



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

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NBA Weekly Update for June 17, 2022

The Weekly Update is a service designed to provide National Bison Association members with news and information affecting bison production and marketing. Many items in the Weekly Update are reprinted from outside sources. The content of those articles does not necessarily reflect the policy position of the National Bison Association. The articles are reproduced here only as a means to keep our membership informed as much as possible of all information and opinions relating to bison that is circulating publicly.

NBA Leadership Participates in Amenable Listening Sessions

The NBA leadership, including Executive Director Jim Matheson, President Chad Kremer, and Commercial Marketers Committee Chair Dick Gehring, recently attended two congressionally mandated USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) listening sessions, one in South Dakota, which was tribal-focused, and one in Colorado, which was industry-focused. The sessions focused on the topic of bison potentially being designated as an amenable species. USDA FSIS will now report back to Congress on the matter within 30 days.

Upon hearing about the planned listening sessions, the NBA's Commercial Marketers Committee, which includes the industry's largest bison producers and marketers, met to discuss the matter. The meeting resulted in no support being voiced for bison being designated as an amenable species at this time. Further, the NBA heard from many members who also oppose bison being designated as an amenable species. In short, the vast majority of bison industry stakeholders see no need to change the bison's current designation as a non-amenable species because our industry is thriving under current regulations and industry protocols.

The primary opposition cited among participants is the many unknown implications of

switching the bison's status. A change to amenable could very well lead to costly infrastructure and management changes for current processors who are already struggling to keep up with demand as the processing bottleneck continues to impact bison producers across the country. Further, many bison producers utilize state-inspected programs in participating states, as non-amenable species like bison can be shipped interstate, unlike amenable species in most cases. As such, NBA members and processors do not want to lose the ability to utilize state-inspected facilities, a service that is paid for by the state, unlike FSIS voluntary inspection. Additionally, the ability to field slaughter is crucially important for NBA members, especially tribal members and small producers across the country who increasingly utilize field slaughter for the sake of cultural preservation, meat quality, animal welfare, and consumer demand.

Changing bison to an amenable species also has the potential to negatively impact the work of the federally led Bison Management System (BMS). This program provides a framework for continued bison restoration among stakeholders from the commercial, tribal, conservation, and public sectors who are collectively restoring bison to its native landscape in North America.

Finally, the bison industry processed approximately 70,000 head of bison in 2021 - a record year - whereas the US cattle industry processes approximately 40 million head per year, a figure that is just .2% of bison being slaughtered in the US. As such, this undomesticated species is a very unique livestock species that can't simply be lumped in with amenable species like beef, pork, and sheep and needs unique regulation from the USDA. Please review the details below to understand some of the potential implications of becoming an amenable species.

Testing:

Currently, a vast majority, if not all, of our major bison marketers/processors have robust and comprehensive in-house testing programs for E. coli O157:H7 and other pathogens. There is no USDA-FSIS regulation that requires this testing. These tests are performed at the processors' expense to satisfy the requirements of grocers and food service customers to protect their consumers. The beef industry operates the same way for the same reasons. USDA-FSIS randomly tests ground beef samples based on a particular plant's production levels. Unlike in-house testing, where the results are returned within 12-14 hours, the USDA-FSIS-approved lab results take several days to complete. This is problematic for processors because products cannot ship until results are received, thus causing potential shipping delays. Amenable species designation for bison would not change existing in-house testing protocols, but could possibly add occasional, random, single sample testing by USDA-FSIS. Amenable Species designation for bison will not make bison meat safer to eat.

