allowing you to check on your herd from anywhere at anytime. Learn more at [herddogg.com/the-shop/](http://herddogg.com/the-shop/).

Learn more about the Bison App and download on Apple and Android devices at <https://bisoncentral.com/conservation-item/nba-producers-app/>.

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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***



CWF is proud to work with our partners to support continued recovery for the North American bison.



CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca

REFLECTIONS OF NATURE PHOTO CONTEST/PIOTR PISANSKI

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## **'Teeming with life': Bison ranch partners with nonprofit and local, federal programs to conserve land** *From The Post Register*

"I'm a kid from suburban Chicago — how could I be a bison rancher?"

Matt Skoglund wondered that as he debated buying land to start a bison ranch in southwest Montana. In 2018, Skoglund and his wife, Sarah, found two parcels for sale in Sedan that were suitable for growing bison. They decided to buy 791 acres, which would soon become the North Bridger Bison Ranch.

Four years later, the Skoglund ranch has 125 bison and a wealth of customers who have meat delivered locally or shipped straight from the ranch. The land is also now in a conservation easement with the Gallatin Valley Land Trust. Closing the deal was monumental for both the Skoglund family and GVLT.

Skoglund wanted to conserve the land ever since they bought it in 2018. The process from start to finish took about three and a half years. Now, it's special to look at the ranch and know the land will be protected forever, Skoglund said.

The property sits next to Bridger Canyon Drive on the northeast side of the Bridger Mountain Range and is adjacent to another GVLT conservation easement. Wild purple lupines dot the rolling hills, which look out to panoramic views of the Bridgers and the Crazyes. The ranch was conserved to keep working land in agriculture, protect wildlife, water resources, soil quality and provide the public scenic views of open space.

The Gallatin County Open Lands program and NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative helped fund the Skoglund conservation easement. Announced at the end of June, North Bridger Bison is GVLT's 121st easement, bringing their total conserved acres to 51,939.

Working on the conservation easement was a collaborative process with the land trust, Skoglund said, adding, "I'm thrilled with how everything turned out."

Read [more](#).

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## **More wood bison headed for Innoko River region**

### ***From Alaska Public Media***

A group of young wood bison are being transported to the Lower Innoko River region in Western Alaska. It's the latest step in a decades-long effort by state and federal agencies and Alaska Native groups to re-establish the animals in Alaska.

The 28 yearling wood bison are part of a group from Alberta's Elk Island National Park that were trucked to Fairbanks in April. Alaska Department of Fish and Game wood bison biologist Tom Seaton said the animals spent the last three months at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Large Animal Research Station.

"When we first got them, they were just kind of bony calves that had just been weaned, and we wanted to get their body condition up. So we got them on some really good hay from Delta Junction and supplementing them with alfalfa pellets to try to improve their protein so they can gain some muscle mass," he said. "This summer was a great growing summer, and you can really see it in the bison. Some gained as much as 200 pounds since April, and it's pretty amazing."

The even mix of female and male wood bison are destined to join a herd seeded by animals transplanted from Canada to the Innoko River region in Western Alaska in 2015. Seaton said the young bison were separated into four groups of seven in preparation for this week's trip.

Read [more](#).

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## **Meet the UK's New Woodland Rangers: a Herd of Wild Bison**

### ***From Wired***

ALTHOUGH THE EUROPEAN bison belongs to the same family as the domestic cow, you'd never mistake one for the other. Weighing in at up to a tonne, the bison is one beefy bovine. It has its own mannerisms, too: It scratches against tree trunks, rolls on the ground to take dust baths, and wraps its tongue around almost any vegetation—grass, leaves, branches—to feed.

These traits make the bison a dominating force on its surroundings. It can reshape ecosystems, refurbishing existing habitats and laying foundations for new ones. One rewilding project in Kent hopes to harness the bison's natural engineering abilities in order to better manage the local woodland and increase its biodiversity, by bringing the herbivorous megafauna to the UK for the first time in thousands of years (and possibly ever).

On July 18, 2022, Kent Wildlife Trust and Wildwood Trust [introduced a small herd of bison](#) into West Blean and Thornden Woods, a nature reserve located a short distance from the city of Canterbury. The plan is to leave the bison to chow down on the plants, bulldoze trees, and generally rearrange the ancient woodland as they see fit. The idea is that the bison will achieve naturally what conservationists have struggled with: manipulating the vegetative growth to provide habitats for a greater range of flora and fauna.

