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Weekly Update



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NBA Weekly Update for March 11, 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.

Bids Awarded for FDPIR Purchases

USDA's Agricultural marketing Service (AMS) awarded contracts this week to purchase 200,000 lbs. of frozen ground bison for use in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) between May and September.

Frontiere Natural Meats of Denver was awarded contracts for two 40,000 loads of ground bison at \$10.00/lb., with the deliveries to be made to Nampa, ID. High Plains Bison of Denver was awarded a contract for three 40,000 lb. loads of bison to be delivered to Kansas City, MO for \$8.6575/lb.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has indicated that it will be offering solicitations for FDPIR deliveries periodically throughout the year.

Colorado Commission Denies Petition To Designate Bison as Wildlife

The Colorado Wildlife Commission this week voted unanimously to turn down a petition

requesting that bison wandering into the state from the Book Cliffs natural area in Utah be designated as wildlife.

The petition, which was filed by Grasslands Unlimited, a Nebraska-based nonprofit, sought the change in designation for the Book Cliff bison in Colorado based on the argument that, “due to the gap in Colorado’s wildlife management authority, the bison enjoy no protections once they cross the invisible delineation between the jurisdictions.

“Based on anecdotal interviews with individuals familiar with the area, these bison are promptly killed by local residents and their friends or oil field workers. This killing occurs because Colorado does not oversee or regulate bison. These native animals belong on these rangelands and deserve protections within Colorado that allow them to be thrive under management.” The petition read.

The commission’s vote to deny the petition came after the Rocky Mountain Bison Association, with the full support of the National Bison Association, filed a public comment requesting the additional study be conducted before any regulatory change is considered.

The bison business comment, signed jointly by RMBA President John Graves and NBA President Chad Kremer, noted, “The regulatory changes proposed in this petition seek to impose a solution to a problem that is not yet clearly defined.

The letter continued, “The members of our respective organizations represent producers who are stewards of more than 95 percent of the bison in Colorado. While our members strive to manage our herds largely as undomesticated animals, we also recognize the importance of being classified as livestock in terms of disease control, transportation and marketing.”

“Thus, this petition only seeks to address a perceived threat to bison that are ranging into Colorado from the Book Cliffs herd in Utah. To date, the extent of this ranging is not well documented, and most evidence is based on anecdotal evidence at best. This is a very faulty basis for enacting any significant change to the classification of bison in Colorado,” Graves and Kremer wrote.

The bison associations recommended that a study group, composed of bison producers, other ranchers, conservationists, and other stakeholders be established before any future regulatory change is considered.

See related story below.

NBA Seeks Member Input Ahead of Strategic Planning

The NBA board of directors will embark on their strategic planning retreat this April 6th and 7th with all board members participating. In preparation, we'd love to hear direct feedback from the membership as to what you think our goals and objectives should be for the next two years at the NBA.

As such, please participate in this simple, 2-question, anonymous survey by March 25th at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H3JZH39> to assist with this important exercise. You can also report directly to your regional director, whose email and phone contacts are available at <https://bisoncentral.com/nba-leadership/>.

***Buff or Bluff* Promotion Underway; Use Member Log-In for Discount on Decks**

NBA members can log in to www.bisoncentral.com to order the association’s new Earth Day promotional game, *Buff or Bluff*, at a discounted price of \$2/deck plus shipping.

Buff or Bluff is patterned after Trivial Pursuit, and consists of a deck of cards, each containing a statement about bison. Players then have to determine whether the statement is true (Buff) or (False). (See sample at right)

“We are officially launching Buff or Bluff during *Earth Day*, as a means to promote the regenerative nature of bison, and to encourage people to hold “Earth Day” dinners with bison meat as the ‘guest of honor’,” said Dave Carter, NBA Executive Director. “But these cards can be distributed throughout the year as a promotional tool for bison marketers large and small.”

