

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



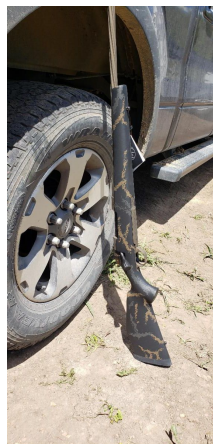
The National Bison Association (NBA) Weekly Update is an exclusive service for NBA members.

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NBA Weekly Update for June 4, 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.



One Week to Register - Raffle Item Announced

Just one week left to register for the 2021 NBA Summer Conference, hosted by the [Rocky Mountain Bison Association](#) (RMBA). We have a great couple days lined up with some fun activities, such as the NBF Cornhole Tournament (see article below), a chance to visit and tour Terry Bison Ranch and tour a bison herd by rail, and plenty of learning and

networking opportunities as well. Today is the last day to reserve lodging at Little America, see details below. Please be sure to register for the conference by June 11th [here](#), or by calling the NBA at 303-292-2833.

We're also pleased to announce our conference raffle item, a custom Mark V Weatherby Rifle pictured above, 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. Raffle will be called at the Tuesday evening closing dinner.

The Little America host hotel this week reported that the hotel is sold out on Sunday, June 27th, however there are plenty of rooms left on Monday and Tuesday. As such, 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**. Again, you can still reserve your discounted lodging at Little America for Monday and Tuesday nights if you reserve by today – [reserve online here](#), or call them at 800-235-6396 and request the NBA room block.

[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

Perhaps a Road Best Not Traveled

(NBA Blog by Dave Carter)

As genetic engineering capabilities vault forward, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently initiated the steps to start developing regulations governing the production of genetically modified animals, and the meat they produce.

The advance public input process undertaken by APHIS presumes that meat from genetically engineered animals will soon be headed to retail meat cases and restaurant menus. But the "Notice of Advance Rulemaking" APHIS issued a few months ago also assumes that genetically engineered meat and poultry will only be coming from animals classified as amenable species...beef, pork, chicken, and other mainstream livestock

commodities. Bison aren't included.

For once, being excluded is just fine with me.

NBA Assistant Director Jim Matheson and I had an opportunity to tell that to APHIS officials when they scheduled a recent Zoom meeting to gain our input. We informed the officials of the NBA Code of Ethics prohibiting genetically modified bison for use in food production, as well as the code's prohibition on crossbreeding with other species and use of artificial reproduction technologies. Our relationship with our customers, we told the officials, is based in large part on respecting the work that Mother Nature performed over thousands of years in perfecting the animal, and its relationship to the ecosystem.

Some may consider the NBA's position to reflect an opposition to technological advances. After all, I've had some pointed conversations with some within our business who argue the benefits of being able to genetically engineer an animal that can finish for harvest more quickly, produce a consistently even ribeye area and other factors that can provide potential market profitability. *(Note: see story above regarding the NBA's support for scientific research.)*

Yes, those characteristics are all possible, as are genetic manipulation to create disease resistance, lower methane emissions, pre-sexed offspring and other traits.

It's possible, but is it wise?

If we were to head down that road, how far would we travel before we cross the line from actually raising an animal to simply producing cultured meat on the hoof? After all, if we want to engineer the genetics to the extent of producing all of the qualities we want while reducing the costs and other factors we don't want, what's the advantage of raising an actual animal over producing meat in a laboratory?

That's a question that our friends in the beef, pork and poultry industries may have to answer sooner, rather than later.

As for me, I'll stick with nature's original plant-based protein...bison.

SDSU Center of Excellence for Bison Studies Approves Eight Research Projects to Improve Understanding of All Things Bison

RAPID CITY, S.D. - A new era in bison research formally began this week as the recently established Center of Excellence for Bison Studies funded eight projects to study topics ranging from ecosystem impact to meat quality.

The Center awarded more than \$300,000 in funding to support the first year of each project, some of which may extend for up to three years.

