

The Nature Conservancy



Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve
Pawhuska, OK

WEBCAST BISON AUCTION

July 22, 2021 • 10 am CDT

Offering Approximately

(98) 2019 OCV Heifers
(69) 2019 Bulls



www.qasbuy.com



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

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NBA Weekly Update for July 9, 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.

NBA Connects with Regional State Legislative Ag Leaders

When members of the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee arrive at the 777 Bison Ranch as a part of a Midwest educational tour, the staff of the National Bison Association will be on hand to provide the lawmakers with information on state-level issues impacting the bison business.

The 777 Bison Ranch will be one of several stops the legislative group will be making while in western South Dakota. When 777 Bison Ranch agreed to host the group, ranch manager Moritz Espy reached out to the NBA with an invitation to be on hand for the tour.

“This is a great opportunity for us to interact with key state legislators, provide information, and build relationships,” said Jim Matheson, NBA assistant director.

The NBA staff also developed a handout entitled “What Every State Legislator Should Know About Bison” to distribute to the group at the 777 Bison Ranch.

Bison Trade Priorities Advancing

Officials at USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and the U.S Trade Representative's Office (USTR) continue to chip away at the trade barriers hindering the development of new export markets for bison.

Anne Dawson, the FAS Senior Trade Specialist on Animal Products, provided NBA Executive Director Dave Carter with an update Wednesday on three key markets that are a priority for the NBA.

- United Arab Emirates: FAS is currently working on obtaining written confirmation from UAE officials that bison is eligible for export. If/when USDA receives this, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) would update the export library. Bison exports to the UAE would have to be halal-certified.
- Japan: FAS has been working on responses to a human health questionnaire that was issued by the government of Japan regarding bison. According to FSIS, that response is near completion. As soon as it is completed and cleared, it will be sent to the FAS office in Tokyo. Ms. Dawson notes that there is a fair amount of transition underway in the FAS/Tokyo office. She is working to bring any new personnel in the Tokyo office up to speed on our request.
- Taiwan: There is a similar transition underway with FAS personnel. Ms. Dawson is planning to have a call FAS/Taipei in the next two weeks.

In relation to efforts to eliminate the 20% tariff on bison meat exports to the EU, the USDA Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee on Animals and Animal Products will be sending a letter to Secretary Vilsack and Trade Ambassador Tai listing the overall agricultural priorities for negotiations with the EU. The letter contains the specific language:

Bison

The Hilton Quota and its 20% tariff on bison meat in any trade negotiations with the European Union is still a major stumbling block for the Bison industry and we urge you to once again make this issue part of any agricultural agreements.

RIP George Siemion

George Siemion was born October 7, 1939, in Billings, MT to John and Katie (Fox) Siemion. He passed away on July 4, 2021, in Hardin, MT. He was 81 years old. George was raised at West Soap Creek on the family ranch. In his early years he attended school at St. Xavier, MT and graduated from Hardin High School in 1957. George enlisted in the U.S. Army in April of 1959 and was stationed at Fort Ord in California. After receiving an Honorable Discharge, he returned to Montana and worked for the family ranch.

George married Nelvette Three Irons on September 11, 1962, in Billings, MT. The couple were married for fifty-five years. This marriage formed a partnership where their livelihood consisted of many different agricultural-related businesses raising and marketing livestock. Their ranching operations were in Reedpoint, Reno Creek and the family home, White Buffalo Ranch, on Grapevine Creek in Fort Smith, Montana. George started their ranching operation with a small loan to raise pigs, from that he built the operation into a cattle ranch.

Because he was a man of ingenuity, he transitioned from cattle ranching to bison ranching which is continuing today. George and Nelvette finally settled at Grapevine Creek and built their own log house. Electricity was not available due to the remote location, so this partnership found a way to design and build a hydro project to generate their own electricity. During the cattle business days and White Buffalo ranching days, there were many branding get-togethers, birthdays, weddings and graduation celebrations where many lifelong friends were formed. Together, they raised their three boys, Darin, Chipper, Brandon and one daughter Sheri.