30-Month Rule:

Currently, carcasses from beef cattle over 30 months of age are regulated to prevent potential BSE transmission to humans and to satisfy certain export customers. This means certain bone-in cuts are not allowed to be fabricated from those carcasses and SRMs (Specified Risk Materials) such as spinal cord, must be properly disposed of. It also means the meat from these older carcasses is not eligible for export. SRMs are routinely disposed of in all plants regardless of species. If bison become amenable the same rules could apply. This would require a more accurate age determination protocol for bison than what is currently used. Some bison, especially heifers, slaughtered in the fall of their second year, could be worth less because of these restrictive regulations, and grass-finished bison and tribally produced bison are often not slaughtered before 30 months of age. Further, bison would be ineligible for export to certain countries. There has never been a case of BSE in bison in North America and therefore no reason to be restricted by current beef regulations pertaining to age at slaughter. An amenable species designation for bison could harm the bison domestic and export market.

Slaughter:

Due to the undomesticated nature of bison and the holding pen conditions of smaller slaughter facilities, bison are sometimes knocked in the trailer or the holding pen instead of the knock box for human safety and animal welfare concerns. This is far more difficult to accomplish with beef cattle due to USDA-FSIS regulations and the Humane Slaughter Act. Also, many small producers, and in particular tribal producers, opt for pasture slaughter. If bison are designated as amenable both of these current practices would be

more regulated and very likely prohibited. Amenable species designation would impact humane slaughter procedures for bison as an undomesticated species and ban the use of pasture slaughter as a harvest option.

Domestic Trade:

Processors operating under a state inspection system can ship bison meat interstate as a non-amenable species. In most cases, they cannot do this with amenable species they process. This is a vital advantage for smaller bison producers and marketers that utilize state inspection. Amenable species designation for bison would greatly restrict trade for state-inspected plants.

Please direct questions and comments to NBA Executive Director, Jim Matheson at jim@bisoncentral.com, or 303-292-2833.

NBA Hosts First Regenerative Ranching Field Day

NBA Executive Director, Jim Matheson, is traveling to North Dakota today for the association's first of six Bison Regenerative Ranching Field Days. This first one will be held at NBA Treasurer Kevin Leier's Heartland Bison Ranch near Rugby, ND. The expected 40 attendees will have a full day of learning and networking on hand with expert speakers and a working regenerative bison operation to explore. See the agenda below and consider joining us for two more 2022 Field Days. We will be in Mission, SD on September 10 and Prairie Grove, IL on October 15. Agendas for those events are being finalized and registration will open soon.

NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day #1 June 18th - Heartland Bison Ranch - Rugby, ND

Just \$30 per person!

Register at bisoncentral.com/nba-north-dakota-regenerative-workshop/







<u>Saturday, June 18th:</u>

- 9:30 am: Register and network
- 10:00: Welcome from NBA and Host Ranch
- 10:15: Pasture walks and bison herd move
- Noon: Lunch
- 1:00: NRCS Presentation:
 - Yolanda Schmidt Principles of regenerative agriculture and grazing principles
 - Brad Jacobs NRCS overview, EQIP and cost-share programs
- 2:15: Break
- 2:30 Ken Klemm Regenerative/Holistic Bison Management
- 3:30 Q&A, networking
- 4:00 Heartland Bison Ranch corral and handling facility tour
- 5:00 NDBA general membership meeting
- 6:00 NDBA dinner



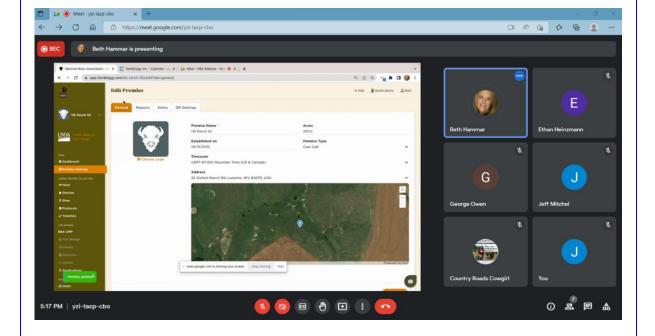
Thanks to North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Education and Research (SARE) and the University of Minnesota for their support in this project. Learn more at https://https://www.sare.org/.