Carter encouraged marketers to distribute the decks to customers—and potential customers—with a special customized offer for the game winners.

“Prizes could consist of a discount on a future purchase of bison meat, bison apparel, or a special offer for visiting a member’s on-farm store. People can use their imagination on how to use Buff or Bluff to promote their business,” he said.

“We are printing 1,500 sets initially but will reprint as needed if members want to distribute them beyond Earth Day,” he said.

Decks of *Buff or Bluff* are available exclusively to NBA members for \$2 per deck, plus shipping.

Be sure to log in to www.bisoncentral.com to receive the member price. Then click here to order your cards. Carter encourages members to order in quantities to reduce shipping charges. The NBA’s Growth Fund is helping to reduce the cost of this promotion for members.

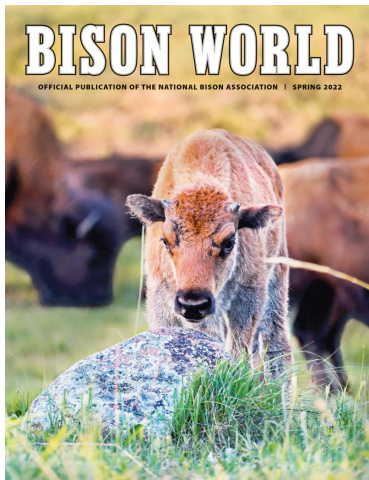
BUFF or BLUFF

BUFF or BLUFF: The lead animal in a bison herd is generally the largest, most mature bull.

BLUFF: Bison societies are highly matriarchal. Bison tend to develop into groups of “families,” each comprised of 20-30 animals, with a mature female as the dominant figure.

www.bisoncentral.com

#nationalbison



Spring Bison World Magazine Now Available Online

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 Spring issue has wrapped up and it is now available on the website at: <https://bisoncentral.com/publication/bison-world-magazine/>. You will need to log in to the member area to access the magazine.

The flipbook version of the magazine can be viewed 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 is currently being printed and will mail shortly.

Advertising Opportunities in the Summer Issue of Bison World

Production is underway on the Summer issue of the Bison World magazine.

Within the pages of the Summer 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 Monday, April 11 with final materials being due by Monday, May 2. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time but will also be subjected to the same deadline for the Summer issue.

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

How Can You Help the Herd?

The National Bison Association is working to expand our corporate support. Are there brands or suppliers that you think would be a good fit?


What type of fencing do you use? What truck or ATV does your ranch use? Who does your soil testing?

Please pass along any ideas to Eloise Mongillo, Director of Development at Eloise@bisoncentral.com so I can reach out to the companies and see if they are interested in supporting the NBA.

Also, feel free to reach out with any questions or thoughts. Thank you!


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.

MISSOURI BISON ASSOCIATION



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MISSOURI BISON ASSOCIATION

Are Bison Wildlife? Colorado Conservation Group Asks State Game Agency

(From Meateater)

America just can't seem to make up its mind about bison.

The buffalo is the official National Mammal of the United States and a [lost icon of the West](#), to borrow from Steve Rinella's book on the topic. Yet we are stuck with a strange double-vision when it comes to this massive, if inconvenient, beast.

A conservation group is pushing the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife to classify bison as a big game species—a move they say is essential if that state ever plans to

restore bison to a wild, free-ranging, and huntable population.

But there's a nebulous question at the heart of this issue. What is a bison? Is it livestock, like an Angus cow? Or is it wildlife, like an elk?

The question is more complex—and important to the bison's future—than one might imagine. The root of question is cultural, not biological. It's not really about what a bison is, but rather, what do we want to do with them?

Trevor Pellerite, director of [Grasslands Unlimited](#), petitioned Colorado Parks and Wildlife to declare any bison that wander into the state from neighboring Utah be officially recognized as big game animals. That petition was denied on March 9, but the movement continues.

