

LESTER BISON FARM COMPLETE DISPERSAL ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Monday, June 14 • 10:00 a.m. CST

Offering Approximately:

(3) Mature Cow/Calf Pairs • (3) Mature Open Cows
(9) Yearling Bulls & Heifers
(17) Mature Bulls



Jud Seaman - Auctioneer
(605) 390-1419



Photos, videos and bidding available at:

www.qasbuy.com



Weekly Update



bisoncentral.com

303-292-2833

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

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NBA Weekly Update for June 11, 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.

Today is the Last Day to Register for Summer Conference

This Friday, June 11th, is the last day to register for the NBA Summer Conference! We already have over 200 folks registered, including 14 trade show exhibitors, for the get together. Don't be left out! Please be sure to [register online](#) for the conference, or call the NBA at 303-292-2833 to register by phone. Please note, we will not offer a streaming webinar option for this conference though we will film presentations to post in the member's area for later viewing, thanks to a sponsorship from [Benjamin Lee Bison](#).

While the deadline to reserve discounted lodging at Little America Resort has expired, the NBA has arranged for discounted overflow lodging at the nearby La Quinta Hotel, less than one mile from Little America. Please follow [this link](#) to reserve your room at the La Quinta no later than **June 14th**.

[Register Here](#)

NBA SUMMER CONFERENCE AGENDA

SUNDAY- JUNE 27TH

Registration Open at 4 pm - Little America Resort

Conference Reception & Center of Excellence Fundraiser - 5 pm



MONDAY

7:30 AM Depart for Memphis Ranch
9:30 AM Depart for Cold Creek Buffalo
NOON Lunch at The Terry Ranch
2:00 PM Drought Mitigation 101
3:15 PM RMBA & NBA Member Meetings
4:30 PM Bus Returns to Little America
6:00 PM Dinner and Benefit Auction

TUESDAY

9:00 AM Bison Emergencies 101
11:00 AM Bison Fencing Panel Discussion
NOON Lunch at Little America
2:00 PM The Emerging Carbon Market
4:00 PM Bison Marketplace Update
4:30 PM Center of Excellence at SDSU
6:00 PM Closing Banquet Dinner

Please Register by June 11th at www.bisoncentral.com

NBA Staff Getting Back on the Road

As more state and regional bison associations return to their regularly scheduled Spring and Summer get togethers, NBA staff will hit the road to catch up with our friends and colleagues and provide updates on the National Bison Association.

While assistant director Jim Matheson and communications director Karen Conley attended the April Minnesota Bison Association spring conference, we're thrilled to see more association events being organized and facilitated in-person.

This weekend Matheson will head to western Montana to present to the Western and Montana Bison Associations' shared summer gathering to provide an update on NBA activities and industry news. The Montana conference will visit the National Bison Range, as well as two working bison ranches all while enjoying bison meals and fellowship. A slew of speakers are lined up too. Learn more at www.montanabison.org.

Executive Director, Dave Carter along with Director of Development, Eloise Mongillo will head to the Texas Bison Association (TBA) who will gather in Fort Worth Texas at the Radisson Hotel – North Fossil Creek for their Spring meeting. Carter will provide an NBA update to the group and Mongillo will discuss her fundraising efforts, which is supporting the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies. The TBA will feature other great speakers who will present on direct marketing, livestock processing and much more. Learn more at www.texasbison.org.

Section 32 Solicitation Anticipated Within Two Weeks

Officials at USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service informed the National Bison Association yesterday that the second round of solicitations for up to \$10 million of ground bison meat should be posted within two weeks.

The agency had previously indicated that the solicitation would be made in May, which prompted the NBA to inquire about the postponement.

The response provided yesterday did not specify any reasons for the delay. However, AMS has been working with the NBA commercial marketers to address concerns about the modifications in the specification to be required for product delivered into the Section 32 program. Those modifications were implemented in an effort to position the bison meat acquired under Section 32 to be eligible for use in the federal school lunch program.