George obtained an Aerial Applicator License from Minden, Nevada. He was a private pilot owning and piloting at least three (3) different aircraft where he had numerous adventures. His hospitality included giving visiting friends and family plane rides over the ranch. Although he was rancher of various livestock, his favorite livestock was Bison. He was a lifelong member of the National Bison Association and a founding member of the Montana Bison Association.

Read [more](#).

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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USDA To Review 'Product Of USA' Label Following FTC Vote

(From Tri-State Livestock News)

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that USDA will review the "Product of the USA" label for meat managed by the Food Safety and Inspection Service after the Federal Trade Commission voted to strengthen its enforcement of products labeled Made in the USA.

"Today, the Federal Trade Commission took important steps to enhance its ability to enforce the Made in USA standard," Vilsack said.

"I congratulate the FTC on strengthening this important protection for American consumers. USDA will complement the FTC's efforts with our own initiative on labeling for products regulated by FSIS, an area of consumer labeling where USDA has a long tradition of protecting consumers from false and misleading labels."

Both the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the U.S. Cattlemen's Association, who have had opposing views on labeling, praised the decision to review the label.

U.S. cattle and farm groups have long been at odds over proper labeling. Under current "Product of the USA" rules, beef that comes from many countries, but particularly from Canada and Mexico, is considered a product of the United States if it has been processed within the country.

Full text [here](#).

BLM seeks comments on American Prairie Reserve bison proposal

(From the great Falls Tribune)

The Bureau of Land Management invites the public to comment on its draft environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, often called a "FONSI" for a bison grazing proposal on BLM-administered lands located in Phillips County, Montana.

On Sept. 24, 2019, the American Prairie Reserve submitted a proposal (an update to their

earlier proposal submitted on Nov. 20, 2017) to modify certain terms and conditions of seven BLM-administered grazing permits held by the APR. American Prairie Reserve's original proposal, sought permit changes for 18 BLM grazing allotments located in four counties. BLM conducted public scoping April 9 through June 11, 2018, including public meetings held in those four counties. The BLM received 2,497 submissions which were reviewed and considered in determining the final set of issues to be included in the NEPA analysis.

Documents associated with the assessment's completed public scoping period are [available on the BLM's ePlanning website](#). The APR's updated proposal significantly reduced the number of BLM allotments involved and requested a more conventional grazing regime, including pasture rotation in alignment with current range management practices.

Based on APR's amended proposal and public input received during the scoping period, the BLM prepared a draft assessment and FONSI for the following seven BLM allotments managed by its Malta Field Office: Telegraph Creek, Box Elder, Flat Creek, White Rock, East Dry Fork, French Coulee and Garey Coulee.

Read more [here](#).

EQIP Funds Target Regional Drought Mitigation

(From USDA)

In response to historic drought conditions, NRCS is offering \$41.8 million through EQIP's new Conservation Incentive Contracts to help agricultural producers in Arizona, California, Colorado and Oregon alleviate the immediate impacts of drought and other natural resource challenges on working lands. Signup for this targeted funding ends July 12, 2021.

The EQIP CIC offers the traditional NRCS conservation practices as well as conservation enhancement activities that are typically only available through the [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#). The EQIP CIC will offer producers the opportunity to implement both conservation practices and enhancement activities during the 5-year contract period.

NRCS will set aside \$11.8 million directly for practices including forest management plans, tree/shrub establishment, brush management, prescribed grazing, pasture and hay planting, wildlife habitat, livestock watering systems and cover crops.