"The projects authorized this week will contribute extensively to the pool of knowledge in a variety of areas regarding bison production, herd health, ecosystem management, cultural impacts, and meat quality," said Dr. Kristi Cammack, executive director of the South Dakota State University Center of Excellence for Bison Studies.

The center's board of directors began this year's funding process by reviewing 32 letters of intent submitted by applicants from across the United States and Canada. Of those applicants, 16 were invited to submit formal research proposals.

The National Bison Association's Science and Research Committee formally reviewed the proposals and identified the top applications for funding. The funding for the proposals was provided by the [National Buffalo Foundation](#), which is engaged in a major fundraising effort to support the center's work.

"One of the overriding priorities for the center is to fund proposals that meet the needs of the bison industry," said Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association. "The newly-authorized projects will benefit not only North American bison ranchers, but

tribal producers and public herd managers as well.”

The Center of Excellence was chartered last September through a cooperative effort among South Dakota State University, the National Bison Association, and the National Buffalo Foundation.

Projects authorized by the Center of Excellence include:

- A baseline inventory assessment of biological and cultural impacts of buffalo restoration in Indian country (InterTribal Buffalo Council)
- An integrated approach to assess parasite burden and anthelmintic treatment success in North American bison (Kansas State University)
- Benchmarking live animal and carcass quality outcomes at slaughter to identify factors impacting bison carcass value (Colorado State University)
- Bison on the move: How translocations affect bison production and disease prevalence across space, time, and organization (South Dakota State University)
- Characterization of bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) in bison (South Dakota State University)
- Comparison of ground nesting bee (Apoidea) abundance and diversity between bison wallows and adjacent prairie (USDA – Agricultural Research Service)
- Habitat use and avoidance in a large, patchy landscape by American plains bison: Implications for management and conservation of the species (University of Nebraska – Kearney)
- Investigating the ruminal metagenome of grass-fed bison to uncover metabolic activities that impact the efficiency of forage utilization (South Dakota State University)

Projects are expected to begin July 1st.

Commercial marketers’ Survey Still Open

Commercial Marketers who have not yet completed the Twice-yearly Market Survey are encouraged to do so by the end of Monday, June 7th.

“We are still missing some participation in this round of the survey, so want to leave it open for the next couple of days,” said Dave Carter, NBA executive director. “This survey is a valuable tool, and a good measure of key trends in our business. I’m hoping all of our major marketers will participate.”

Polish Your Cornhole Skills Before Summer Conference

NBA members arriving in Cheyenne on Sunday afternoon, June 27th, will have an opportunity to rest, relax, catch up with old friends...and to toss “bison” bags to generate support for the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies.

The NBA, in conjunction with the [National Buffalo Foundation](#), will be hosting a Sunday evening welcome reception and cornhole tournament in the outdoor patio area at the Little America Hotel in Cheyenne.

Players may participate in the tournament for an entry fee of \$20 and compete for some fun prizes, including one of the customized cornhole sets. All proceeds will go to support the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies at South Dakota State University.

The evening will feature a cash bar, along with tender tail bison skewers provided by Rocky Mountain Natural Meats.

“This will be a great day for members to catch up with old friends, welcome newcomers into the NBA and to have fun while supporting the important work being conducted by the Center of Excellence,” said Eloise Mongillo, NBA’s Director of Development.

The Welcome Reception and Cornhole tournament are being sponsored by Farmers Business Network, a company dedicated to helping Family Farmers maximize their farm's profit potential with a data and technology enabled direct-to-farm commerce, community and sustainability platform that redefines value and convenience.