Conference Raffle Features Limited Edition Mark V Weatherby Rifle

Attendees at the 2021 NBA Summer Conference in Cheyenne later this month will have an opportunity to enter a raffle for a custom Mark V Weatherby Rifle pictured at right, generously provided by John Graves - President of RMBA, who works at the Sheridan, WY-based shop.

Here's a description from John:

"This is a Weatherby Mark V, Weathermark Limited, chambered in 6.5-300 WBY. It has a threaded barrel with included thread cap and muzzle brake. It has a custom floor plate with "NBA" engraved on it. Also included are two boxes (40 rounds) of Weatherby ammo for the rifle. The ammo and rifle were both made in Sheridan, Wyoming. The 6.5-300 is a great caliber for any hunter to be used on any North America game, at any distance."



We will only sell tickets in person at the conference, must be present to win. The raffle will be called at the Tuesday evening closing dinner

Commercial Marketers See Continued Consumer Demand Growth

Commercial marketers participating in the NBA's latest twice-yearly survey in May expressed cautious optimism that demand for bison meat will continue to grow among new and existing customers alike.

Nearly two-thirds of the marketers responding to the survey estimated that they would market up to five percent more product to new customers at current prices, while another 13 percent said that they estimated growth potential above five percent. Half of the respondents said that they could also increase sales to existing customers by five percent.

Demand for higher end cuts seems to be rebounding from the COVID-related shutdown in the restaurant business last year, with 80% of the respondents reporting that demand for middle meats was exceeding availability.

The complete results of the latest Commercial Marketers' Survey will be shared with attendees at the association's upcoming Summer Conference in Cheyenne.

A Bison Moon-Shot (NBA Blog by Dave Carter)

"That's one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind."

Nearly every schoolchild learns that phrase, and a few of us have been around long enough to remember watching the grainy television images as Neil Armstrong uttered those historic words while stepping onto lunar soil in 1969.

I thought about those words the other day as the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies announced the first eight proposals to be funded with more than \$325,000 in support.

Those projects may not capture the attention of people outside the world of bison. For those of us associated with this magnificent animal, that



announcement represented a giant leap forward.

Since the commercial bison business began to emerge roughly 50 years ago, producers on private ranches, as well as public and Tribal lands, have worked diligently to discover the proper management techniques and animal husbandry practices that would improve the health of their herds, the health of their grasslands, and the quality of the meat delivered to the marketplace.

It's been a lot of trial and error, with errors often very prevalent.

The overriding philosophy early on in the bison business was, "If it worked on cattle, try it on bison." Cattle and bison are both bovine ruminants, but otherwise very different. So, sometimes it worked...and sometimes it didn't.

Through the years, a handful of dedicated veterinarians began to identify some herd health practices appropriate for bison and generously shared their information throughout our business. More recently, USDA has weighed in with some support for selected bison research priorities.

Those bison vets will be the first to explain that more concerted and coordinated efforts were needed.

That was the consensus of the members of the NBA Science and Research Committee, the National Buffalo Foundation, and animal science faculty at South Dakota State University who met in April 2017 to discuss research needs for bison. Not only were more coordinated efforts needed, but they also agreed, funding had to be secured to underwrite those efforts.

And so began the commitment to the bison research moonshot.

The Center of Excellence founded last September is the vehicle, but the generous contributions by family foundations and individual bison ranchers provided the booster engines to send the Center aloft.

The potential for the Center is evident in the breadth of projects supported through this first round of funding. Some, like research into mycoplasma and Bovine Viral Diarrhea, target basic animal health. Others explore the interaction of bison and the ecosystem they inhabit. Some focus on meat quality. One supports the examination of biological and cultural impacts of bison restoration on Tribal lands.

And this is only the beginning.

With continued support from the bison community, the Center of Excellence can foster new information, tools and outreach that will position the bison business to realize its full potential in the years ahead.

That's one giant leap indeed.

