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Weekly Update



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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 July 7, 2023

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.



Save the date!
Bi-Annual NBA
Membership Meeting
August 1, 2023
3pm MT - Virtual

More details coming soon!

Minnesota Regenerative Ranching Field Day this weekend!

Over 30 NBA members are signed up for the Minnesota Regenerative Ranching Field day which will take place near Sleepy Eye, MN this Sunday. Patrick Toomey, specialist with USDA-NRCS and Craig Fischer (and family) will be leading the learning. The day will kick off with a pasture walk, with in-field exploration of best practices for grazing bison.

After a delicious bison lunch, Craig Fischer's drip irrigation system will be toured, and plenty of time to check out the bison and working systems. Thanks to the North Central Region Sustainable Ag Research and Education program at the University of Minnesota for their support for the field day series.

There is still one more Regenerative Ranching Field Day coming up! September 30th plan to join for the field day at JJ Bison in Baldwin, WI. See full agendas and register online at <https://bisoncentral.com/nba-conferences/>.



Trading Board Ads Picking Up

FOR SALE! Trading Board ads are starting to really pick up. There are some great bison equipment and animal options listed, so don't miss out!

If you are thinking about selling a few things, remember that an NBA trading board ad is only \$100 for members, runs for 90 days, and includes two photos. The ads are circulated through an email to membership, posting on the NBA Members Only Facebook Page, and www.bisoncentral.com website which is open to the public.

[Learn more](#)

Bison World Advertising Opportunities for Fall Edition

Production will soon be underway on the Fall 2023 issue of the Bison World magazine. **This is one of our largest and most-read issues of the year!**

Various advertising options are available within the magazine pages, from 1/8 page to full page. Lifetime and Active NBA members will enjoy discounted rates as part of their membership perks, and contract holders will receive a 5% discount for pre-paid advertising. Karen can work with you to tailor an advertising campaign that fits your budget and targets your message!

The final deadline for advertising materials will be August 1. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time but are subject to the same deadline for the Winter issue.

For more information about editorial submissions or advertising your ranch, business, or events, contact Karen@bisoncentral.com or call (605) 381-3738.



NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION

Upcoming Events

- July 9 2023**
Bison Ranch Field Day
@ Sleepy Bison Acres near Sleepy Eye, MN
- July 15-16 2023**
Western NBA Conference
@ Shoemaker Bison (ID) & Brown's Buffalo (OR)
- September 30 2023**
Bison Ranch Field Day
@ Double J Bison near Baldwin, WI
- October 6-7 2023**
Eastern NBA Conference
@ Riffle Farms near Terra Alta, WV

NBA regional events are bringing our quality educational outreach to YOU! [Check out](#) the specific event agendas and discover the unique learning at each event.

Registration is priced to allow every NBA member to participate and includes meals (\$50 for 1 day events, \$150 for 2 day events), top notch networking and education, and a chance to witness bison management and innovation first-hand at working bison operations.

[Register here.](#)

Help Recruit Sponsors for the Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act

The NBA's Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act has been introduced in both the Senate and House of the U.S. Congress. We now need your help to recruit co-sponsors for this legislation, which would prevent cheap, low-quality, imported water buffalo products from being deceptively labeled as simply "buffalo", which misleads consumers and negatively impacts the U.S. bison industry. The bipartisan bill provides the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with the authority to ensure that products with water buffalo are labeled as "water buffalo" so consumers aren't misled to believe the product contains bison. Bison products would continue to be labeled as "bison" or "buffalo". See the proposed legislation and current Congressional sponsors [here](#).

The legislation in the Senate, S. 258, is being sponsored by U.S. Sens. John Hoeven (R-ND) and Michael Bennet (D-CO). Current Co-sponsors include:

- Sen. Bennet, Michael [D-CO]

- Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]
- Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]
- Sen. Braun, Mike [R-IN]
- Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]
- Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]
- Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]
- Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]
- Sen. Marshall, Roger [R-KS]

A companion bill was introduced in the House, H.R. 3866. The lead sponsors in the House are U.S. Reps. Carol Miller (R-WV) and Yadira Caraveo (D-CO).

Now we need NBA members to reach out to their US Senators and Representatives to gain more co-sponsors to keep the bill moving forward. Click [here](#) to find contact information for your Senators and Representatives and then copy and paste the letters below, customize with your personal bison information, and send along to your congressmen and women.

