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Weekly Update



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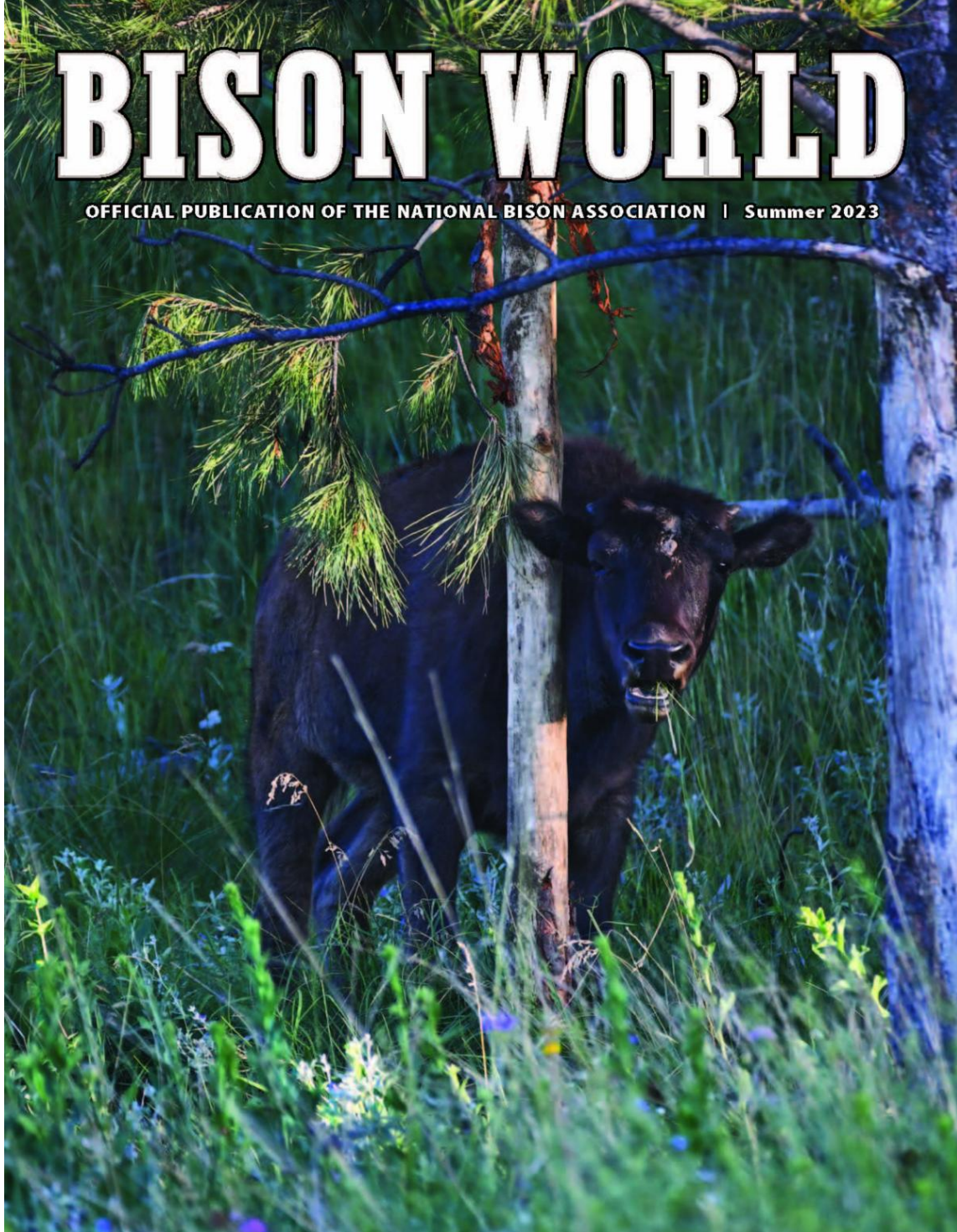
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NBA Weekly Update for June 9, 2023

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

BISON WORLD

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION | Summer 2023



Summer Edition of Bison World Virtually Available!

One of the perks of NBA membership is access to the Bison World magazine before the printed copies arrive in the mail! Production on the Summer issue has wrapped up, and it is now available on the [Bison World](#) bookshelf on the NBA website. You must log in to the member area to access the magazine.

You can view the flipbook version of the magazine right on your computer. Handy links allow you to open it into a new window, make it larger, and even magnify certain features. The realistic page-turning sounds make it feel like you are reading the printed version of the magazine. We are also incorporating links that will take you directly to websites and other areas of interest. Hover and click over links or ads to enable this feature.