NBA Holds First Bison Producer's App Tutorial

The NBA conducted its first of four tutorial webinars on Thursday night to educate NBA members on how to utilize the free NBA Bison Producer's App. The innovative NBA Bison Producer's App, now available for both iOS and Android devices, for bison producers to track and analyze important herd data. It's the only bison-specific producer/field app in the marketplace today. The tutorial was recorded and will be posted in the Video Archives section of www.bisoncentral.com for members to view shortly.

The app's extensive features result in a very powerful herd management tool that literally fits in the palm of your hand. App features include animal photo ID, birth date, herd and tag ID, weight, gender, vaccination/dewormer schedule, North American Bison Registry animal history, notes for things like body condition, health, transfer history, animal test results, genetic/parentage information, calving rates, and more. Download the app and start tracking and analyzing your herd's performance today at https://bisoncentral.com/conservation-item/nba-producers-app/, and join us for our second tutorial in July, for which details will be shared soon.



Get Registered for the 2022 IBC!

You are invited to a four-day convention for bison producers, marketers, researchers, and industry experts.



Full Conference Registration*: \$441.00 CAD

Full Conference Family Registration*: \$892.50 CAD – Ticket includes admission for three persons (16+) in the same family (SAVE \$430.50)

IBC 2022 - Convention Agenda

Tuesday, July 12 - TCU Place

6 PM – 11 PM | Opening Night Reception - Taste Saskatchewan

Come socialize at TCU Place and enjoy a selection of appetizers and drinks from some of our favorite local breweries and distilleries.

Wednesday, July 13 - TCU Place

9 AM - 12 PM: Keynote speaker and presentations

1 PM - 5 PM: Tours (must be pre-registered. Sales close July 10, 2022. If you would like to book the tour after the date, please check in with the INFORMATION DESK at TCU Place.)

6 PM - 11 PM: Banquet Dinner and networking

Thursday, July 14 - TCU Place

9 AM - 4 PM: Keynote Speakers and Breakouts

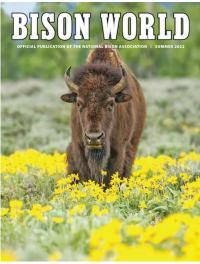
For more details, please visit our website

6 PM - 11 PM: Banquet Dinner and networking

Friday, July 15 - TCU Place

9 AM - 12 PM: Speakers and Breakouts 12 PM - 2 PM | Farewell Luncheon

Learn more and register for the IBC at https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/international-bison-convention-2022-registration-126340121705.



Advertising Opportunities in the Fall Issue of Bison World

Production will soon be underway on the Fall issue of the Bison World magazine.

Within the pages of the Fall magazine, there are a variety of advertising options available, 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 advertising space reservation deadline is July 10 with final materials being due by August 1. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time but will also be subjected to the same deadline for the Fall issue.

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

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.



Woman attacked by bison in Custer State Park

From KELO

CUSTER, S.D. (KELO) — A woman has been hospitalized following an encounter with a bison in Custer State Park.

While hiking near the Wildlife Loop Road a female visitor, her companion, and dog came over a hill and surprised a small herd of bull bison. It appears one of the bulls charged the dog and hit the female visitor, said the park in a Facebook post.

"It is always important to remember that bison, and all the animals in the park, are unpredictable," said Lydia Austin, Custer State Park's Visitor Services Manager. "When possible, stay at least 100 yards away from bison and always be extra aware when approaching blind corners."

While incidents between bison and visitors are not common in the park, they do happen. Custer State Park is home to one of the largest publicly owned bison herds in the world and hosts millions of visitors every year.

Read more.

Yellowstone Bison Take to Roads To Escape 1 in 1,000 Year Floods

From Newsweek

ison have taken to the roads to escape 1 in 1,000 year floods in Yellowstone National Park, a TikTok video shows.

The video posted by TikTok user <u>kryptekeeper</u>, shows a herd of the giant grazing mammals slowly walking up a road in the park.

A man can be heard saying: "A herd of bison has to walk up the road because they cannot cross that."