Correction From May 28th Weekly Update

Obituary: David L. Ruhter

David L. Ruhter, 69, of Urbana passed away at 11:54 a.m. on May 25, at Carle Foundation Hospital. He was born on May 27, 1951 in Winfield, Kansas, the son of Paul and Mary (Fulton) Ruhter. He married Kathleen Bair on August 20, 1972. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, two sons- Mathew(Mary)Ruhter of Frankfort, Illinois and Jeremy(Colleen)Ruhter of Sidney, Illinois; grandchildren- Ian, Rosemary, Lorelei, Zachary and Abilene; one brother- Paul (Shirley) Ruhter of Idaho; two sisters- Polly (Gary) Epting of Kansas and Marilyn (Dave) Younie of Colorado. He is preceded in death by his parents. David graduated from the University of Kansas with a Master's degree in Systematics and Ecology. He pursued his passion for biodiversity and wildlife with a distinguished career in various Zoos and Parks and at the University of Illinois. He was an advocate for animal welfare and developed low stress care and handling protocols that focused on both the animal's physical and mental health. He authored several husbandry articles on antelopes and elephants that became the standard of care within the industry. He reimagined how people and wildlife coexist by advocating for a healthy and respectful relationship between man and this planet. Education was pivotal to his goals in conservation. During his career he appeared regularly on a children show in Nebraska, implemented interactive animal exhibits at the Oklahoma City Zoo, oversaw the building of a environmental education building at the Houston Zoo and launched Earth Camp while Wildlife Director at Silver Springs Park in Florida. His work culminated in his retirement when he saw his ultimate vision realized when he started Ruhter Bison LLC in 2011, using a model of providing a sustainable source of food while building natural habitats and restoring native prairie. One day while looking over his bison grazing, David claimed he had achieved success by proclaiming "life is good". David was deeply devoted to his family and his greatest pride were his children and grandchildren. A kind soul was lost to the world but the love he had for it will be felt for generations Memorials may be made to The Nature Conservancy. Condolences may be shared at www.renner-wikoffchapel.com.

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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Company tests new Bluetooth tech for cattle on Wyoming

ranch

(From Jackson Hole News & Guide)

Editors' note - HerdDogg developed and hosts the [NBA Bison App and Conservation Management Plan](#) and the purchase of their tags and products helps offset the NBA's hosting fees. Visit HerdDogg's booth and their products at the upcoming NBA Summer Conference.

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP) - In Melissa Brandao's vision, every cow in Wyoming will soon sport a new high-tech earring, transferring real-time data via Bluetooth on the animal's location and biometrics.

Brandao is the founder and chief revenue officer of HerdDogg, a technology company that creates specialized ear tags and tracking software to give ranchers information on their herd and in turn increase the value of each animal. The venture-backed ag tech startup launched in Ashland, Oregon, and recently moved its headquarters to Laramie, which has attracted a suite of tech companies over the past decade due to its low costs and the opportunity for partnerships with the University of Wyoming.

This month HerdDogg also partnered with Jackson's Lockhart Cattle Company to pilot its latest Bluetooth platform.

"Sometimes I pinch myself. I'm standing in one of the most beautiful places on the planet talking about just an incredibly innovative solution for the meat industry," Brandao said Monday, looking out over a sea of Hereford heifers.

That solution is both the hardware — tags that remotely monitor ambient temperature, location and acceleration — and the software to aggregate data points, track each cow through its lifespan, and provide a user-friendly readout via the HerdDogg app, the Jackson Hole News & Guide reports.

For the startup, finding a ranch like the Lockharts' was critical as both a proof of concept and a stage for marketing. The ranch's location near the base of the Teton Range makes for an ideal backdrop for photo shoots and video spots (which are being directed by Orijin Media, a creative agency owned by Teton Media Works, the parent company of the News & Guide).

Read [more](#).

Northstar Bison succeeds by controlling every facet of its operation from gate to plate

(From The Wisconsin State Farmer)

CAMERON – Northstar Bison is a family-owned and operated, vertically integrated enterprise, that has found success by controlling production, processing and marketing of its products.

During a recent online seminar, Marielle Hewitt, a wife, mother and second-generation member of the management team, shared with GrassWorks members some of what the family has learned during the past quarter century of producing grass-fed bison.

"I've had a passion for what we do in our business from a very early age," Hewitt said.