Sample Communication for Senators:

Dear Senator _____,

I am writing to request that you co-sponsor S. 258, the Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act, sponsored by Sens. John Hoeven and Michael Bennet.

I am a bison producer from (your area...briefly describe your operation). Bison producers worked hard over the past two decades to connect with customers across the country over the quality of bison meat, and the ecological attributes of American bison. Now, the integrity of our marketplace is being undermined by deceptively labeled water buffalo products coming into the U.S. marketplace.

S. 258 would require that any water buffalo food products in the U.S. marketplace be properly labeled as "water buffalo" and not just "buffalo" as is currently the case. This simple change will stop these deceptive practices and will provide consumers with the assurance that they are getting what they are paying for.

If you are willing to sign on as a co-sponsor, please reach out to Aaron Weber in Sen. Hoeven's office at aaron_weber@hoeven.senate.gov, or James Whaley in Sen. Bennet's office at james_whaley@bennet.senate.gov.

If you need additional information on this issue, please reach out to Jim Matheson, executive director of the National Bison Association, at Jim@bisoncentral.com.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
(Your Name)

Sample Communication for Representatives:

Dear Representative _____,

I am writing to request that you co-sponsor the Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act, H.R. 3866, which was recently introduced by U.S. Reps. Carol Miller (R-WV) and Yadira Caraveo (D-CO).

I am a bison producer from (your area...briefly describe your operation). Bison producers worked hard over the past two decades to connect with customers across the country over the quality of bison meat, and the ecological attributes of American bison. Now, the integrity of our marketplace is being undermined by deceptively labeled water buffalo products coming into the U.S. marketplace.

This bill would require that any water buffalo food products in the U.S. marketplace be

properly labeled as "water buffalo" and not just "buffalo" as is currently the case. This simple change will stop these deceptive practices and will provide consumers with the assurance that they are getting what they are paying for.

If you are willing to sign on as a co-sponsor, please reach out to Emily Henn in Rep. Miller's office at emily.henn@mail.house.gov, or Richa Patel in Rep. Caraveo's office at Richa.Patel@mail.house.gov.

If you need additional information on this issue, please reach out to Jim Matheson, executive director of the National Bison Association, at Jim@bisoncentral.com.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
(Your Name)



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.

Bison Call Wisconsin Farms Home

Mid West Farm Report
July 6, 2023

Bison once roamed across Wisconsin in large herds. Now the bison that call Wisconsin home are on about 70 farms across the state. At nearly 6,000 bison, Wisconsin is ranked #7 for domestically produced bison.

Pat Ries is the owner Ries's Tall Grass where he raises around 100 bison and also serves on the board for the Wisconsin Bison Producers Association. Ries believes that raising bison is less expensive than any other breed livestock.

"Our animals are out on the range all the time" states Ries. Land costs, fencing, and a handling facility are the only costs to a bison producer as the animals do not need to be housed and are grass fed.

Bison has 26% more iron than beef and 87% less fat than beef which makes it an appealing meat. Many producers sell bison meat on their farms though it can be found in stores. Ries encourages individuals who want bison meat to connect with a bison producer to learn more.

Ries believes that bison will become more and more popular. "The future looks pretty good – it's going to be getting more people to raise the animals" says Ries. That is quite the comeback for an animal that was on the brink of extinction just over a year ago.

[Read more.](#)

Museum in Jamestown working to grow bison population

KFYR TV

July 4, 2023

JAMESTOWN, N.D. (KFYR) - Jamestown is home to the world's largest bison statue. One group is hoping soon the city will also be recognized for its conservation efforts for that animal.

Millions of American Bison used to roam North Dakota and other states about 150 years ago. Now there is only a fraction, but they are on the comeback. One herd is being managed in Jamestown.

It's only a couple of steps up for people to embark on an educational journey about one of the county's more famous animals.

"It was amazing, it was like a once-in-a-lifetime thing," said Kristine McDougal from Nashville.

"It was awesome, it was exciting you know. Their grunts, that was the one thing, that they are just very powerful," said Pamela Blazek from Bismarck.

The National Buffalo Museum in Jamestown manages these hungry bison. The museum takes care of about 20 animals that are split between two herds.

"So we manage our herds similar to livestock than as wildlife. So our herds are in enclosed pastures, we supplement feed them with hay and minerals depending on the time of the year," said museum executive director Ilana Xinos.