USDA To Spend \$4B-Plus on Supply Chain Issues

(From NBA and AgriPulse)

Increased investments in diversifying the food processing infrastructure, and stronger financial incentives for regenerative agricultural practices are two major priorities for the \$4 billion that USDA will be managing on supply chain issues, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack told agricultural stakeholders in a webinar Wednesday.

He also said the department will provide expanded support for developing regional food hubs that can provide resiliency against the types of disruption that have impacted the centralized production, processing and distribution over the past year.

NBA Executive Director Dave Carter was among the agricultural stakeholders participating in Secretary Vilsack's webinar.

Vilsack, Transportation Pete Buttigieg and Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo have been assigned by the White House to develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce supply chain disruptions.

The Agriculture Department says it will spend more than \$4 billion to address supply chain issues in the farm sector highlighted by the COVID pandemic and the recent cyberattack on meatpacker JBS.

In a Tuesday call with reporters, Vilsack said, “What we really need is a transformational change in order to build back better our food system and our ag system, one that is economically, environmentally and nutritionally more resilient, and fairer and more open.”

The food production system, while remarkably efficient, has also left many small to medium-sized producers behind, Vilsack said.

“This challenge of the supply chain adds to a number of concerns that have arisen about our current food system, a system where nearly 90% of farms fail to generate a majority of income for those who own and operate the farm,” he said.

While productivity has soared, it has come “at the expense of an alarming rate of topsoil loss and soil health and water quality,” he said. The nutrition system “often provides food but can fail to provide adequate nourishment,” and the food system in general “has seen rapid consolidation and a lack of competition.”

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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Cadiz Bison Ranch Preparing for Summer Pow Wow

(From the Cadiz Times-Leader)

CADIZ — The seventh annual Baby Bison Days Charity Pow Wow will return this year with live performances, vendors, demonstrations and more.

The two-day festival set for June 19-20 will feature Native American dancers and musicians, crafts, food, an auction and interactions with the Boss Bison Ranch’s bison. Karen Sticht, owner of Boss Bison Ranch, said the “*inter-tribal*” festival is a social gathering meant to honor Native American culture.

The festival began in 2013 when a friend of Sticht who practices Native American traditions helped get a small version of today's event started.

"He felt that having the bison here and what we firmly believe in as far as the place goes, that we should do something. So, he helped me get a small pow wow started. It was smaller than that, only one day. We had one set of drums, food, emcee, we had about 100 people come that day," Sticht said. *"It turned out to be a success, so we decided to do it again the next year and it continued to grow."*

More than 3,000 people attended the ranch's last festival, held in 2019. It was canceled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sticht said they are anticipating around 1,000 attendees this year due to limited planning time. She said because of the pandemic, organizers were unsure if they would be able to hold it again this year; however, after gauging the public's response earlier this year and contacting the health department, they decided to resume the event with safety precautions in place.

Read more [here](#)

First Generation Rancher Thrives Raising Bison

(From the Western Producer)

Doing custom work for a bison producer was all it took to convince □ this grain farmer from Manitoba to switch career paths 25 years ago.

Jamie Moran started his agricultural career in grain farming, but it didn't last. Not after he did custom work for a bison rancher and found his calling.

"There was just something about them," he said. "I watched this other guy for 10 years. I custom worked with them for years and years and I just kind of liked it."

In 1996, Moran started what is now known as Shale Creek Bison Ranch just west of Russell, Man. He began with 15 head and slowly grew to 60 exclusive cow-calf pairs. "About 80 percent of my bison herd has been bought from show and sales," Moran said. "The majority have been grand champion males or females."

According to Moran, bison are easier to raise than cattle, one of the things that initially pulled him toward them.

"I think they're a hardier animal," Moran said. "They can survive better in winters." Moran won the Bill Lenton Memorial Award in 2017 through the Manitoba Bison Association. He called it a highlight of his career.

"I was fortunate to be nominated for it and I was pretty honored, and I think it's one of the most successful things that has happened to me," Moran said.

He usually works by himself or with his wife, Debbie Moran, and his two daughters, Tara and Danielle Moran. He said he enjoys working with his family.