The camera then pans to a fast flowing river, to the side of the car, caused by the unprecedented rainfall the area has seen in recent days.

<u>The rainfall</u> across Montana, Wyoming and Idaho has caused record flooding across <u>Yellowstone</u> National Park. All five entrances to the park are closed across areas of all three states.

There have been <u>no recorded deaths</u> or injuries during the floods.

However, year round, Yellowstone is home to a wide variety of wildlife. In the park there are <u>67 species of mammals that graze</u> and use the land, including <u>wolves</u>, <u>bison</u> and <u>grizzly bears</u>. There are thought to be between 2,300 to 5,500 bison in the park, 700 bears, and at least 95 wolves.

Read more.

Pregracke: First Bison Bridge workshop, 'Inspiring' From The Quad City Times

The alignment for the new I-80 bridge at LeClaire and Rapids City has not yet been decided, but supporters of the proposed reuse, Bison Bridge, say the options being considered appear to bode well for the project.

Quad-City environmentalist Chad Pregracke has established a foundation and considerable public and private support for his idea of turning the vacant bridge into a massive crossing for tourists and wildlife, rather than demolishing the 55-year-old structure.

One span would be used as a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the Mississippi River and the other span would provide passage for a small herd of buffalo that could roam between state parks that would flank the bridge.

"As far as alignments go, the ones most likely to happen work great with Bison Bridge," Pregracke said Friday of the pending decision by the two state Departments of Transportation on where the new bridge will go. Seven options are being considered, including alignments upstream and downstream of the existing bridge, along with considerations for reusing the existing I-80 span.

With hopes high for a decision that would favor Bison Bridge, Pregracke and the foundation this week hosted a first workshop that brought university design teams to the

bridge by barge.

Twelve students and two professors from Iowa State University and University of Illinois landscape architecture departments are helping design Bison Bridge, and the teams spent a day visiting LeClaire, Rapids City and the bridge itself.

"It was better than I could've asked for; everything I wanted, only better," Pregracke said of the workshop. "We took our barge under the bridge and then a bus to the welcome center at Rapids City.

Read more.

Beefcake, One of the World's Oldest Bison, Dies at Wisconsin Zoo Days Before His 25th Birthday

From People

Henry Vilas Zoo is mourning the loss of a notable resident: Beefcake the bison. On June 8, the zoo in Madison, Wisconsin, <u>shared on Facebook</u> that it decided to humanely euthanize Beefcake, one of the world's oldest bison, a few days before his 25th birthday.

"We are heartbroken to announce that our male bison, Beefcake, was humanely euthanized yesterday morning," the zoo wrote on Facebook alongside a video of the bison.

The decision was not made lightly. Beefcake's health "had been closely monitored for months" before that animal's death. During that time, his animal care team "was treating a variety of age-related health issues," according to the Henry Vilas Zoo.

"Taking care of geriatric animals requires extra attention to detail. Older animals often have specific age-related health ailments, or are at a greater risk for injury," the park added.

Read more.

Bison topic for senior program June 21

From NWIowa.com

HAWARDEN—Sioux County Conservation will host Senior Environmental Learning and Fellowship programs on the topic of bison at 9:30 a.m. or 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 21, at the Prairie Woods Nature Center at Oak Grove Park near Hawarden. The 2022 theme is Creature Feature. Preregister at www.siouxcountyparks.org or call 712-552-3057.

Read more.

Deadline to sign up to receive the 2022 Census of Agriculture approaches

From USDA Press Release

WASHINGTON, June 2, 2022 – Agriculture producers who did not receive the 2017 Census of Agriculture and do not receive other USDA surveys or censuses have until June 30 to sign up to receive the 2022 Census of Agriculture at nass.usda.gov/AgCensus. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will mail ag census survey codes for responding securely online to every known U.S. producer this November. Hard copy questionnaires will follow in December.

