



Weekly Update



bisoncentral.com

303-292-2833

The National Bison Association (NBA) Weekly Update is an exclusive service for NBA members.

Reprint is encouraged and permission is granted when the following credit appears:

©National Bison Association; Westminster, CO

NBA Weekly Update for July 23, 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 in July? Winter Conference Committee Begins Planning

The dust may be still settling from the NBA summer conference in June, but the association's winter conference committee isn't letting that dust gather on plans for the 27th annual Winter Conference, set for January 20 and 21 at the Denver Renaissance Hotel in Denver, CO.

After a brief planning meeting held during summer conference, the Winter Conference Planning Committee met again this week to brainstorm ideas, and to start establishing an initial agenda for the conference.

Foraging Ahead is the theme selected for the 2022 conference, and committee members are already developing a slate of topics that will focus on providing new producers and veteran ranchers alike with tools to increase resiliency and profitability.

"We're excited to be planning on getting back together in person, and enjoying the energy, fellowship and education that we share with our fellow NBA members," said Beverly Brown, chair of the winter conference planning committee.

Details on the conference will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.

Wholesale Prices Holding Steady in June

Prices for dressed young bull carcasses jumped in June but dressed heifer carcasses slipped slightly in June, according to the latest USDA Wholesale Bison Price Report issued this week.

According to the report, dressed young bulls averaged \$389.84/cwt in June, which was \$10.38/cwt. Higher than the May average prices, but still \$8.05/cwt. Lower than the prices received last June. Dressed heifer carcasses averaged \$358.62/cwt. In June, which was \$0.93/cwt. lower than in May and \$36.88/cwt. lower than in June 2020. Prices for old bulls were \$17.19/cwt. higher than in May \$3.75/cwt lower than the previous month.

A total of 32,602 bison have been processed year-to-date in 2021, which is four percent

higher than in 2020, and the highest YTD level on record.

NBA Welcomes Whitley as Foreign Ag Service Administrator

National Bison Association Executive Director Dave Carter this week welcomed the appointment of USDA veteran Daniel Whitley as the administrator of the agency's Foreign Agriculture Service, elevating him from filling the role in an acting capacity.

Whitley has been with FAS for more than 20 years. Prior to his time as acting administrator, he was an associate administrator charged with leading the agency's trade policy and market analysis teams, USDA noted in a release.

Prior to his time at FAS, Whitley also worked at USDA's Economic Research Service on market access issues as well as the World Trade Organization.

Dave Carter, NBA executive director, noted, "We have had strong communication with Mr. Whitley over the past several years, and he is a strong advocate for the bison sector. His appointment will continue the strong support that FAS has demonstrated toward our business."

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.



REACH THE WHOLE HERD!

WITH A WEEKLY UPDATE BANNER AD
JUST \$65/WEEK FOR THIS SPOT
CONTACT [KAREN@BISONCENTRAL.COM](mailto:karen@bisoncentral.com) TO RESERVE



Bison research begins in South Dakota

(From the Capital Journal)

A new era in bison research formally began this summer as the recently established Center of Excellence for Bison Studies announced funding for eight projects studying topics ranging from ecosystem impact to meat quality.

The Center of Excellence was formally established in the fall of 2020 through a cooperative effort among South Dakota State University, the National Bison Association, and the National Buffalo Foundation.

The Center of Excellence awarded more than \$300,000 in funding to support the first year of the projects, some of which extend for up to three years. Collectively, these studies will contribute to advancing knowledge about bison and providing new resources for bison producers and managers, as well as consumers and bison enthusiasts.

The Center of Excellence along with the National Bison Association's Research & Science Committee completed a rigorous review of proposals submitted by researchers and

educators from across the U.S. and Canada. The review process culminated in the selection of eight proposals for funding, which is generously provided by the National Buffalo Foundation.

Selected projects and respective organizations include:

A baseline inventory assessment of biological and cultural impacts of buffalo restoration in Indian country — InterTribal Buffalo Council.

