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Weekly Update



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

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NBA Weekly Update for March 25, 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.

Carter to Step Down as National Bison Association Leader

National Bison Association (NBA) Executive Director Dave Carter announced this week that he will be stepping down as the organization's leader after more than two decades of helping to build the business as a solid, economically growing sector within the food economy while restoring bison to native habitat across North America.

Carter said, "Leading the National Bison Association for the past 21 years has been the highest professional honor of my life. Never a day has passed that I didn't learn something from this magnificent animal, and from the people who have the privilege to be part of the buffalo community."

Carter said that the dedication and hard work of the organization's staff and volunteer membership were key to the organization's successes through the years.

"The National Bison Association is not a large organization but has members willing to step forward to provide leadership whenever asked," he said. "Throughout the past two decades, we have moved the bison business forward with an unwavering commitment to deliciously healthy meat from animals raised in a manner that respects their native environment."

No date has been set for Carter's departure from the association. He said he will be working with the NBA board of directors to assure a smooth transition to new leadership.

NBA president Chad Kremer noted, "Dave has worked tirelessly alongside the staff, board, and members of this great association over the last 20 years. He came into the bison community at a very tumultuous time when the market hit a bottom. His dedication and passion for serving members and learning the 'buffalo way' lead him to investing in bison of his own which I believe speaks volumes about his passion for this great animal. His knowledge and connections helped move the bison industry to a new level that was needed. I believe I can say on behalf of all members of the association that Dave will be missed in the Executive Director capacity and we all wish him the best in his new position. We know we will still enjoy his company at the numerous bison gatherings throughout the year, thank you Dave for your guidance."

Carter came on board with the bison association in 2001, when the business was described as being in an "economic meltdown." Rapid expansion in bison herds in the 1990s had not been matched by growth in consumer demand.

Under Carter's leadership, the association worked with ranchers, marketers, and consumers to promote the great taste, nutritional attributes, and ecological benefits of "deliciously healthy" bison meat.

He also represented the bison business in Washington, D.C., where he regularly helped lead delegations of NBA members to meet with key U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies and Congressional offices.

"The relationships developed through those meetings between our members and USDA officials helped assure that bison producers had access to research, grant programs, export development, disaster assistance, and to the resources provided to agriculture under COVID relief packages," Carter said.

Most recently, the NBA worked with USDA's Farm Service Agency to extend Livestock Indemnity Program compensation to producers suffering herd losses from *Mycoplasma bovis*. And, the bison association conducted a successful two-year effort to convince regulators to develop new rules prohibiting the use of deceptively-labeled water buffalo ingredients in pet food products.

The National Bison Association also worked to develop strong working relationships with other organizations since 2001. A four-year joint effort by the National Bison Association, InterTribal Buffalo Council, and the Wildlife Conservation Society resulted in the passage of legislation in 2016 designating bison as the National Mammal of the United States.

Recently, the bison association's Science and Research Committee, the National Buffalo Foundation, and South Dakota State University established the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies at SDSU. That Center is now supporting more than a dozen research projects in herd health, meat quality, ecosystem restoration, and other topics.

Following his departure from the National Bison Association, Carter will help lead a team engaged by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service to coordinate the agency's technical assistance to organizations and producer groups receiving grants and loans through the new USDA Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program.

Last Day to Complete Strategic Planning Member Survey is Today

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/>.

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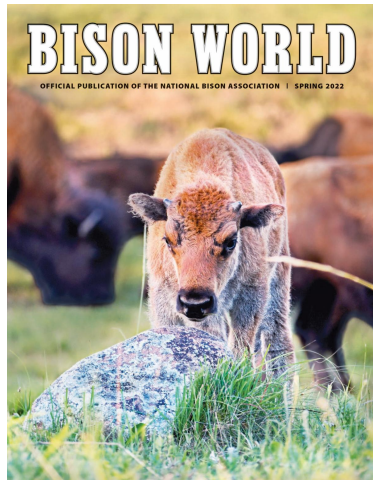
Have you gotten your deck of 'Buff or Bluff' yet?

Buff or Bluff is patterned after Trivial Pursuit... a deck of cards where each card contains a statement about bison. Players then determine whether the statement is true (Buff) or (False)!



Over the several weeks leading up to Earth Day, the National Bison Association is promoting our national mammal by sharing bison facts, trivia questions, photos, and hope you'll join us in playing 'Buff or Bluff' with your friends and family. These decks of cards are also a great way to show appreciation to your customers and help them learn more about the species we produce.

If you order three or more decks by this Sunday, you'll get an extra deck FREE! Order your Buff or Bluff decks [here](#).



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.