The museum brought the bison to this area from Theodore Roosevelt National Park in the mid 90's. Xinos says initially, this was just a chance for tourists to see the animals up close. Now the museum is working on conserving the species and educating visitors.

[Read more.](#)

Bison Return to Native American Lands, Revitalizing Sacred Rituals

New York Times

July 4, 2023

For years, meals at the summer sun dance ceremonies on the Eastern Shoshone tribe's lands in Wyoming were missing something that was once a staple of the sacred rituals.

There was no presence of homegrown bison, an animal central to the spiritual customs and beliefs of the Shoshone and other Native Americans.

Now, meals at the annual ceremonies, which have just begun for this summer, will feature bison meat that, for the first time in 138 years, was harvested from the tribe's own lands. The multiday sacred ritual involves dancing, fasting and praying, often within a sweat lodge made from natural materials.

"It's in our DNA to have that animal around us again," said Jason Baldes, 44, a member of the Eastern Shoshone tribe who manages its herd of bison on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. "It's kind of like bringing home your long-lost relative."

Indigenous tribes across the United States and Canada have been rebuilding their bison herds for decades, thanks partly to transfers from government agencies and nonprofits, and have made rapid progress in the past few years.

The bison brings conservation benefits to the complex grassland ecosystems where the animals once played a crucial ecological role.

[Read more.](#)

N.W.T. bison anthrax outbreak grows to 27 dead animals

Yahoo Canada

July 4, 2023

Since last weekend, 27 bison have been found dead in a confirmed anthrax outbreak in the N.W.T.'s Slave River lowlands between Fort Smith and Fort Resolution.

The department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) first became aware of the outbreak earlier this week when an aerial survey found 15 dead bison in the area.

"They're not in public access areas, which is helpful at this time," said Mike Westwick, spokesperson for ECC.

Harvesters should still be aware not to hunt bison in the area at this time, he says.

Westwick added that crews are investigating the sites where the bison were found and will treat the areas with chemicals to prevent spores from entering the soil.

They will also remove carcasses and burn them, or treat them with chemicals.

Bison can become infected with anthrax while grazing or taking dust baths.

[Read more.](#)

July is Bison Month!

Rural Radio Network

July 2nd, 2023

The National Bison Association announced the kickoff to July Bison Month today, encouraging consumers 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 a combination of 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 is thanks to a unique collaboration among American farmers and ranchers, Native American tribes, and conservation groups all working to restore the species back to its historic range across North America. It is this collaboration that also successfully made the American bison named the first-ever National Mammal of the United States in 2016.

By making bison a part of your diet, you are eating a delicious, natural, nutrient-dense protein that is healthy for you and good for the environment. By choosing bison, you are helping to restore herds to North American grasslands while supporting regenerative agriculture. Our campaign, Eat Bison to Restore Bison, is educating consumers about their important role in restoring the species, who, by supporting bison ranchers, are in turn supporting grassland regeneration, carbon sequestration, soil regeneration, increased biodiversity, and more bison on the landscape.

July Bison Month, while not a federally designated observance, is celebrated each July by the bison community and is a time in which bison farmers and ranchers promote the delicious taste of bison burgers, steaks, rib and roasts as a summer grilling treat. Bison is the leanest protein commercially available to consumers today boasting 26% more iron than beef and 87% lower in fat. Bison has 766% 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 all major grocery chains carrying at least ground

bison, packaged steaks, with fresh cuts available at natural and specialty food stores, local butchers, etc. offering the same cuts yielded from a beef animal. Bison is showing up on more restaurant menus, and not just bison burgers as chefs discover the versatility of this uniquely American protein. And that's not to mention bison's growing prevalence online, at farmer's markets, farm stores, CSA programs, and beyond.

Find a local bison producer near you with our easy-to-use BuySome Bison app, or our online buyer's guide, both available at www.bisoncentral.com/buying-bison-meat/, and find bison-specific recipes, nutritional data, cuts, and instructional cooking videos at www.bisoncentral.com/how-to-cook-bison/.

[Read more.](#)

Utah Division of Wildlife advises caution around bison, other wildlife ahead of holiday weekend

Salt Lake Tribune

July 1, 2023

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources advised individuals to be cautious around wildlife when recreating outdoors ahead of the long weekend.