An integrated approach to assess parasite burden and anthelmintic treatment success in North American bison — Kansas State University.

Read [more](#).

KS Quivira Workshop to teach About Bison

(From The Hutchinson News)

Two bison specialists will speak at the Rice County Historical Society's Coronado Quivira Museum during the beginning of August.

Dick Gehring will talk about "The Bison Then and Now," at 2 p.m. on Aug. 1. Gehring is a bison rancher who was instrumental in getting the Kauffman Museum to work with the National Buffalo Foundation to refurbish and update a retired NEH on the Road exhibit, "The Bison: American Icon." The Kauffman Museum is responsible for touring the current bison exhibit "Bison – Masters of the Plains," across North America.

At 10 a.m. Aug. 7, Donald Blakeslee, Ph.D., an archeologist from Wichita State University will present a program about "The Quivira and the Hidden History of the Bison." Blakeslee will explore the significance of the bison during the time of the Plains Indian hunters and the bison's role in their lives.

The Coronado Quivira Museum is located at 105 West Lyon in Lyons. Hours of operation are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Call (620) 257-3941 for more information.

[Source](#).

SUV Collides with Yellowstone Bison; Night Driving at Issue

(From USA Today)

A recent collision involving a bison and a large SUV in Yellowstone National Park should serve as a reminder to park visitors to drive extra carefully at night.

The top image, captured two weeks ago by Dianna Borgmier, shows extensive damage to a Nissan Armada hours after it struck a bison near Yellowstone Lake at about 10:30 p.m. The bison, Borgmier explained, did not survive.

"This is why you don't need to drive after dark," she wrote on the [Yellowstone Visitor](#) Facebook page. "Bison hit, killed, I know of four bison in the last few days. Way too many! The road is theirs."

Borgmier told For the Win Outdoors that the vehicle was towed to a repair shop run by her husband at the Fishing Bridge service area. "He has a lot of pictures from the last four years of bison hits in the park," Borgmier said.

Read [more](#).

Officials Back Bison Grazing Plan for Montana Reserve

(From the Associated Press)

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Federal officials have given preliminary approval to a conservation group's contentious proposal to expand bison grazing on public lands in north-central Montana.

The Bureau of Land Management said there would be no significant environmental impacts from the proposal covering about 108 square miles (280 square kilometers) south of Malta.

That sets the stage for possible final approval of the American Prairie Reserve's plan following a two-month comment period that began July 1.

The Bozeman-based group in 2019 had scaled back its original request to graze bison across more than 450 square miles (1,165 square kilometers) following opposition from ranchers who worry about being pushed out of the area.

The group's long-term goal remains unchanged: A 5,000-square-mile (12,950-sq. kilometer) expanse of public and private lands with at least 10,000 bison.

Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte criticized federal officials for scheduling a single virtual meeting, on July 21, before a final decision could be made.

The meeting coincides with harvest season and as ranchers are dealing with severe drought, Gianforte said. He called for hold in-person meetings in each of the affected counties — Phillips, Choteau, Fergus, Petroleum and Valley.

Massive herds of bison once migrated through the area before the animals were hunted to near-extinction in the 19th century.

Read [more](#).

Naturally Speaking: The Demise of The Bison in Indiana

(From the Pharos, IN Tribune)

The wildlife of Indiana has changed as has its natural features. It's hard now to visualize herds of bison once roaming our Hoosier prairies or elk in the edge of the forests that once covered the state. Add in black bear, panthers, wolves and a number of other species and you get a picture of how much our wildlife has changed.

The prairies of western Indiana were where the bison, better known to the first settlers as buffalo, occurred in sizable numbers. A few also were found in the forested section of our state.

Added to the native bison were the ones from the prairie lands of Illinois that traveled across Hoosierland to reach the large salt licks in Kentucky. These bison in their migration to the salt licks eroded the path of their journey into a road-like depression that came to be known as the Buffalo Trace.

This bison-worn highway extended from south of Vincennes where the animals swam across the Wabash River to the Ohio River at present day New Albany, Clarksville and Jeffersonville. Here they once again had to swim a large river. The trail then continued on across Kentucky to the Big Bone Lick and other salt and mineral seeps in the Blue Grass State.