The hard copy magazine and the directory are currently being printed and will mail shortly.

The White Bison of Today

By Jim Matheson

Bison friends, I'm guessing that by now you've likely seen or heard about the latest article about a white bison being born at Bear River State Park in Evanston, Wyoming. Here at the National Bison Association (NBA), we generally love to see bison in the news, but this story includes some questionable claims in most of the published articles, particularly about the occurrence of a white bison being born.

The article details the May 16 birth of a 30-pound white bison calf at the park to its white mother. As of the most recent article two days ago, the calf is healthy and still being supported by its mother. After the initial burst of news stories came out about the event, we didn't see another one for about two weeks. Since then, a slew of articles have been released and they're still coming.

If you are familiar with the story, then you likely saw that many of the articles cite the chances of a white bison being born are one in ten million, "according to the National Bison Association." The NBA has been wrongly credited with this estimate for at least 15 years, and it simply is not true. The truth is we simply don't know the occurrence of a white bison because, to my knowledge, no one has ever kept track.

The NBA has great reverence for the spiritual significance of a white bison being born in Native American Tribal cultures. It's also worth noting that the NBA counts Native Americans among its members and has a memorandum of understanding with the InterTribal Bison Council, which the NBA collaborates with on an array of bison matters.

In recent years, we've seen the proliferation of white bison, seemingly for the sole purpose of tourism by non-native people. Further complicating the situation is that one can breed a white bison rather easily by crossbreeding a plains bison with white Charolais cattle. As a result, it's not uncommon to see folks promoting their white bison on social media and beyond these days. While we at the NBA fully support an individual's right to pursue legal agricultural endeavors of their choosing on their property, we also prohibit the crossbreeding of bison with any other species. The prohibition of crossbreeding is part of our code of ethics, which NBA members abide by.

The NBA code of ethics explicitly states that members will "Never engage in deliberate cross-breeding of bison with another species." We also offer bison genetic testing through the University of California at Davis' genetics laboratory, which includes a Charolais diluter gene test to detect the presence of those alleles in the animal's DNA. Further, the NBA has a policy to not sell white bison on its classified service, the Trading Board, due to the mere potential of crossbreeding.

Bear River State Park is not a member of the NBA, and based on some articles, the calf's mother was one of two white bison donated to the park years prior by a local ranch, which is also not an NBA member. I state this because a number of NBA members have contacted our office about this instance being a potential violation of our shared code of ethics. This exhibits to me our memberships' great concern about the potential crossbreeding of any bison, not to mention the overall welfare of the bison species, and I applaud our members for their concern.

Like so many other instances in today's information age, things are not always as they seem on the surface. Unfortunately, bison are not immune to these misnomers, but rest assured, NBA members will continue to responsibly breed and steward our national mammal of the United States while restoring the species through responsible farming and ranching.

Bison World Advertising Opportunities for Fall Edition

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

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

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

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

Over 80 Registered for Northern NBA Summer Conference

Registration is closed, and final plans are getting finalized for the Northern NBA Summer Conference next week. Attendees will be treated to delicious bison meals, and top notch programming in the beautiful black hills of South Dakota.

NBA regional events are bringing our quality educational outreach to YOU! Check out the specific event agendas and discover the unique learning at each event. Registration is priced to allow every NBA member to participate and includes meals, top notch networking and education, and a chance to witness bison management and innovation first-hand at working bison operations.

Register here: www.bisoncentral.com/nba-conferences/

Upcoming Events

June 24 2023 **Bison Ranch Field Day**
@ Cherokee Valley Bison Ranch near Thornville, OH
Register by June 12

Bison Ranch Field Day **July 09 2023**
@ Sleepy Bison Acres near Sleepy Eye, MN
Register by June 23

July 14-16 2024 **Western Regional Conference**
@ Ontario, OR/ New Plymouth, ID
Register by June 30

NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION

Still Time to Register for June 24th Ohio Regenerative Ranching Field Day

[Cherokee Valley Bison Ranch](#) near Thornville, Ohio is hosting a regenerative ranching field day on June 24th. Registration closes on Monday, June 12th- so don't delay to [register](#)!

Speakers will focus on silvopasture, agritourism, and bison management. A small registration fee covers the full day of learning and a delicious and nutritious bison lunch. This event is made possible by collaboration with the Eastern Bison Association, North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Grant and a whole bunch of work by Carie and family at Cherokee Valley Bison Ranch.