Antelope Island State Park is a popular attraction for outdoor enthusiasts, particularly since it is home to mule deer, pronghorn and bison. The park hosts one of the nation's largest and oldest bison herds, and while bison attacks are rare, the agency said in a news release, individuals should watch the animals from a distance.

"People usually get too close," Antelope Island Park Manager Jeremy Shaw said in the release. "They always want to get closer and closer for photos. And any time there is a dangerous interaction with wildlife, it's usually because the person got too close."

Antelope Island typically hosts about 515 bison during the winter months. Once female bison have their calves in the spring, the island's herd swells to more than 700 animals.

The most recent suspected bison attack at the park occurred in August 2020, after a trail runner was found with injuries consistent with a bison attack and later died. Three people were charged by bison at the park in 2019 along the Lakeside Trail.

During a bison encounter, individuals should watch the animal from a safe distance, the agency advised. If a bison stops what it is doing and begins watching an onlooker, that's a sign the individual is too close and should slowly back away.

[Read more.](#)

Treaty rights, bison and the country's most controversial hunt

High Country News

July 1, 2023

Christen Falcon, a Blackfeet hunter and entrepreneur, crouched on a snow- and sage-covered hillside in southwest Montana, slicing rubbery orange fat from bright red hunks of buffalo meat. Her fingers nicked from knifework, she stashed cuts from the ungulate's neck, back and ribs in Ziploc baggies for safekeeping. The animal was one of at least 1,223 Yellowstone bison that hunters in Montana killed last winter, more than in any year since the 1800s. The vast majority were harvested by tribal members exercising long-dormant treaty rights in Beattie Gulch, a narrow strip of federal land just outside Yellowstone National Park.

The bison's massive front- and hindquarters rested on a blue tarp to protect them from dirt and other contaminants. Gut piles left by other hunters, frosted with March snow, dotted the hillsides around Falcon. As she field-dressed the animal, tourists headed to the park passed by less than half a mile away. "We're using our space that we have always

used," Falcon said. "We're just using it again now with an audience."

Falcon's harvest is a revitalization of Indigenous knowledge and culture. But the hunt is also a public lightning rod — part of an ongoing controversy over managing an iconic species that tribal nations, the federal government and the state of Montana all have deep and different interests in.

AT LEAST 27 TRIBES have historic ties to the Yellowstone region. In the late 19th century, the United States government forced them out as part of a nationwide effort to exterminate and assimilate Indigenous people. Treaties between tribes and the federal government in the mid-1800s established reservations across the region, but maintained hunting rights in places deemed "unoccupied."

At the same time, bison, which once numbered between 30 and 60 million in North America, were deliberately slaughtered en masse, part of the campaign to clear the land of Indigenous people: "Every buffalo dead is an Indian gone," U.S. Army Col. Richard Dodge reportedly said in 1867. By the early 1900s, fewer than two dozen wild bison remained, deep in Yellowstone National Park.

[Read more.](#)

Bovine TB turns up in Saskatchewan herd

Two cases found after U.S. test flags Canadian heifer

By Dave Bedard

Canadian Cattlemen

June 30, 2023

A heifer whose tissues tested positive for bovine tuberculosis (TB) at slaughter in the U.S. has been traced back to a Saskatchewan cattle herd which has now turned up two more cases of the disease.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, in a report dated Wednesday, said it was notified Feb. 23 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that tissues from an animal at slaughter had a positive PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test for bovine TB.

The animal in question had been in a U.S. feedlot since last September, when it was exported from Saskatchewan, CFIA said. Before export, it had spent five months in a Canadian feedlot, where all other contact animals were also destined for slaughter and none were moved to other farms.

[Read more.](#)

Anthrax Confirmed in a Crockett County Hair Sheep [TX]

Texas Animal Health Commission

June 30, 2023

AUSTIN, TX - Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) officials received confirmation of anthrax in a hair sheep, on a premises in Crockett County on June 26, 2023. This is the first case of anthrax in Texas this year.

The premises is located 25 miles southwest of Ozona, Texas, and has been quarantined. TAHC rules require proper disposal of affected carcasses on the premises prior to release of the quarantine.

Anthrax is a bacterial disease caused by *Bacillus anthracis*, which is a naturally occurring organism with worldwide distribution, including certain parts of Texas. Anthrax cases in Texas are most often found in a triangular area bound by the towns of Uvalde, Ozona and Eagle Pass.