The enterprise was started by her parents Lee and Mary Graese as a hobby farm in 1994. Although both had been raised on farms, they were not involved in agriculture when they married and began raising a family.

"Each had established successful careers in nutrition, wellness and physical fitness fields," Hewitt noted, "and they had a passion for healthy food and healthy living, and seeing people thrive physically."

However, both had a desire to raise their young family in a ranch setting.

“That small part of agriculture, and work ethic, that had been ingrained in each of them began to resurface,” Hewitt said.

Read [more](#).

Bringing wild bison and an endangered ecosystem back *(From High Country News)*

On a blustery October afternoon at the Wolfcrow Bison Ranch in southern Alberta, Canada, Dan Fox and his ranch hand, Man Blackplume, tried to wrestle fence panels into place despite a 60 mph wind. The next day was weaning day — and the fence needed to be rock solid so the bison calves could be separated from their mothers.

The two members of the Kainai First Nation, also known as the Blood Tribe, braced their bodies against the 12-foot-high fence panels so they could nail them to the posts, but the panels flapped in the wind like giant wooden flags. Across the pasture, 30 bison stood huddled together in the corner, unfazed by the commotion. They were part of the first bison herd to grace the Blood Reserve in 150 years, Fox says. The Kainai First Nation is one of four tribal groups within the Blackfoot Confederacy, which includes the Blackfeet Tribe in Montana.

Fox, 63, believes the animals may have helped extend his life. He experienced a cancer scare more than 20 years ago, and at the suggestion of a Blackfoot healer and naturopath, he changed his diet, replacing processed food with bison meat and other ancestral foods. His health improved, and today he says he feels better than ever. He is convinced that his family and his community will benefit, as he did, by having the buffalo back on the land and in their lives. (Bison bison is the scientific name for the animal, but buffalo is the word that most Indigenous people use.)

More importantly, he said, the bison began to teach him about his culture and what it means to be a Blackfoot. “The elders from back in the day predicted that the only way the Native people are going to start gaining ground again, their ways of life, is when the bison come back,” said Fox.

Read [more](#).

Henry Doorly announces four-hooved bundle of joy *(From KMTV-CBS)*

OMAHA, Neb. (KMTV) — On Friday, Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium announced top honors in several categories of a USA Today poll, and a new baby at Lee G. Simmons Wildlife Safari Park in Ashland.

Read more in the zoo’s release below:

The bison herd at Lee G. Simmons Wildlife Safari Park in Ashland has grown by one — a calf born on May 11. Visitors can see the auburn-colored calf roaming Bison Plains with mom and the herd.

Bison calves will turn dark brown a few months after birth, the same time their characteristic hump and horns start to grow.

Since its opening in 1998, the Wildlife Safari Park has played a key role in conserving bison and educating the public about the critical challenges impacting the native species and the national mammal of the United States. Wildlife Safari Park currently has 32 bison, including the calf.

Read [more](#).

New Plant Plans Pop Up Across the Country

(From Meatingplace.com)

Responding to the supply chain disruptions wreaked in 2020 by the spread of the pandemic, plans have emerged in several states to build new smaller meat processing facilities, especially to expand capacity serving small producers.

In North Dakota, the agriculture commissioner awarded \$61,500 to Butchers Edge to start a meat processing facility in Edgeley. It was one of five grants, totaling \$194,875, [awarded by the state's Agricultural Products Utilization Commission](#). The owners plan to retrofit an existing building and hope to be operating by January or February 2022, [according to a report on NewsDakota.com](#), however, other planning hurdles remain before construction can begin.

Meanwhile, in Kingsbury, N.Y., Kilcoyne Farms, a supplier of “all-natural” beef to foodservice and consumers, has [applied to the Warren-Washington Industrial Development Agency](#) to build a 25,000 to 30,000 square foot greenfield plant. The Hudson Falls-based company expects the project would cost about \$8 million. In addition to bringing its own harvesting and processing needs closer — it currently harvests its livestock at a facility several hours away, [according to a report in the Glens Falls, N.Y. Post-Star](#) — Kilcoyne promises to use the facility as an education and training facility for skilled butchers to serve the local culinary, hospitality and regional meat industries.