Register here: www.bisoncentral.com/nba-conferences/

July 15th Western NBA Summer Conference to Tour Four Herds and a Processing Facility

What does the Treasure Valley western Idaho and Eastern Oregon have? Bison. Join us in learning about bison and take a deeper dive into different feeding methods, direct marketing and processing. This event includes two different ranch tours- viewing at least 4 herds, and a processing plant tour.

Don't miss this great opportunity and [register](#) by June 30th!

4 reasons to attend:

- [Shoemaker Bison Ranch](#)
- [Brown's Buffalo Ranch](#)
- [Northwest Premium Meats](#) plant tour
- Catering (and learning) at the [Broken Bowl](#)

Book your deeply discounted Western Conference lodging at the beautiful Holiday Inn Express hotel!

Call the Holiday Inn Express hotel directly at 541-889-7100 to reserve a room and ask for the "National Bison Association" rate. **Hurry- the group rate is only available until June 14th!**

NBA Participates in USDA Indian Agriculture Summit

Chad Kremer, President of the National Bison Association, represented the NBA at a two day summit hosted by the USDA-FSA, NRCS and RMA in Pierre, South Dakota. Chad shared NBA resources with attendees, and participated in the summit sessions. Topics included federal agency overviews, strategies to participate in federal programs and grant programs. "This was a good event with a lot of information shared," summarized Kremer.

NBA Attends Texas Bison Association Spring Meeting

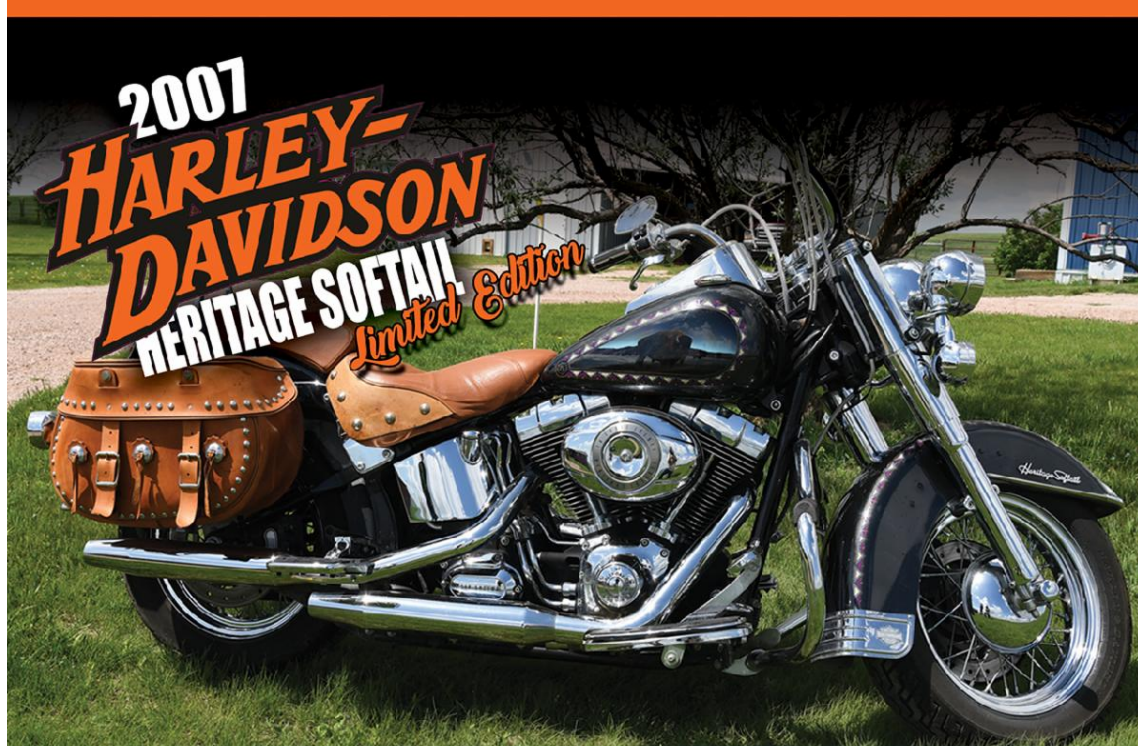
Jim Matheson, executive director, is on the road today heading to the Texas Bison Association Spring Meeting. This spring conference is loaded with valuable information and great networking opportunities. Topics will cover website creation, bison health, pasture health, and bison marketing.

"I'm looking forward to catching up with our friends in Texas. We greatly appreciate the

collaboration we share with the Texas Bison Association," said Matheson.