Danielle said she is proud of how she grew up.

Read more [here](#).

Bison By the Numbers

(From the Kankakee Daily Journal)

It's that time of the year when the bison calves are born. At the close of 2020, we had 93 bison in our Kankakee Sands herd. As I pen this article, 21 calves have already been documented in the bison pasture, which means that for the first time in the history of Kankakee Sands, we have more than 100 bison grazing here.

With 32 mature cows in our herd, we are expecting somewhere between 25 to 30 calves

to be born this spring. Cows typically give birth to one calf per year; twins are rare.

Bison calves, with their red fur and sprightly 40-pound bodies, are a joy to watch romp on the prairie. These energetic little "red dogs" are able to run when they are just hours old. And run they do. While the female bison calmly graze and chew their cud, the calves are often seen sprinting around the matriarchal groups in wide circles, only to stop suddenly and decide that it is time to nurse.

As the year progresses, the calves will run less and eat more; their fur will change from red to brown, and they will begin a steady ascent to their ultimate adult weight of 1,200 pounds for a female and 2,000 pounds for a male.

It was in October 2016 that we first brought 23 bison to Kankakee Sands to help manage our prairies. These keystone species of the North American prairies create habitat for insects, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians as their massive bodies move across the prairie, churning up soil, eating vegetation, defecating and reproducing.

Read more [here](#).

Bison Bridge Over Mississippi River Could Be Boon for The Heartland

(From ABS News)

Each day, the Interstate 80 bridge over the Mississippi River connecting Illinois and Iowa carries 36,000 cars. But in the not-too-distant future, it may carry bison.

Transportation officials in both states are studying plans that include possibly replacing the 55-year-old span. But rather than spend millions of taxpayer dollars to tear it down, environmentalist [Chad Pregracke](#) of Living Lands and Waters wants to raise private funds to transform the bridge into a unique national park: [Bison Bridge](#).

He wants to turn the westbound lanes into a grassy meadow while the eastbound lanes would become a safely separated pedestrian and bike path that provides close-up views of the iconic [animals](#). The plan calls for introducing a herd of wild bison into the region that could roam the bridge and 100 acres of restored prairie on each side.

"The bison could essentially graze their way over to Iowa and graze their way back to Illinois," Pregracke told ABC News. A website for the proposed project touts it as the "longest manmade wildlife crossing in the world."

Read more [here](#).

Senate Ag Advances Janie Hipp As USDA General Counsel Nominee

(From AgriPulse)

The Senate Agriculture Committee on Thursday easily approved the nomination of Janie Simms Hipp, a longtime agricultural law specialist and member of the Chickasaw Nation, to become the Agriculture Department's general counsel.

"She has a long history of working on agricultural and legal issues and a breadth of experience that will be very valuable," Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., said shortly before the committee approved Hipp's nomination on a voice vote. "I agree totally," responded Sen. John Boozman of Arkansas, the committee's top Republican.

Stabenow told reporters she's hopeful that Hipp can be approved by the full Senate by unanimous consent.

Two other USDA nominees are in the pipeline — Robert Bonnie to be undersecretary of farm production and conservation programs and Jenny Lester Moffitt to be undersecretary of marketing and regulatory programs — but no hearings have been scheduled because the committee has yet to receive the necessary paperwork, including questionnaires, Stabenow told reporters.

Meanwhile, Stabenow is working with Boozman on scheduling a hearing on cattle market concerns. Asked if the hearing would be in July, she said it could be "sooner than that." "There's a lot of interest," she said.

During Hipp's confirmation hearing, she assured senators she will work closely with the Justice Department to address concerns meatpackers are using their market power to depress prices paid to producers. She said there is an unprecedented level of bipartisan interest in the issue.

APHIS Announces 2021 Open Period for Farm Bill Funding Opportunities Supporting Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Activities

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is continuing its efforts as part of the agency's Farm Bill programs to advance animal disease preparedness and response. APHIS is seeking project proposals for fiscal year (FY) 2021 funding for the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP) and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). The agency is also announcing its next round of purchases for the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (NAVVCB). The 2018 Farm Bill provided funding for these programs as part of an overall strategy to help prevent animal pests and diseases from entering the United States and reduce the spread and impact of potential disease incursions through advance planning and preparedness.