BOUVRY, Claude - January 13, 1951 – France - March 17, 2022 - Calgary, Alberta

Claude Bouvry passed away on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at the age of 71 years.

Claude was born in 1951 on his family's farm in France, where his parents grain farmed and raised cattle.

He moved to Canada in 1968 to study at the HEC University of Montreal where he obtained an MBA.

His passion for farming and ranching led him to southern Alberta where he built a

prosperous agricultural business. Claude and his brother Alain created Bouvry Exports Calgary LTD in 1982, producing bison, elk, beef and horse meat for export, mostly to Europe and Japan.

Resilience and autonomy in his farming practice were important to the business model, as Claude managed the farms, ranches, feedlots and processing plants in Alberta and Quebec.

Despite the controversy around horse meat, Claude remained stoic in the face of critics and media attention. He continually worked towards implementing excellence in animal welfare standards, working alongside professionals such as Temple Grandin and 3rd party animal welfare audit organizations.

He was a profound, poetic and philosophical man who left a lasting impression on those who met him. He built strong ties and friendships with many of the people he worked with. Despite his nostalgia for his home country, his favourite place to be was in southern Alberta along the Old Man River, where he could unwind and admire his animals grazing.

A Memorial service will be announced at a later date.

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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Denver Donates 33 Bison To Indigenous Tribes

(From the Denver Gazette)

An event was held Monday at Genesee Park in Golden to recognize the donation of Denver Mountain Park bison to multiple Indigenous tribes.

This year, Denver Parks and Recreation donated a total of 33 bison. Fifteen bison are going to the Northern Arapaho Tribe in Wyoming. Seventeen are headed to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in Oklahoma. And one bison is going to the TallBull Memorial Council in Colorado.

Denver Parks and Recreation usually auctions off their surplus bison, but after an ordinance was passed last year, the surplus bison are now being transferred to American Indian tribes. The city says the purpose of the transfers is to "continue to establish, support and sustain Native American conservation herds across the country."

[Source.](#)

In South Dakota, a Tribal Nation Owns the Largest Native-Managed Buffalo Herd in the World

(From the Daily Yonder)

Over the past two years, the Sicangu Oyate, also known as the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, has cultivated the largest Native-managed buffalo herd in the world.

There are currently about 750 buffalo in the herd, according to Aaron Epps, who was the start-up manager for the project, known as Wolakota. He is also the marketing and communications director for REDCO, the economic development arm of the tribal nation, headquartered in South Dakota.

“It’s an idea that’s been around, really, for generations, just due to the historical connection and spiritual and cultural significance of buffalo to the Lakota people,” Epps said in an interview with The Daily Yonder. “And so, the idea isn’t necessarily new, but we had a really unique opportunity to really actualize it and bring it about in a really unique way.”

According to experts and historians, more than 30 million bison once roamed North America. As a source of meat and hides in the United States, bison formed the basis of the economy for numerous Plains Indian societies.

In the late 19th century, the U.S. government encouraged mass hunting of bison in an organized effort to destroy the livelihood of Plains Indians. By the late 1800s, fewer than 1,000 bison were left and all Plains Indians were forced onto reservations.

The first buffalo arrived to the Rosebud Sioux Tribe in October of 2020 from Badlands National Park, Epps said. There was also a donation from Wind Cave National Park. In 2021, there was another round of donations, from federal partners and wildlife refuges as well as some purchased from a private ranch.

Read more [here](#).

Heavy snow in Interior Alaska this winter has bison hanging out on plowed roads and digging up farmland

(From The Anchorage Daily News)

Kurt Schmidt heard the bison hooves smack on the car before he saw what happened. He’d been driving home from work on a small road near his Delta Junction home on a dark January night when he saw a herd of bison ahead. On the other side of the herd, a small car was also waiting to pass the animals.

Schmidt said he stopped his pickup truck and waited. Suddenly, the herd turned around and ran. Several of the huge animals stumbled over the car.

“I don’t think they intended to run over it,” he said. “They pretty much ran into it, slid up the hood and ran up over the top.”

The car’s driver moved forward quickly after the incident, and Schmidt could see hoof marks on the dashboard less than a foot from the steering wheel. The event could have been a lot worse.

Deep snow this winter has caused more bison to move onto plowed roadways in the Delta Junction area, said Bob Schmidt, a wildlife biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

“The animals don’t want to get off the plowed roadways because it’s so hard on them,” he said. “It’s chest-deep snow and it’s cutting up their legs and so they’re using the roadways as travel corridors.”

Read [more](#).