Motorcycle Auction to Benefit Bruce and Martha Anderson

For photos, videos and to register for online bidding, [click here](#).



BRUCE AND MARTHA ANDERSON HARLEY DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLE FUNDRAISER SIMULCAST AUCTION • FRIDAY, JUNE 16 • 7:00 P.M. MST RAMKOTA HOTEL • RAPID CITY, SD

Held in conjunction with the National Bison Association's Northern Regional Conference

Bruce and Martha Anderson are presenting an opportunity to own a Limited Edition 2007 International Bison Conference (IBC) Harley Davidson Heritage Softail. This beautiful motorcycle, with a custom paint job tailored to the owner, was purchased and proudly ridden by Bruce for many years.

One of a group of 15 limited edition motorcycles, these bikes were the primary fundraiser for the 2007 International Bison Conference. Bruce was instrumental in planning and executing that conference and further showed his support by purchasing #13 of the motorcycles.

This beautiful motorcycle features a custom paint job with the 2007 IBC logo, number 13, and a bison scene on the gas tank. The bike has 12,181 miles (it may have a few more very limited miles by auction time), bison leather saddlebags, and a seat crafted by Lonnie's Boot & Saddle in Rapid City, SD. Flat Earth Art & Sign in Spearfish, SD, did the artwork, and the paint was done by the Body and Collision Center in Belle Fourche, SD. Black Hills Harley Davidson partnered with the IBC Committee to make these motorcycles available for purchase, auction and raffle.

The motorcycle will be offered at a simulcast auction on Friday, June 16, during the NBA Northern Regional Conference in Rapid City, SD, at the Ramkota Hotel. Bidders will be able to bid live or online. The motorcycle will be on display during the Friday evening reception prior to the auction.

100% of the proceeds from the sale of this motorcycle will go to Bruce and Martha Anderson. We appreciate your support and generosity!

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.

Miller, Caraveo Introduce the Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act

June 7, 2023

Katherine Robbins

Press Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Congresswoman Carol Miller (R-WV) and Congresswoman Yadira Caraveo (D-CO) introduced the Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act. This bipartisan legislation will give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority to ensure that products that use water buffalo are marketed as "water buffalo" so that consumers aren't misled to believe the product contains bison.

Click [here](#) for bill text.

"Owning a bison farm, I am aware of what it takes to raise bison and the many benefits that come with the production of bison products for West Virginia," *said Congresswoman Miller*. "When a product is labeled as "buffalo," consumers usually think that product contains bison. This bill makes absolutely certain that only bison products are labeled as "buffalo" and that any water buffalo products have their own specific label. This will help consumers make better choices and bolster the American bison industry."

"The American people deserve to know what they're eating, and that means ensuring what's on the label is an accurate description of what's inside the package," *said Congresswoman Caraveo*. "The Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act will prevent imported water buffalo products from being deceptively labeled as buffalo, which many Americans associate with American bison. I'm glad to join Rep. Miller in this bipartisan effort to give consumers this clarity and peace of mind."

Background:

- This bill will prevent water buffalo products from being labeled as "buffalo," which is a term often associated with the American bison.
- In 2018, the FDA admitted that there should be separate and specific labels for water buffalo and bison.
- Bison products are highly sought after for human and pet food products because of their great taste and nutritional benefits, along with the sustainable practices used in raising bison.
- This bill is supported by the National Bison Association and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition.

Miller: Product labels should decipher between bison or water buffalo ingredients

By Ripon Advance News Service

June 9, 2023

U.S. Rep. Carol Miller (R-WV) on June 6 sponsored bipartisan legislation that would ensure consumers know the difference between products containing bison or water buffalo.

Rep. Miller introduced the Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act of 2023, H.R. 3866, alongside original cosponsor U.S. Rep. Yadira Caraveo (D-CO) to give the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority to ensure that products that use water buffalo are marketed as such so that consumers aren't misled to think the product contains bison, according to a bill summary provided by Rep. Miller's office.

"Owning a bison farm, I am aware of what it takes to raise bison and the many benefits that come with the production of bison products for West Virginia," Rep. Miller said. "When a product is labeled as 'buffalo,' consumers usually think that product contains bison."

"This bill makes absolutely certain that only bison products are labeled as buffalo and that any water buffalo products have their own specific label," she said. "This will help

consumers make better choices and bolster the American bison industry.”

The National Bison Association and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition endorsed H.R. 3866, which has been referred to the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee for consideration.