"Bison ecology is quite different," says [Kent Wildlife Trust's Stan Smith](#), who is leading the project, called Wilder Blean. "Bison are the largest living land mammal in Europe; they can do things more domesticated cattle can't."

Read [more](#).

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## **Celebrate National Bison Month by learning the Cherokee word for bison**

***From County 17***

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — In celebration of National Bison Month, the Cherokee Nation shared a YouTube short on Wednesday, July 20, teaching the Cherokee word for bison.

The short features Cherokee National Treasure Dan Mink, who walks viewers through the correct pronunciation of ᏉᏉᏉ, spelled in English as yanasi and spoken as “ya-nv-si.”

Bison have been in the news quite a bit this year since the end of May [when an Ohio woman was gored](#) and thrown 10 feet in the air by the animal in Yellowstone National Park. That was followed by the [goring of a Colorado man](#) and a few days later by the [goring of a 71-year-old woman in the park](#).

The American bison was named the United States’s National Mammal on May 9, 2016, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

“This majestic animal joins the ranks of the Bald Eagle as the official symbol of our country — and much like the eagle, it’s one of the greatest conservation success stories of all time,” the department’s website states.

Here’s 15 facts about bison as shared by the U.S. Department of the Interior:

- Bison are the largest mammal in North America.
- Since the late 19th century, Interior has been the primary national conservation steward of the bison.
- While bison and buffalo are used interchangeably, in North America the scientific name is bison. Actually, it’s Bison bison bison.

Read [more](#).

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## **Bison mural underway in downtown Billings**

***From KTVQ***

BILLINGS - The next time you drive through downtown Billings, you might notice it's a little more scenic thanks to a local artist and art teacher who spent her summer off following her dreams.

"This is one of the greatest things that's happened to me for sure. It means the world to me," said Rilie Zumbrennen, artist and teacher at Elysian Elementary School.

Three years ago, if you would have met Zumbrennen, you would have found her in a cubicle right across the street from where she is now in the Wells Fargo building in downtown Billings, working in the payroll industry while going to MSU-Billings to become a teacher.

It was a lot of work. It was a lot of coming and going and late nights studying until 2 a.m.

"No matter how big the task seems or how difficult it is, do it anyway and you

might be surprised at what you can do," she said.

It was a message heard loud and clear with every single brush stroke on the gigantic canvas as her students watched.

Downtown Billings has 15 murals with three more on the way, according to the Downtown Billings Association. They say the idea is to showcase artists, create gathering spaces and deter undesired activities by cleaning up otherwise dark and unclean alleys and spaces.

Read [more](#).

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## **Pregnant bison fatally shot on Union City farm; owners seek answers**

*From ABC 27*

Two Union City farmers are reeling after finding one of their bison, who was pregnant, shot and killed last week.

What started out as a normal morning last Friday (July 15) turned into a nightmare when one of the owners of the Union City farm found his pregnant bison dead in the pasture.

The owners of the 25-acre Beautiful Beastly Creatures Farm are working with Pennsylvania State Police to find the person responsible.

One of the owners, Lee Miller, was feeding the other 12 bison breakfast when he noticed one was missing.

He then found the pregnant bison in the lower pasture with a bullet hole in its rear end that had gone through its shoulder.

State Police are investigating and say a rifle was used to shoot the bison, causing fatal injuries.

Now, the owners fear for their other animals and fellow farmers.

"It's scary because you worry about your other animals too and you worry about the neighborhood. We got a lot of farmers around here and it's tough enough being a farmer without having to worry about somebody killing your livestock," said Lee and Cindy Miller, owners, Beautiful Beastly Creatures Farm.

The Millers tell us a security company is coming on Wednesday to install cameras throughout the entire property in hopes this doesn't happen again. A cash reward is being offered to anyone with information leading to the identity of the person/s involved.

Read [more](#).

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## **Southern Plains Drought Status Update**

*From NIDIS*

Extreme Heat and No Rain Has Sparked Flash Drought in the Southern Plains.

### **Key Points**

- An extreme and record-setting heat wave coupled with very low precipitation has caused a rapid intensification of drought over the Southern Plains.



- June and July precipitation has been in the lowest 20% of historical records.
- There are reports of cattle producers selling livestock to adapt to poor grazing conditions and high feed prices.