Colorado EQIP CIC priority funding pools include:

1. Cropland/Pastureland – Soil Health, Resilience and Water Conservation
2. Grazing land – Resiliency and Resistance to Drought
3. Forest land – Resiliency and Resistance to Drought
4. Ogallala Ground Water Conservation Project – Drought and Water Conservation
5. Tribal land – Resiliency and Resistance to Drought – all land uses (crop, pasture, range and forest)

To learn more about Conservation Incentive Contracts, visit the [EQIP webpage](#). Producers in Arizona, California, Colorado and Oregon who are interested in this targeted funding should apply by July 12, 2021, by contacting their [local USDA Service Center](#).

Biden Prepping Competition, Right To Repair Executive Order

(From AgriPulse)

President Joe Biden plans to direct the Agriculture Department to take actions to curb the market power of agribusiness giants, including by enabling farmers to repair their high-tech machinery.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Tuesday that USDA will “engage in a series of rule-makings to increase competition in agricultural industries, to boost farmers' and

ranchers' earnings, fight back against abuses of power by giant agribusiness corporations and give farmers the right to repair their own equipment how they like.”

The "right to repair" issue was in the platforms of many of the Democratic presidential candidates leading up to the 2020 elections and has also been on the agenda of state legislatures across the country.

Stephanie See, director of state government relations for the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, said the organization has "not seen the Executive Order, so we cannot comment on it.

"With respect to a farmer's 'right to repair,' equipment manufacturers support a farmer's right to repair his or her own equipment," she said. "Our industry provides diagnostic guides, service manuals, and other tools and information for repairs and maintenance. We are proud of the work our industry does to protect our planet and safeguard our customers' well-being and will never compromise on safety and environmental protections.”

The order will also call on USDA to “develop a plan to increase opportunities for farmers to access markets and receive a fair return,” Psaki said, “including supporting alternative food distribution systems, like farmers markets, and developing standards and labels that consumers can choose to buy products that treat farmers and agricultural workers fairly.”

Psaki’s announcement comes after media reports in recent days citing administration sources suggesting an order was coming to broadly address competition, including a look at enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act and “Product of the USA” meat labels.

Supermarkets Are Stockpiling Inventory as Food Costs Rise

(From the Wall Street Journal)

Supermarkets are stocking up on everything from sugar to frozen meat before they get more pricey, girding for what some executives anticipate will be some of the highest price increases in recent memory.

Some supermarkets said they are buying and storing supplies to keep their shelves full amid stronger demand. Grocery sales in the U.S. for the week ended June 19 rose about 15% from two years earlier and increased 0.5% from a year earlier, according to Jefferies and NielsenIQ data.

Stockpiling by food retailers is driving shortages of some staples, grocery industry executives said, and is challenging a U.S. food supply chain already squeezed by transportation costs, labor pressure and ingredient constraints.

The move is a reversal from last year when consumers hoarded groceries because of concerns about food availability, disrupting the food industry. Now, retailers themselves are stockpiling to keep costs down and protect margins.

EU Drafts Plan To Grow 'Carbon Sinks' In Climate Change Fight

(From Reuters)

The European Union has drafted plans to build up forests, grasslands, and other natural "carbon sinks" that absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to help curb climate change, according to a draft document seen by Reuters on Tuesday.

Carbon sinks have gained in importance as countries strive to reach "net zero" emissions by 2050, the goal scientists say the world must meet to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Net zero emissions means emitting no more greenhouse gases than can be balanced by removing gases from the atmosphere.

EU forests, grasslands, croplands and wetlands altogether removed a net 263 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent (CO2e) from the atmosphere in 2018, according to the European Commission. That tally also accounts for the amount of CO2 released when

trees were cut down or wildlands burned.

The Commission will next week propose a target to expand the EU's sink to absorb 310 million CO2e per year by 2030 by giving each member state a legally binding goal, according to the draft.



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Save the Date!

- 07/22/2021 - TNC Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Webcast Bison Auction, OK
- 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
- 11/6/2021 - Custer State Park Annual Auction, SD
- 11/8/2021 - Antelope Island State Park Production Auction, UT
- 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
- 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

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