The main trace followed along the path of present Highway 150, but other paths were in Dubois County east of Haysville where you can still see traces of the route in a few locations. Other areas in southern Indiana have locations where the bison once lived and traveled. The Buffalo Flat north of Jasper is one area and another is in Pike County north of Otwell.

A visitor to the Ouiatenon area near modern day Lafayette stated, "Nothing is visible to the eye but prairies full of buffaloes."

While Indiana did not have the vast herds of bison that once roamed the western plains, it did have a rather large native and transit population.

An early traveler had the following to say about the bison, “The amazing herd of buffaloes which resort thither by their size and shape fill the traveler with amazement and terror, especially when he beholds the prodigious roads they have made for all quarters.”

Going on he wrote, “the vast space of land around the salt springs desolated as by a ravaging enemy, and the hills reduced to plains by the pawing of their feet. I have heard a hunter assert he saw about a thousand buffaloes at the Blue Licks in Kentucky at one time.”

This sounds more like the bison in the plains of western United States than it does here in Indiana. It would have been something to have seen this vast assemblage not only out west, but also here on our Hoosier prairies.

While southwest Indiana had some prairie, north of Terre Haute there were some very large tracts of tall grass prairie. It was this region in northwestern Indiana where the largest herds of bison were found.

Read [more](#).

Ova, Lunde Provide Updates on *Bison World* Project

(From NewsDakota.com)

JAMESTOWN, N.D. (NewsDakota.com) – The Stutsman County Commission received an update on Bison World from some local entities Tuesday afternoon.

Jamestown/Stutsman Development Corporation Executive Director Connie Ova stated that at this time, they’re waiting for the final reports from Eide Bailly, LLP.

Local businessman Brian Lunde informed the commission that Apogee Attractions, LLC is proposing to complete the schematic design and environmental permitting matrix of the amusement park.

From there, Lunde says they’ll take independent review and data to a vetting committee for use of the Legacy Funds. He says they’re entering the final two months of this process.

“I don’t want to speak too soon, but they [Eide Bailly] have one project that exceeds Apogee’s,” Lunde added. “It’s usually the other way around.”

The project would consist of developing approximately 120-acres of State of North Dakota land that is currently being used as a pasture for the National Buffalo Museum’s bison herd. Plans currently include but are not limited to the development of a hotel, restaurant, discovery center, gondola/skyway, safari tour, and more.

The commission moved to unanimously send their support for the project. Commissioner Ramone Gumke was not present.

Read [more](#).

USDA Undersecretary Nominee Moffitt Stresses Animal Disease Surveillance, Sanitary Trade Data

(From Ag Central News)

(NAFB) - Nominee for USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jennifer Moffitt stressed during her confirmation hearing that animal disease surveillance and phytosanitary data work are both keys for protecting U.S. farm exports.

Producers and exporters know well the export toll of BSE, foot-and-mouth, swine flu, and

other animal diseases that have in the past cost billions of dollars in losses.

And so does California Undersecretary for Food and Agriculture Jennifer Moffit, who would supervise USDA's APHIS and AMS if the Senate Confirms her as Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

Full [text](#).

Know Your Summer Mineral Nutrition

(From Beef Magazine)

Mineral nutrition is complex, with different macro minerals (required as percentage of diet) and micro minerals (required in ppm of diet) that are of concern. Our forages also do not stay the same in mineral composition throughout the year and differ by region of the state. In addition, cattle in different stages of production have different minerals that we need to keep in mind.

Minerals that we most often have issues with include sodium (provided by salt), calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, cobalt, copper, and zinc. Minerals are involved in all aspects of the animal's life. Calcium, phosphorus, and copper are important for bone strength and development. Calcium and magnesium are essential in nerve and muscle function. Phosphorus has roles in energy metabolism, cell membrane structure, and rumen microbe growth and function. Cobalt, copper, and zinc have roles in immune function. Deficiencies of phosphorus, copper, and zinc result in reduced fertility.