And in Mississippi, the state's [Department of Agriculture and Commerce has approved \\$3.1 million in funding](#) to double the meat processing capacity across Mississippi. Seven companies have been approved for the funds, including Attala Frozen Foods, Homestead Farm and Packing, Pitcock Processing Inc., Cutting Edge Meat Co., A Cut Above Meat Processing and Market LLC, Blue Sky RE LLC and Juniper Creek Farms LLC.

[Source.](#)

Meat Buyers Scramble After Cyberattack Hobbles JBS

(From the Wall Street Journal)

Meatpacker [JBS](#) SA [JBSAY -0.50%](#) was hit by a ransomware attack that took a big chunk of U.S. beef-and-pork processing offline, sending buyers scrambling for alternatives and raising pressure on meat supplies.

The attack ratcheted up pressure on a [food-supply chain already under strain](#) from labor shortages, production constraints and high transportation costs. Late Tuesday, a company executive said JBS was making progress toward restoring its systems, and that the majority of its meat plants would be operational Wednesday.

Brazil-based JBS, the world's biggest meat company by sales, told the Biden administration that it was the victim of a ransomware attack, White House principal deputy press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said on Tuesday. She said JBS reported that the attack originated from a criminal group likely based in Russia.

“The White House is engaging directly with the Russian government on this matter and delivering the message that responsible states do not harbor ransomware criminals,” Ms. Jean-Pierre said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Wednesday declined to comment on the attack, saying he had no information about it but that there were ongoing contacts between Russia and the U.S. through diplomatic channels.

[Source.](#)

Funding Opportunities

Conservation Innovation Grants in Virginia

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is seeking [Conservation Innovation Grant](#) proposals focused on research, demonstrations, outreach and educational initiatives to advance adoption of soil health management practices in Virginia. Projects should reflect a clear understanding of and alignment with state soil health issues and ultimately lead to greater implementation of one or more of these soil health principles: keep soil covered, minimize soil disturbance, maximize living roots and energize with diversity.

Preferred projects will focus on agronomic assessment of soil health/dynamic soil properties, integrated conservation agronomy (systems-level assimilation of soil health with one or more conservation-related disciplines) or both. Grants will be awarded for projects between one and three years' duration with a maximum single award of \$300,000.

Proposals are due by June 18, 2021.

Conservation Innovation Grants in South Dakota

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has [Conservation Innovation Grant](#) (CIG) funding available to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies.

Applications are accepted from eligible entities for projects carried out in the state of South Dakota. A total of up to \$150,000 is available for the South Dakota CIG competition in FY 2021. All non-federal entities and individuals are invited to apply. Projects may be between one and three years in duration. The maximum award amount for a single award is \$75,000.

Applications are due by June 21, 2021.

Conservation Innovation Grants in Maine

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has [Conservation Innovation Grants](#) (CIGs) available to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in Maine. NRCS anticipates that the amount available for support of this program in Fiscal Year 2021 will be up to \$250,000, with a per-award maximum of \$75,000.

Proposals are requested from eligible governmental or non-governmental organizations, or individuals, for competitive consideration of grant awards. Projects will be between one and three years in duration. For Fiscal Year 2021, NRCS will consider offering CIGs in the following areas: Forestry; Aquatic Organism Conservation; Soil Health; Pollinator Conservation; and Irrigation and Natural Soil Moisture Management.

Proposals are due by June 21, 2021.

Conservation Innovation Grants in Vermont

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Vermont has up to \$465,000 available for [Conservation Innovation Grants](#). Non-federal entities are eligible to apply. Projects may be between one and three years in duration.

The maximum award amount for a single award in FY 2021 is \$175,000. Priorities for the Vermont call for proposals include the following: Water Quality, Soil Health, and Forestry and Wildlife Habitat Management.

Proposals are due by June 29, 2021.



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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

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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