At the heart of this issue is a herd of about 600 bison that inhabit the Book Cliffs of southeastern Utah, near the border with Colorado. Bison are great roamers, so it's no surprise they sometimes cross the boundary into the Centennial State.

Read more [here](#).

Bison Hunt Connects Whitehorse Students to The Meat They Eat

About a dozen Whitehorse high school students went out on the range to learn about respectful bison hunting on the traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations last week.

The Porter Creek Secondary School students were joined by Jim Welsch, hunter education coordinator for the Yukon department of Environment, Elder Harry Smith, and volunteers from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, who are experienced hunters and outdoorspeople, in the Kluane Lake and Kloo Lake region from Feb. 28 to March 4.

Snowmobiles had been trucked out to the site for the students to travel into the bush. They set up camp in the woods and slept in wall tents.

"This is this opportunity to teach kids about their connection with food and the opportunity to be on the land and be present and be moving around," Welsch said.

"We're some of the last people in the country that have this opportunity to go out and hunt and feed our families on a \$10 bison tag."

In the late 1980s, 170 bison were reintroduced to the territory as part of a national program to recover the endangered species, according to the Yukon government. Since then, the herd of large bovine with dark, shaggy hair has grown to an estimated population of 1,200 to 1,400 animals. One of the ways to limit the herd's size is through hunting.

Read more [here](#).

Wandering Bison and Bone-Jarring Moguls Challenge Back-Of-The-Pack Iditarod Mushers

(From Alaska Public News)

Yuka Honda ran into about six bison on her way into the Athabaskan village of Nikolai on Wednesday.

Her team was cruising along the narrow trail, sometimes referred to as the Buffalo Chutes or the Buffalo Tunnels, on the north side of the Alaska Range when she first spotted a big, wooly calf and cow.

The calf saw her at the same time and startled.

"The calf kinda slipped and did this," she said, making a gesture with her arms to indicate splayed legs. "It was so cute."

Farther along, she encountered another four bison at different points along the trail. A herd was introduced to the area in 1965, when 18 bison from Delta Junction were brought in to create a population for a limited hunt.

Luckily for Honda, the bison never charged. Her dogs, she said, were skittish from a harrowing moose encounter earlier this year.

"I was afraid, but they don't care," she said with a laugh.

Honda came into the checkpoint around 11:45 a.m. in heavy, warm snow that kept flights into town mostly grounded. She was in 48th place, with just Kailyn Davis behind her on the trail.

Read more [here](#).

Yellowstone starts bison cull as animals migrate to Montana

(From Agri-News)

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Yellowstone National Park captured 37 bison that were migrating outside the park and sent most to slaughter under a program that seeks to prevent the animals from spreading disease to cattle in neighboring Montana, a park official said Feb. 24.

Officials are aiming to remove up to 900 of Yellowstone's 5,000 bison this winter through slaughter, relocations and hunting. The goal is to keep the park's herds from growing and prevent the spread of the disease brucellosis, under an agreement between state, federal and tribal officials.

Twenty-seven of the bison captured over the past week were sent to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes for slaughter and will provide food for tribal members, Yellowstone bison coordinator Tim Reid said.

Six of the captured bison will be held in quarantine for future relocation to tribal lands and four calves were released, Reid said.

Separately, two bison have been shot by hunters so far this winter, said Greg Lemon with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Read more [here](#).

Bison Statue Moves in Where a Confederate Statue Once Stood at Dixie State University

(From Yahoo News)

Another symbolic change took place this week at what will in a few months officially become Utah Tech University.

Crews at Dixie State University installed a new bigger-than-life statue of a bison on campus, right in the spot where a controversial statue depicting Confederate soldiers once stood.

The newest addition to DSU's bison statue family was donated by the Safari Club International Foundation. The artist, Douglas Van Howard, calls this piece "Prairie Spring."