“The Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act will prevent imported water buffalo products from being deceptively labeled as buffalo, which many Americans associate with American bison,” said Rep. Caraveo. “I’m glad to join Rep. Miller in this bipartisan effort to give consumers this clarity and peace of mind.”

[Read more.](#)

Bison industry expanding, becoming mainstream

Grainews

By GFM Network News

6/7/2023

MarketsFarm — The Canadian bison industry has been through some difficult times during the last few years but is now emerging from those doldrums, according to Manitoba Bison Association president Robert Johnson.

“Between the two drought years and the COVID-19 pandemic, then high feed prices, probably the last two years have been pretty crappy for bison prices,” he said.

Johnson pointed to the hard work the commercial marketers have undertaken to help overcome those tough years. He said they not only promote the meat but also the environmental and sustainable aspects of the bison industry.

“Everyone is more and more aware that there’s bison raised in North America and [the meat] is a lot more readily available than it has ever been,” he stated, noting most of the major supermarket chains in the country carry bison products.

“We have emerged from bison being a kind of seasonal meat product to where it’s becoming more mainstream and readily available year-round,” Johnson added.

One of the main reasons for bison meat having been seen as seasonal was when the animals were usually auctioned — during the fall and winter months. Now, he said, bison are either sold through online auctions or privately.

There was one auction facility located at North Battleford, Sask., but he said it no longer offers such sales anymore.

“Our market is very, very small compared to the beef industry or anything like that,” Johnson said, so often it’s two people haggling their way to a fair price or watching an online auction.

“The bison business is a relationship business. There are people with good relationships with the producers and with people who are buying feed or to background,” he continued, noting the online sales have proven to be a boon to the industry.

[Read more.](#)

Proposed ordinance would ban meat processing in Denver

From Meatingplace

A citizen-proposed Denver ordinance — should it make it onto the ballot and pass — would prohibit “the construction, maintenance or use of” meat processing facilities in Denver.

The ordinance would, additionally, “require the city to prioritize residents who employment is affected by the ordinance in workforce training or employment assistance programs.” It would further offer those who lose their jobs as a result priority status in city-run “employment assistance” programs.

The ballot measure, titled “Prohibition of Slaughterhouses” is currently in the signature gathering phase. If enough signatures are gathered — a minimum of 26,000 signatures from active, registered voters — the measure will appear on the April 2024 municipal election ballot.

The measure says that processing facilities are “nuisances,” owing to their “foul odors” as well as the “disagreeable nature of their operations” and their connection to climate change.

[Read more.](#)

Former USDA inspector gets 5 years in prison for accepting bribes

From Meatingplace

A former USDA animal inspector has been ordered to serve nearly five years in federal prison for accepting tens of thousands in bribes from cattle brokers at the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas.

Roberto Adams, 69, of Laredo, Texas, pleaded guilty on April 25, 2022. He was indicted a month earlier.

U.S. District Judge Marina Garcia Marmolejo ordered Adams to serve a total of 57 months, followed by three years of supervised release. The judge enhanced the sentence because Adams accepted more than one bribe payment while in a position of public trust for a total amount of more than \$40,000.

In handing down the sentence, Marmolejo noted Adams did not understand the gravity of the crime he committed and the significance of the harm he did or could have caused by allowing diseased cattle into the country. He was also ordered to immediately pay \$40,000 in fines.

[Read more.](#)

farm crisis center

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

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

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

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

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



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Save the Date!

- 6/09/2023 - Texas Bison Assn. Spring Conference - Waco, TX
- 6/16/2023 - NBA Regional Conference - Rapid City, SD
- 6/16/2023 - Montana Bison Association Summer Meeting - MT
- 6/21/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 6/24/2023 - NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day - Thornville, OH
- 7/09/2023 - NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day - Sleepy Eye, MN
- 7/15/2023 - NBA Regional Conference - New Plymouth, ID
- 8/9/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 9/13/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 9/29/2023 - Eastern Bison Association Fall Conference - Varysburg, NY
- 9/30/2023 - NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day - Baldwin, WI
- 10/7/2023 - NBA Regional Conference - Terra Alta, WV
- 10/13/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 11/8/2023 - Antelope Island State Park Production Auction - Webcast
- 11/10/2023 - Illinois Indiana Bison Association Fall Conference - Roanoke, IN
- 11/10/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online

- 11/24/2023 - MnBA Bison Fundamentals Class - Albany, MN
- 11/25/2023 - MnBA Legends of the Fall Show and Sale - Albany, MN
- 12/6/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 1/1/2024 - Prairie Legends Bison Auction - Webcast

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.

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Events

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