Ancient bison are coming back to the UK – starting in Kent

(From The BBC)

It's a crisp winter morning in Kent. I'm on the trail of a giant that once roamed prehistoric Britain alongside woolly mammoths and sabre-toothed cats. A muddy car park between a caravan dealer and a car body shop seems an unusual place to begin, but waiting for me are Tom Gibbs and Donovan Wright: Britain's first bison rangers.

This spring, bison return to the UK following an absence of thousands of years. A pioneering conservation scheme will reintroduce these long-lost mega-mammals to one of south-east England's largest areas of ancient woodland.

Tom and Don are based at [Wildwood wildlife park](#), 8km outside Canterbury on the edge of the sprawling Blean Woods, known as 'the Blean'. Selected from over 1,200 applicants for 2021's coolest job vacancy, Tom and Don can't quite believe their luck. "I still have to pinch myself," says Tom, previously a conservation officer for [Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust](#).

Funded by the [People's Postcode Lottery](#), the scheme – called [Wilder Blean](#) – is a collaboration between the [Wildwood Trust](#) and the [Kent Wildlife Trust](#). Don describes the £1,575,000 project as "very special". As a former safari ranger in southern Africa, he should know.

But why bring bison back to Britain? Two reasons. First, to help secure the species' future. Wild European bison came within a hair of extinction less than a century ago, saved only by captive breeding and rewilding in Poland, the Netherlands, Romania and elsewhere.

[Read more.](#)

1 step closer to bison crossing: IHTC approves plans for I-80 bridge project

(From WQAD-ABC)

RAPIDS CITY, Ill. — (Update: March 22) Plans to include the Bison Bridge project in the new I-80 bridge plans were unanimously passed Tuesday in a 9-0 vote in the Illinois House Transportation Committee.

"The Bison Bridge Foundation would like to thank this bi-partisan group of sponsors for their continued support of what is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity to remake the identity of the Quad Cities Region." said Chad Pregracke, Founder and Chairman of the Bison Bridge Foundation.

Pregracke continued to say the project is heading in the right direction following Tuesday night's vote.

"While this is just a single step in a long process, it is significant and represents continuous progress towards our goal," he said. "Momentum is most certainly building for this project, and we can't thank our network of supporters, stakeholders and of course our community leaders for lending assistance to our efforts."

The next step in the project is to pass the resolution through the State House of Representatives.

[Read more.](#)

JBS's net profit rises more than 4X in 2021

(From Meatingplace.com)

Brazil's JBS S.A. announced Monday its net profit increased by more than four times in 2021, compared to 2020, to BRL20.5 billion (\$5.1 billion), pushed by revenue growth in all of its business units.

The company posted a record net revenue of BRL350.7 billion (\$71 billion) in 2021, up 29.8% year on year. Adjusted EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization) was also a record, up 54.5% to BRL45.7 billion (\$9.3 billion).

The Brazilian poultry, pork and processed foods business unit Seara had a 36.6% rise in net profit last year, at BRL36.5 billion (\$7.4 billion), driven by growth in the prepared foods category in the domestic market and higher export volumes and prices.

JBS Brazil, which includes the Brazilian beef business, had a 29% rise in net revenue to BRL53.8 billion (\$10.9 billion), despite increased production costs and a temporary suspension of exports to China.

JBS USA Beef had BRL146.6 billion in net revenue last year, up 30.7% year-on-year. In US GAAP, net revenue was \$27.2 billion, up 25.3%. The company said that beef demand that exceeded supply in both domestic and international markets supported results.

JBS USA Pork posted a 27.7% increase in annual net revenue to BRL41.1 billion. In US GAAP, net revenue reached \$7.6 billion, up 22.5%. Strong demand helped boost prices, sustaining stable margins amid higher labor, packaging and transportation costs.

Pilgrim's Pride Corp. (PPC) had net revenue of BRL79.7 billion, up 28% year on year. In US GAAP, net revenue rose 22.2% to \$14.8 billion. Strong demand and prices in the U.S. and the expansion of some food brands in Mexico's retail and foodservice sectors contributed to the result.

JBS announced seven strategic acquisitions in 2021 that total \$1.9 billion in incremental annual revenue.

Senate Bill Seeks To Aid Producers Enrolled In CRP

(From AgriPulse)

Minnesota Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar and South Dakota Republican Sen. John Thune are proposing an overhaul of the Conservation Reserve Program that would assist producers in establishing grazing infrastructure on CRP acreage, including fencing and water distribution.

The cost-share assistance would be available on all CRP contracts as long as grazing is included in the approved conservation plan.

The CRP Improvement Act also would increase the CRP annual payment limit from \$50,000 to \$125,000 to account for inflation and provide landowners with more CRP enrollment options. The limit has remained the same since the program was created in 1985.

The bill is essentially a marker for farm bill negotiations.