"The Bison became the symbol of the Trailblazer because it was the original trailblazer in the United States in Northern America, the original pioneer of Native American trails that were used for wagons and for just traveling were bison trails," said Jordan Sharp, DSU's

VP of Marketing and Communication, repeating the thinking behind the school's [2016 change](#) to its current Trailblazers mascot.

The school has twice changed mascots since 2009, when it stopped calling its sports teams the Rebels in part of a years-long effort to move away from the Confederate imagery used earlier in its history.

In 2012, the school [removed a statue](#) that showed two Confederate soldiers, with one "Rebel" soldier on horseback reaching down to assist a fallen comrade during the Civil War. That piece had also been donated by a local artist, Jerry Anderson.

Read more [here](#).

For first time, FDA OKs Marketing Of Gene-Edited Food Animal Products

(From AgriPulse)

The Food and Drug Administration for the first time cleared the marketing of products from a biotech food animal, approving beef cattle that are genetically altered to be more tolerant of hot weather.

FDA announced Monday that it found no safety concerns with the distribution of products from the two gene-edited cattle and their offspring. The cattle have a short-hair, "slick" coat.

The agency has come under criticism from the livestock industry for the lack of approvals of biotech animal traits. The Trump administration attempted in its final days to transfer some of FDA's authority to the Agriculture Department.

This case was the first in which the agency had made a "low-risk determination" for a gene-altered food animal.

Steven Solomon, director of FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, said he hoped the decision would encourage other developers of other biotech traits to submit them to the agency for approval.

The "decision underscores our commitment to using a risk and science-based, data-driven process that focuses on safety to the animals containing intentional genomic alterations and safety to the people who eat the food produced by these animals," said Solomon.

Because of the low-risk determination, the agency said it will not expect the developer of the beef cattle trait to ask for approval to market food from the animals.

Approval of the trait was requested by Acceligen Inc., a subsidiary of Recombinetics Inc., a biotech firm.

[FDA's risk assessment of the trait said](#) it was "the equivalent to the naturally occurring slick mutations that occur in several breeds of conventionally raised cattle where they likely developed as an adaptation to being raised in tropical or subtropical environments."

Meat Powers Through Pandemic: 2022 Power of Meat Report

(From Meatingplace.com)

Conventional meat products still drive food shopping trips, even as the trends within those purchase behaviors change, according to the 2022 Power of Meat report, conducted by 210 Analytics LLC on behalf of FMI—The Food Industry Association and the Meat Institute's Foundation for Meat and Poultry Research and Education, and sponsored by Cryovac, A Division of Sealed Air.

According to this, the 17th annual report, nearly all American households (98.5%) buy

meat, and more of it: volume sales are up 3.9% for all meat compared to pre-pandemic levels. The increase is due, in part, to several grocery shopper trends resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, including increased home cooking, record-high online shopping, and a shift to digital sources for recipe inspiration.

“The Power of Meat shows Americans continue to count on meat’s taste, quality, convenience and value throughout another unusual and challenging year,” said NAMI Julie Anna Potts, in a news release. “The Meat Institute and partners in the Protein PACT for the People, Animals and Climate of Tomorrow will continue to deliver information and innovation for the 98.5% of American households that purchase meat.”

Meat department visits declined slightly less this year — logging 50.4 visits per shopper per year — but shoppers spent a little more during each trip. In response to rising prices, shoppers are dining out and taking out less often, instead trying to recreate restaurant experiences at home, which has prompted a shift in the types of meat products they buy.

Volume remains significantly above pre-pandemic levels for fresh (up 3.7% since 2019) and prepared meats (up 4.3% since 2019). Volume sales of fresh beef, specifically, grew nearly 5% since 2019, while bacon was up 7%, and fresh lamb sales increased nearly 20%. More meat consumers shopped online than ever (61%, up from just 39% in 2019), and nearly half of meat shoppers (46%) today shop online regularly.

Still, overall Americans are eating fewer of their meals at home compared to the pandemic peak in April 2020 — 80% now vs. 88% then — and 57% include conventional meat in four to seven dinners per week. More than half of meat shoppers (51%) say websites, apps and social media are their top resources for meat preparation advice.