The ag census, conducted for over 180 years, remains the only source of comprehensive and impartial agricultural data for every state and county in the nation. It includes every

operation – large or small, urban or rural – from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products are produced and sold, or would normally be produced and sold, in the ag census year.

"The Census of Agriculture is a collective voice that tells the story and value of American agriculture. The data influence action and inform policy and program decisions that directly impact producers, their operations, and everyone they touch – and that's all of us," said Barbara Rater, NASS Census and Survey Division director. "This is why a complete count, with every producer getting and taking the opportunity to be represented in these data, is so important."

On the NASS webpage, producers can also access frequently asked questions, explore past and current ag census data, access tools to help spread the word about the upcoming ag census, learn about ag census special studies, and more.

NASS builds its distribution list for every Census of Agriculture between and during ag census years through the official sign-up webpage and multiple National Agricultural Classification Surveys. To learn more about the 2022 Census of Agriculture, visit nass.usda.gov/AqCensus.

Inflation continues to press meat sales From Meatingplace.com

The height, the widespread nature and the continued acceleration of inflation dominated the U.S. headlines in May. Whether in the grocery store, at the pump or at the movies, consumers were paying more. But the focus on inflation is not limited to the media headlines.

According to the May edition of the IRI monthly survey of primary shoppers, Americans are ultra-aware of the price trends and many are applying lessons learned during the Great Recession to tighten spending.

- Awareness of inflation has been extremely high since early fall of 2021. The difference between then and now is the level of consumer concern about inflation and the subsequent reactions when buying groceries, which are intensifying by the month. In May, 95% of consumers were concerned over rising prices, of whom 48% were "very concerned." Additionally, 92% of consumers were concerned about higher gas prices, of whom 55% were extremely worried. In contrast, only 23% of consumers had extreme concern over COVID-19 in May 2022.
- The widespread nature and height of inflation is pressuring spending for many consumers, including 38% who described their financial health as strained. Thirty percent of American households stated they struggle affording needed groceries.
- Whereas in the fall of 2021, less than 50% made changes to their grocery shopping patterns and choices, 77% of consumers chose differently when buying groceries in May. This was up another 6 points from the April survey when 71% of consumers bought differently. The measures to combat inflation's impact on the grocery bill are widespread, including stocking up out of fear that items may cost more on future shopping trips (20%) or may simply not be available (16%) further pressuring in-stock conditions. Another tactic is making a list and sticking to it, according to 39% of shoppers, which tends to affect items with an impulse nature.
- At the same time that 45% of consumers looked for sales specials, 55% said that fewer of the items they want are on sale and 42% felt that items were not discounted as much, according to the May survey. This is compounding the inflationary pressure. Creative approaches such as shorter sales and cross-category promotions could be a much-needed answer. Other popular money-saving measures included cutting back on non-essentials (36%), looking for coupons (28%), buying more private brands (24%) and buying fewer items (23%).

Read more.

Heat wave kills thousands of cattle in Kansas: report From Meatingplace.com

State officials in Kansas say severe heat and humidity killed at least 2,000 head of cattle in recent days, according to a report by Reuters, while prolonged high temperatures in the region continue to pose a danger to animal health.

By Monday, temperatures in western Kansas had spiked to 108°F, a shock too sudden for cattle to be able to acclimate, and meteorologists predict slightly higher temps in the region this coming weekend, according to Reuters.

The scorching weather in beef country adds stress to a production system already reducing herds due to persistent drought, which is gripping much of the western United States.

While the High Plains saw good rainfall and temperatures in the previous 30 days, above-normal temperatures — by more than 3°F for much of the region — "finally crept in," according to the latest Drought Monitor report issued by University of Nebraska-Lincoln's National Drought Mitigation Center.

Extreme or exceptional drought, meanwhile, has taken hold in large swaths of Texas and New Mexico, in particular.

"Above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation was the main story across much of the southwestern [contiguous United States], extending into Texas, leading to general persistence and degradation of drought conditions," the Drought Monitor report said.