USDA expands CIS program for Montana meat, poultry processors

(From Meat+Poultry)

WASHINGTON – State inspected meat processors in Montana can ship their products throughout the United States. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the state of Montana finalized a Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) agreement which allows selected state-inspected processing facilities that comply with federal inspection requirements to ship product in interstate commerce.

With the addition of Montana, 10 states now participate in the program, according to USDA. The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of USDA has signed agreements with Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Missouri, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Vermont and Wisconsin.

“This announcement is part of USDA’s commitment to build more and better markets, a more resilient supply chain and better food system, and to increase competition in agricultural markets across America,” said Sandra Eskin, USDA Deputy Undersecretary for Food Safety. “USDA is working with states to ensure they have the tools and resources necessary to expand existing capacity and thrive for many decades to come.

“The Cooperative Interstate Shipment program provides an excellent opportunity for small meat and poultry processors to build their local and regional marketplaces, while ensuring the safety of the meat and poultry products they produce,” she said.

To qualify for the program, state meat and poultry inspection (MPI) programs must meet a number of criteria to demonstrate that the inspection provided to state-inspected plants will be the “same as” the inspection that FSIS provides to official federal establishments, the agency said. FSIS provides ongoing oversight of the CIS program to ensure that participating states maintain and operate their inspection programs in a manner that complies with all applicable federal statutes and regulations and follows FSIS directives and notices. FSIS reimburses the states for 60% of their costs associated with providing this interstate eligible inspection service.

[Read more here.](#)

Coloradans celebrate Meat-In Day for second year

(From Meatingplace.com)

Colorado held its second annual Meat-In Day last weekend, with businesses offering discounts on beef and free hamburgers [in Grand County](#) and other locations.

The Colorado Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) is working with the non-profit [Beef Sticks for Backpacks](#) and contributing funds to distribute beef sticks statewide.

The group wants to help “end food insecurity in Colorado and support efforts to promote and protect agriculture and food production in our state, Steve Wooten, CCA’s president, [told a](#) Fox News affiliate.

The now yearly event comes as part of a backlash to Colorado Gov. Jared Polis’ championing of a statewide MeatOut Day a year ago to encourage less meat consumption.

After joining governors and mayors in 40 other states and cities in a national movement to encourage Americans to go meatless for a day, Polis [dismissed the criticism](#).

“We do hundreds of these proclamations. We’d love to have Colorado beef appreciation day,” he told a news conference. “I would put my brisket against anybody’s brisket in the state,” he added.

[Read more.](#)

Plant-based food sales growth cools in 2021

(From Meatingplace.com)

New retail sales data from SPINS, released by the Good Food Institute and Plant Based Foods Association, shows that the U.S. retail plant-based food industry grew 6% in 2021 to \$7.4 billion, a slower pace than the year before.

In 2020, total U.S. retail plant-based food sales grew 27%, to \$7 billion.

Plant-based meat sales remained steady in 2021, with \$1.4 billion in sales. That compares to a growth rate of 45% in 2020.

Plant-based eggs were the fastest-growing plant-based category in 2021, with 42% dollar sales growth. Plant-based milk dollar sales grew by 4% to reach \$2.6 billion.

[Read more.](#)

USDA Extends to May 11 the Application Deadline for Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program Funding

(From USDA)

Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the Department is extending to May 11, 2022, the application deadline for the [Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program](#) (MPPEP), which provides funding to expand meat and poultry processing capacity.

The decision to extend the deadline comes after Rural Development heard directly from applicants about challenges with System for Award Management (SAM) registration, which must be completed prior to filing an application.

“Strengthening our food supply chain is a top priority of the Biden-Harris Administration,” Vilsack said. “The new deadline should ensure that all interested and eligible meat and poultry processors have ample time to complete their applications.”

Background: MPPEP

USDA Rural Development is making \$150 million of American Rescue Plan Act funding available through the MPPEP. USDA is offering grants of up to \$25 million each to expand processing capacity through a variety of activities, including but not limited to construction, expansion of existing facilities, and acquisition of equipment.

USDA encourages applications that benefit smaller farms and ranches, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, Tribes and tribal producers, socially disadvantaged producers, military veteran producers and underserved communities.

For additional information, applicants are encouraged to visit the MPPEP website: www.rd.usda.gov/mppep. Questions may be submitted through the website or sent to MPPEP@usda.gov.

All application materials can be found at www.rd.usda.gov/mppep or at www.Grants.gov. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 11, 2022, through www.Grants.gov.

[Read more.](#)



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Save the Date!

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- 4/08/2022 - 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
- 6/03/2022 - Texas Bison Association Spring Conference - CO
- 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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