- * Salt is always deficient in forage-based diets.
- * Calcium should be at a 1:1 to 3:1 ratio with phosphorus, but 7:1 can be tolerated.
- * Phosphorus is one of the more expensive ingredients in mineral mixtures. It is important not to short on this mineral when it is needed even when the mineral costs more!
- * One of the first visible symptoms of a copper deficiency is a dulling of the hair coat, but deficiencies have probably already affected immune function and growth before this sign shows up.
- * Research shows zinc supplementation improves hoof and eye health.

Full [text](#).

SF GF&P Taking Public Comment on Elk Management Plan

(From Black Hills Pioneer)

WATERTOWN - Officials with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks have released their draft elk management plan in hopes of receiving public comment before the next commission meeting in September. The document will guide the agency's decisions about elk harvests and management for the next five years.

Andy Lindbloom, senior big game biologist told members of the commission that the plan is the result of several meetings conducted with an elk stakeholder group comprised of constituents across the state who have a direct interest in elk management. It calls for elk winter population objectives of 6,000 to 8,000, or 2.1 to 2.8 per square mile in the Black Hills. In Custer State Park, that density is slightly higher, but cut back from previous years, managing for 500 to 600, or 4.5 to 5.5 elk per square mile.

Currently, Lindbloom reported the last population estimate revealed approximately 500 elk in Custer State Park. The population objective in the park, he said, was decreased from between 700-900, due to concerns the agency has with chronic wasting disease numbers in the park. From 2013 to 2020, Lindbloom said 78 harvest samples from Custer State Park revealed that 28% of the elk had the always-fatal disease. By comparison, about 1,227 harvest samples taken from the much larger area of the Black Hills yielded about 1.3% with chronic wasting disease.

"Because of concerns we have with chronic wasting disease that is spread from animal to

animal contact, we didn't feel it was appropriate to manage for higher density," Lindbloom said.

Officials will take public comments on the elk management plan until September and will propose any changes to the plan at the next GF&P meeting, scheduled for Sept. 1-2 in Rapid City.

Full [text](#).

June Restaurant Sales Are Above Pre-Pandemic Figures

(From Industry-Update.com)

June restaurant sales were 6.6% higher than before the February 2020 pandemic. [National Restaurant Association](#) I said in a recent report.

NRA attributed increased sales to “cash flash consumers” [burning] Apart from their disgusting demand for socialization and experience. “

According to US Census Bureau data used by the NRA, total restaurant sales in June were \$ 70.6 billion, adjusted for the season.

Total restaurant sales increased 2.2% from May. This is what the NRA has called the fifth “steady” increase in food and beverage sales over the last six months.

June sales boom [Number of restaurant employment](#) And [Wholesale food prices](#) In the last few months.

Read [more](#).

NIFA Invests \$7M To Support Innovations, Workforce Development

(From Morning Ag Clips)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced today an investment of over \$7 million in research grants to U.S. Non-Land-grant Colleges of Agriculture (NLGCA).

These grants aim to increase research, education, and outreach capacity at Non-Land-grant Institutions to support development of the innovations and workforce needed to sustain the agriculture industry in the future.

“The National Institute of Food and Agriculture awards research, education and extension grants to solve the grand challenges before us,” said NIFA director Dr. Carrie Castille. “These efforts will help improve rural economies, increase food production and agricultural profitability and sustainability, address climate change and related issues, ensure food and nutrition security and train the next generation of the agricultural workforce.”

Examples of the [24 funded projects to U.S. Non-Land-grant Colleges of Agriculture](#) (link is external) include:

Humboldt State University, Arcata, California, will prepare a diverse pool of natural resource scientists to enter a workforce focused on climate-ready and sustainable agricultural practices, particularly in rangelands (\$299,999).

Texas A&M University, Commerce, Texas, collaborating with Tarleton State University, will learn how pollinator-friendly perennials in ornamental landscapes can provide a solution to decades of major declines in pollinators, through their Plant Drought Response and Insect Pollinator Studies project (\$299,867).