Texas, Nebraska and Kansas are the top three beef-producing states, respectively in the country.

Read more.

Ranchers to Serve on Local County Committees From USDA Press Release

WASHINGTON, June 15, 2022 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is now accepting nominations for county committee members. Elections will occur in certain Local Administrative Areas (LAA) for members. LAAs are elective areas for FSA committees in a single county or multi-county jurisdiction. This may include LAAs that are focused on an urban or suburban area.

County committee members make important decisions about how Federal farm programs are administered locally. All nomination forms for the 2022 election must be postmarked or received in the local FSA office by Aug. 1, 2022.

"It is a priority for USDA to integrate equity into its decision-making and policymaking, and that starts with our local FSA county committees," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "We need enthusiastic, diverse leaders to serve other agricultural producers on these committees as we work to build equitable systems and programming inclusive of all employees and all of our customers. I ask that you consider making a difference in your community by nominating yourself, or another agricultural producer, to serve on your local FSA county committee."

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in a USDA program and reside in the LAA that is up for election this year, may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. A cooperating producer is someone who has provided information about their farming or ranching operation to FSA, even if they have not applied or received program benefits. Individuals may nominate themselves or others and qualifying organizations may also nominate candidates. USDA encourages minority producers, women, and beginning

farmers or ranchers to nominate, vote and hold office.

Read more.

Minnesota Climate Smart Farms Project

The online application will open July 1, 2022, and will close May 31, 2023. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has received a \$100,000 grant from the McKnight Foundation to help farmers develop climate-smart farming practices that can mitigate climate change, build farm resiliency, and may provide them with a new income stream. The money will be used for the new Climate Smart Farms Project, part of the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). The Climate Smart Farms Project supports farmers who are currently enrolled in MAWQCP and would like to seek, or already have, a Climate Smart Endorsement for their operation. They can receive a minimum of \$1,000 a year for up to five years to assess and apply climate-focused conservation practices to their operation. Examples of practices include managing nitrogen fertilizer and manure to minimize greenhouse gas emissions or minimizing tillage, grazing livestock, and planting perennial crops to sequester carbon. Farmers and landowners interested in the Climate Smart Farms Project or becoming water quality certified can contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District or visit MyLandMyLegacy.com.



Save the Date!

- 6/17/2022 Montana Bison Association MT
- 6/18/2022 NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop Rugby, ND
- 6/23/2022 Western Bison Association Spring meeting UT
- 6/23/2022 Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction Online
- 7/06/2022 ITBC 4th Annual Buffalo Worker Safety Workshop SD
- 7/12/2022 International Bison Conference Saskatoon, SK
- 7/21/2022 Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction Online
- 8/15/2022 TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction Online
- 8/18/2022 Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction Online
- 9/10/2022 NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop Mission, SD
- 9/15/2022 Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction Online
- 9/24/2022 Rocky Mountain Bison Assn. Fall Ranch Tour Gillette, WY
- 10/15/2022 NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop Villa Grove, IL
- 11/05/2022 Custer State Park Annual Buffalo Auction SD
- 11/9/2022 Antelope Island State Park Bison Auction Online
- 11/25/2022 Minnesota Bison Association Bison Fundamentals MN
- 11/26/2022 Minnesota Bison Association Legends of the Fall Sale MN
- 11/14/2022 TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction Online
- 12/01/2022 Kansas Buffalo Association Sale KS
- 12/01/2022 Western Bison Association Meeting and Show/Sale UT

- 1/07/2023 Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Simulcast Auction SD
- 1/18/2023 NBA Winter Conference CO
- 1/21/2023 NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale Denver, CO
- 2/11/2023 Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Sale Simulcast Auction SD
- 3/09/2023 Eastern Bison Association Winter Conference and Auction PA

Please visit https://bisoncentral.com/calendar/ for details and more up-to-date events. If you have a bison event coming up that's not listed, please send the details to jim@bisoncentral.com and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events