In FY 2021, APHIS will make available up to \$20 million in funds for NADPRP and NAHLN. Proposals must be submitted by 11:59 PM EDT on August 6, 2021.

Biden Administration Moves to Replace Trump-Era 'Waters' Rule

(From AgriPulse)

The Biden administration plans to revise the definition of "waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act after concluding the Trump administration's Navigable Waters Protection Rule is causing "significant environmental degradation," according to EPA Administrator Michael Regan.

The Justice Department filed a motion Wednesday in a case in Massachusetts requesting remand of the rule without vacating it. The move sets in motion a process to replace the Trump-era rule, something EPA Administrator Michael Regan said was on the agenda earlier this year. The EPA and Army Corps of Engineers issued a joint statement Wednesday officially announcing the plan to reconsider the existing definition.

"Today's action reflects the agencies' intent to initiate a new rulemaking process that restores the protections in place prior to [Obama administration's] 2015 WOTUS

implementation, and anticipates developing a new rule that defines WOTUS and is informed by a robust engagement process as well as the experience of implementing the pre-2015 rule, the Obama-era Clean Water Rule, and the Trump-era Navigable Waters Protection Rule,” EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers said in a joint statement.

“A remand would avoid potentially unnecessary litigation in this court over aspects of the NWPR that will be reconsidered in a new rulemaking, would conserve the parties’ limited resources, and would best serve the interest of judicial economy,” DOJ said in its motion. “In addition, remand would avoid requiring the agencies to take positions on merits questions that might appear to pre-judge issues that will be reconsidered through notice-and-comment rulemaking.”

At a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing Wednesday before the announcement was made, Regan said the agency will take into account “lessons learned” from earlier efforts to define WOTUS as it charts a new “path forward.” Regan said the agency plans to reach out to USDA, the Corps, and the agriculture community.

“We are committed to establishing a durable definition of ‘waters of the United States’ based on Supreme Court precedent and drawing from the lessons learned from the current and previous regulations, as well as input from a wide array of stakeholders, so we can better protect our nation’s waters, foster economic growth, and support thriving communities,” Regan said in the statement issued Wednesday.

Tuberculosis is a Rising Concern in U.S. Cattle Herds

(From Dairy Herd Management)

And old disease has become new again, with the growing emergence of positive cases of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in cattle herds across the United States.

"Tuberculosis is a 'zoonotic' disease, which means it can spread between animals and humans," explained New Mexico State Veterinarian Dr. Ralph Zimmerman. "When it spreads from humans to animals, we call it a 'reverse zoonotic event.'"

Zimmerman told the audience of the 2020 High Plains Dairy Conference that zoonotic diseases are on the rise worldwide. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), three out of every four new infectious diseases in people also can be spread by animals.

The potential for TB to spread from humans to animals is especially concerning because about a third of the world's human population is infected with TB. Cattle are a susceptible animal species, but the bacterial infection can be contracted by all mammals, including pigs, goats, deer, and other wildlife.

Exposure to wildlife is a potential form of transmission to cattle herds. In northeast lower Michigan, the deer population has been a concerning source of TB for many years. Recently, TB infections from Michigan deer have been shown to infect humans as well. In just the past two years, five DNR workers and three hunters have contracted TB, likely via their interaction with infected deer.

Read more [here](#).



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Save the Date!

- 6/11/2021 - Montana/Western Bison Association Summer Conference - MT
- 06/11/2021 - Texas Bison Association Summer Meeting - TX
- 6/14/2021 - Lester Bison Farm Complete Dispersal Auction - WI
- 6/27 - 29/2021 - National Bison Assn. Summer Conference - Cheyenne, WY
- 11/8/2021 - Antelope Island State Park Production 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
- 2/12/2022 - Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Sale - SD

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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