"As weather conditions are becoming favorable for bacteria to surface, the TAHC

encourages producers in anthrax prone areas to vaccinate their livestock," said Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC State Veterinarian and Executive Director. "Anthrax vaccines for livestock must be used before an animal is exposed to the bacteria. Consult your veterinary practitioner or TAHC Region Office for questions about the disease in livestock."

[Read more.](#)

First European bison born in Jura mountains for 1,000 years

Swiss Info
July 6, 2023

The mother of the female calf, born on Tuesday, is the youngest of the three bison cows living in the Sollmatt enclosure, the Wisent Thal association said in a statement [External link](#) on Thursday.

Since November 2022, bison have been living in a 50-hectare enclosure, free to enter for the public, in the Jura mountains of Solothurn, northwestern Switzerland. The aim of the project is to use a test herd to investigate whether bison, which became extinct in Western Europe the Middle Ages, are now sustainable in the wild in the Jura. The trial will last five years.

The test herd now includes a four-year-old bull, three cows between the ages of four and six, a calf from last year that was not born in the Sollmatt enclosure, and the latest addition.

Bison are basically very shy and gentle animals, the association said. "However, if they are irritated or hindered in protecting their young, they can become dangerous like other cattle. It is therefore important to keep a distance of more than 50 metres from the bison and especially from the calf."

[Read more.](#)

Funding Opportunities

Montana Ranching for Rivers Program

Applications will be accepted until September 30, 2023.

The Ranching for Rivers Program is a cost-share program designed to assist landowners in protecting riparian health through improved ranching practices. Through the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Ranching for Rivers offers 50% cost-share for fencing material, off-site water infrastructure, and developing grazing management plans. Funding is also available for Conservation Districts and Watershed Groups to provide technical assistance on ranching management projects to local landowners.

[Read more.](#)

Washington State Sustainable Farms and Fields

Applications are due by July 14, 2023.

Sustainable Farms and Fields (SFF) is a grant program that makes it easier and more affordable for farmers and ranchers to implement climate-smart practices and projects that increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Conservation districts and other public entities may apply for SFF grants to help them deliver grant-eligible activities for interested farmers and ranchers on farmland, rangeland, and aquaculture tidelands in Washington. Through SFF, farmers and ranchers may receive free services — such as on-farm consultations, climate-smart farm plans, and other technical expertise — and financial assistance to help cover the cost of eligible projects, equipment, seeds for cover crops, and other expenses.

farm crisis center

Even in the best of times, farming can be an incredibly high-stress occupation. Unpredictable weather, crop disease, volatile markets, heavy workloads, and social isolation are just a handful of the challenges that farmers may face.

These conditions force many family farmers and ranchers to make tough financial decisions that will impact their families, communities, and the entire country.

National Farmers Union compiled resources to help farmers through stressful times. Find them at:

<https://farmcrisis.nfu.org/>

National Suicide Hotline - 800-273-TALK (8255)



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Save the Date!

- 7/09/2023 - NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day - Sleepy Eye, MN
- 7/15/2023 - NBA Regional Summer Conference - New Plymouth, ID
- 8/1/2023 - NBA Bi-Annual Membership Meeting - Virtual Only
- 8/9/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 9/13/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 9/29/2023 - Eastern Bison Association Fall Conference - NY
- 9/30/2023 - NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day - Baldwin, WI
- 10/7/2023 - NBA Regional Conference - Terra Alta, WV
- 10/13/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 10/27/2024 - Wisconsin Bison Producer's Association Fall Conference - WI
- 11/04/2023 - National Bison Day - United States

- 11/04/2023 - Custer State Park Annual Bison Auction - SD
- 11/8/2023 - Antelope Island State Park Production Auction - Webcast
- 11/10/2023 - Illinois Indiana Bison Association Fall Conference - IN
- 11/10/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 11/24/2023 - MnBA Bison Fundamentals Class - MN
- 11/25/2023 - MnBA Legends of the Fall Show and Sale - MN
- 12/02/2023 - Kansas Buffalo Association Annual Auction - KS
- 12/02/2023 - Western Bison Association Annual Auction - UT
- 12/6/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 1/1/2024 - Prairie Legends Bison Auction - Webcast
- 1/17/2024 - NBA Winter Conference - Westminster, CO
- 1/20/2024 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - Denver, CO

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](https://bisoncentral.com)



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