Read [more](#).

Funding Opportunities:

Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) Pilot

USDA Farm Service Agency's [Soil Health and Income Protection Program](#) (SHIPP) Pilot allows contracts with agricultural producers for perennial conservation covers on less-productive land in the prairie pothole states of Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, or South Dakota.

Contract terms can be three, four, or five years. Annual rental payments will be made at 50% of the county average rental rate for the applicable county; the rate for beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and ranchers will be 75%. No more than 15% of the eligible land per farm can be enrolled in SHIPP.

The application deadline has been extended until July 30, 2021.

Read [more](#).

Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant Program

USDA announced \$55.2 million in competitive grant funding available through the new [Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant](#) (MPIRG) program. USDA encourages grant applications that focus on improving meat and poultry slaughter and processing capacity and efficiency; developing new and expanding existing markets; increasing capacity and better meeting consumer and producer demand; maintaining strong inspection and food safety standards; obtaining a larger commercial presence; and increasing access to slaughter or processing facilities for smaller farms and ranches, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers, and veteran producers.

Eligible meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities include commercial businesses, cooperatives, and tribal enterprises. MPIRG's Planning for a Federal Grant of Inspection project is for processing facilities currently in operation and working toward Federal inspection.

Applicants can be located anywhere in the states and territories. MPIRG's Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) Compliance project is only for processing facilities located in states with a Food Safety and Inspection Service CIS program. Applications must be submitted by August 2, 2021.

Read [more](#).

National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Champions Program

National Wildlife Federation's [Conservation Champions program](#) offers grants up to \$15,000 for farmers and outreach partners to learn and develop creative outreach strategies that target new farmer audiences and increase the rate of soil health practice adoption in the Midwest.

Conservation Champions are teams of innovative farmers and local outreach partners that want to see sustainable agriculture practices become mainstream.

A Conservation Champion team should consist of at least one farmer champion and one outreach champion and come from teams from Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, or Wisconsin. Each team can request up to \$15,000 to cover the costs of their outreach plan.

The deadline to apply is August 6, 2021.

Read [more](#).



REACH THE WHOLE HERD!

WITH A WEEKLY UPDATE BANNER AD
JUST \$50/WEEK FOR THIS SPOT
CONTACT [KAREN@BISONCENTRAL.COM](mailto:karen@bisoncentral.com) TO RESERVE



Save the Date!

-
- Fall 2021 - Date TBD - RMBA Fall Ranch Tour of Prairie Ridge Buffalo, CO
- 09/23/2021 – Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival, SD
- 09/25/2021 – BisonFest Music Festival, TX
- 10/16/2021 - Wisconsin Bison Producers Association Fall Meeting - WI
- 11/6/2021 - Custer State Park Annual Auction, SD
- 11/8/2021 - Antelope Island State Park Production Auction, UT
- 11/13/2021 - Oklahoma Bison Association Fall Auction - OK
- 11/15/2021 - TNC Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Fall Bison Auction - OK
- 11/26/2021 - Minn. Bison Association's Bison Fundamentals Workshop, MN
- 11/27/2021 - Minn. Bison Association's Legends of the Fall Bison Auction, MN
- 12/4/2021 – Kansas Bison Association Sale, KS
- 12/4/2021 - Western Bison Association Wild West Buffalo Stampede Auction, UT
- 12/7/2021 - Northern Range Buffalo Simulcast Auction, SD
- 1/1/2022 - Prairie Legends Bison Auction, TBD
- 1/8/2022 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Bison Auction, SD
- 1/19/2022 – 1/22/2022 – National Bison Association Winter Conference, CO
- 1/22/2022 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - National Western Stock Show - CO
- 2/12/2022 - Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Sale, SD
- 2/19/2022 – Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Sale, SD
- 3/04/2022 - RMBA's Spring Conference - Location TBD

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](#)

National Bison Association | info@bisoncentral.com | 303-292-2833 | bisoncentral.com
[@nationalbison](#)