### **Current Drought Conditions and Outlook:**

#### Persistent Dry Conditions and Heat Wave

- An intense heat wave has settled over Texas and Oklahoma.
- Maximum temperatures:
  - Parts of southern Oklahoma and northern Texas have already had over 40 days above 100 °F this year.
  - The highest temperature so far this year in Texas occurred on June 8, 2022, at Rio Grande Village in Brewster County. The temperature hit 117 °F.
  - On July 19, 2022, all Oklahoma Mesonet sites reached 103 °F or higher on the same day—a first for the network of 120 sites, which has records back to the mid-1990s.
- From June 1 to July 18, 2022, a combined 27 monthly record-high maximum temperatures have been either tied or broken in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and New Mexico.
- Minimum temperatures:
  - From June 1 to July 18, 2022, a combined 80 monthly record-high minimum temperatures have been either tied or broken in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and New Mexico.
  - On July 18, the daily minimum temperature of 86 °F tied the all-time record-high minimum temperature at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.
- Precipitation has been less than 25% of normal for this time of year.
  - A large area in eastern Oklahoma and a few pockets of northern Texas have had less than 0.1 inches of precipitation over the last 30 days.
- Evaporative demand has been persistently high for the last 4 weeks, including very high Evaporative Demand Drought Index values over the past week. What little water may have entered the landscape has quickly evaporated.

Read [more](#).

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## **Focus turns to farm bill, CCC for climate funding as Biden plan withers**

*From Agri-Pulse*

The demise of President Joe Biden’s climate funding plan on Capitol Hill makes it a lot harder, but not impossible, for the government to help farmers ramp up climate-related practices.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack still has a powerful tool in the Commodity Credit Corp. spending authority, and Congress will be pressured to use the next farm bill to steer funding into climate priorities.

The Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance, a coalition of major industry and conservation groups, is currently developing recommendations for shifting funds within the next farm bill to pay for climate-related priorities.

Meanwhile, congressional appropriators are moving to increase funding for USDA conservation technical assistance, which helps farmers make use of

conservation programs and implement new practices.

But neither the farm bill nor the annual appropriations bills for USDA can come close to replacing the funding that would have been provided through Biden's Build Back Better plan. It would have authorized payments of \$25 an acre to farmers who plant cover crops, increased funding for farm bill conservation programs by more than \$20 billion and provided USDA with an additional \$2.35 billion in conservation technical assistance over 10 years.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., effectively killed that funding when he communicated to Senate Democratic leaders that because of his concerns about inflation he wouldn't support a budget reconciliation bill that included more than some narrow provisions related to health care. Without Manchin's vote, the legislation couldn't pass the 50-50 Senate.

The BBB funding for agriculture was the "best chance in a generation to begin to bring conservation funding more in line with farmer demand," said Ferd Hoefner, a farm policy analyst. "Obviously, the farm bill project next year becomes significantly harder now, requiring a more transformational approach to federal agricultural spending if there is hope for robust climate-smart agriculture advances."

Read [more](#).

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## **Illinois Cover Crop Initiative**

(Springfield, Il) – In partnership with ADM and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Farmers Business Network, American Farmland Trust begins taking applications Wednesday, July 13th for the Illinois Cover Crop Initiative (ICCI) program in Illinois.

ICCI incentives will be available to an estimated 400 farmers enrolling up to a total of 75,000 acres, including acres that have previously been planted to cover crops. Applicants have the option of 1-4-year contracts and will be required to follow NRCS standards and specifications for managing cover crops. AFT will work closely with farmers to complete contract paperwork, lessening the time burden. Incentives include \$10 per acre annually supported by technical assistance provided in collaboration with farmers' trusted retail partners and conservation organizations. Acres cannot be enrolled in another privately funded ecosystem market program but may be stacked with federal and state cost-share programs.

As a part of the program, AFT will quantify economic and environmental benefits to be shared with farmers, ADM, NRCS, NFWF and FBN to further cover crop adoption into the future. In addition, technical assistance will be available to anyone interested in cover crops, regardless of program participation.

Information on the program and the application portal can be found [here](#). For additional questions, please email AFT at [icci@farmland.org](mailto:icci@farmland.org).

Read [more](#).

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## **Save the Date!**

- 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
- 11/09/2022 - Antelope Island State Park Bison Auction - Online
- 11/19/2022 - Coyote Trail Buffalo Ranch Simulcast Production Auction - SD
- 11/25/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Bison Fundamentals - MN
- 11/26/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Legends of the Fall Sale - MN
- 11/27/2022 - Rocking P Ranch Simulcast Production Auction - SD
- 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.

**Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events**

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