Of those who search online for meat cooking tips and ideas, 72% use Google or another search engine and 57% use YouTube. Pinterest, Instagram and TikTok are particularly popular with Generation Z and millennials, used by around half of those shoppers for inspiration.

Heidi Montag Snacks on Bison Heart As Part of Her Raw Meat Diet

(From Page6.com)

Eat your heart out.

Heidi Montag is clearly not giving up her raw meat diet plan anytime soon, as she was photographed chowing down on yet another carnivorous treat on Wednesday.

Paparazzi caught “The Hills” alum, 35, carrying a plastic bag with a raw bison heart inside of it during a stroll in Los Angeles.

She was snapped flashing a big smile as she took a bite out of the bloody organ.

It’s unclear where Montag was heading with her lunch meat, but she was dressed casually in a bright pink top, black-and-white sweater, black jeans and a backpack with her hair in a ponytail.

The bubbly reality star first revealed her peculiar eating regimen in January, when she [filmed herself eating raw liver](#).

Read more [here](#).

U.S. Lamb Industry Examines Its Carbon Footprint

(From Meatingplace.com)

The American Lamb Board (ALB) announced it is working with Michigan State University (MSU) on a study to evaluate the environmental footprint of the U.S. sheep industry.

The initial focus of the research is to define a comprehensive model of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for U.S. sheep production systems, which include range, farm flock, pasture, intensive and feedlot. MSU will conduct a partial life cycle analysis of lamb production in these types of operations to quantify GHG emissions.

Environmental concerns about livestock production have gained traction, and the American Lamb industry entered the spotlight when a 2011 Environmental Working Group Study characterized lamb as one of the largest contributors of GHG emissions, the ALB said. That study's findings are still cited at influential conferences and in the media, the group noted.

"It is extremely important for our industry to identify and evaluate our role in GHG emissions," said ALB Chairman Peter Comino of Buffalo, Wyo. "Accurate data is the basis for improvement strategies and providing factual information to consumers and the media."

MSU will work on defining environmental improvement strategies that are the most feasible and effective for sheep producers to implement according to their particular production system. A blueprint for producer education strategies to address these priorities will wrap up the project, the organization said.

FAO warns of spiking food prices, fertilizer costs due to war

(From Agri-Pulse)

Russia's invasion of Ukraine could raise grain prices as much as 20% while boosting fertilizer prices another 13% and further inflating food costs, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization warns.

[In a preliminary assessment issued Friday of the war's impact on global food supplies.](#) FAO estimates 20% to 30% of Ukraine's winter wheat, corn and sunflower crops may not be planted or else go unharvested this year, and yields of remaining crops may be reduced.

FAO says rising energy costs due to the war will increase farm input costs in the near term and could lead to lower input usage and depressed crop yields in 2022, resulting in "further upside risk to the state of global food security in the coming years."

While the war's "intensity and duration remain uncertain," the "likely disruptions to agricultural activities of these two major exporters of staple commodities could seriously escalate food insecurity globally, when international food and input prices are already high and volatile," FAO Director-General QU Dongyu said in a statement accompanying the report's release.

FAO economists evaluated the war's potential impact on global food security based on "moderate" and "severe" scenarios, depending on how much exports from Ukraine and Russia are reduced.

Wheat prices would increase by 8.7% under the moderate scenario and 21.5% under a severe shock, the report says. Corn prices would rise by 8.2% to 19.5%.

Read [more](#).



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Save the Date!

- 3/12/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 3/18/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Spring Meeting - MN
- 3/19/2022 - Missouri Bison Association Spring Sale - MO
- 4/08/2021 - Illinois/Indiana Bison Association Spring Meeting - IN
- 4/21/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 5/26/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 7/12/2022 - International Bison Conference - Saskatoon, SK

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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