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Weekly Update



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NBA Weekly Update for March 4, 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.

Bison Processors Eligible for Meat Processing Assistance Grants

Facilities that process bison as a nonamenable species under the Agricultural Marketing Act will be eligible to apply for funding under USDA's \$150 Meat and Poultry processing Expansion Grant Program announced in February.

Officials from USDA's Rural Development Agency clarified that issue during a webinar providing an overview of the grant program. The clarification came as welcome news for the bison sector because the Request for Proposals announced in February stated that the funds were being made available for facilities that were approved under the Federal meat Inspection Act and the Federal Poultry Inspection Act. As a nonamenable species, bison are processed under the Agricultural marketing Act.

The allowance for bison to be eligible for funding is contained in the definitions of the grant proposal. The grants are being made available for meat processing facilities, and the RFP defines meat as, "Species amenable to USDA inspection including cattle, sheep, swine, goats, Siluriformes (catfish), and equine. Also, nonamenable species eligible for voluntary inspection including exotic species as described in 9 CFR part 352 and rabbit as described in 9 CFR part 354." (Underline added)

The funding being made available during this initial phase are intended for projects that are in the “late-stages” of development,” according to the Rural Development. Processors can submit proposals up to \$25 million, or 20 percent of the total project cost, whichever amount is less. Applications are due by April 8th.

Information on applying for funding is available [here](#).

NBA Receives Grant to Fund Regenerative Farm & Ranch Tours

The National Bison Association was recently awarded a grant from the Northern Region's Sustainable Ag Research and Education (SARE) project, which is a USDA NIFA program that previously funded the 2nd edition of the Bison Producer's Handbook, and more.

The *National Bison North Central Regenerative Ranching Workshop Series* will help fund six field days at six different bison operations in six different states over the next two summers. All featured bison operations operate on some level of holistic management and, with the addition of expert regenerative/holistic speakers, will educate attendees on how to maximize bison's regenerative potential on their own farm or ranch.

Said project manager, Jim Matheson "We're thrilled to receive funding from SARE to offer these field days across a pretty significant portion of buffalo country. The project is pretty straightforward in that our goal is ultimately to get folks out to see these stellar operations to learn first-hand how to maximize the potential of this animal in regenerating the soils and grasslands that we're raising them on, while providing a great opportunity for regional producer networking."

The project begins April 1st at which point participating ranches will schedule tours, which will hopefully feature 3 field days each summer in 2022 and 2023 depending on partner schedules. The field days will be one day affairs and will include lunch and a nominal registration fee, thanks to the grant award. Tours will be filmed to share with the NBA membership not able to attend the field days.

Participating farms and ranches include:

- Antelope Creek Bison – Mission, SD
- Cherokee Valley Bison – Thornville, OH
- Double J Bison – Baldwin, WI
- Heartland Bison Ranch – Rugby, ND
- Sleepy Bison Acres – Sleepy Eye, MN
- Ruhter Bison – Frankfort, IL

Stay tuned for more details on this excellent learning opportunity and thank you to NCSARE for the grant award.

***Buff or Bluff* Decks Available for Members**

Decks of *Buff or Bluff*, the National Bison Association's newest consumer outreach, tool, are now available for distribution.

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

BUFF or BLUFF

BUFF or BLUFF: The fur on bison is designed to quickly melt snow that falls on the animal.

BLUFF: The thickness of the bison coat and the insulating properties of the individual fibers, provide insulation from the snow. That's why many winter pictures show bison with a thick covering of snow—their fur holds in body heat, thus helping them conserve calories.

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. 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.

Order your decks at <https://bisoncentral.com/product/buff-or-bluff-card-game/>.

Winter Conference Presentations Now Available at bisoncentral.com

The Thursday Winter Conference program is now available to NBA members to view at <https://bisoncentral.com/publication/conference-presentations/>.

Here you can see ten different conference presentations professionally filmed and edited thanks to support from our conference sponsors. The archived conference presentations are an excellent learning resource available to all NBA members as they cover an array of topics pertinent to bison management and marketing.

Thank you sponsors!



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



SPECIAL SHOW & SALE

Saturday, March 19th, 2022

Mo-Kan Livestock Market, Butler, MO

Buyers Reception/Dinner: March 18th

Meal provided by MoBA at the Sale Barn Cafe

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Eating Meat Extends Human Life Expectancy, Study Says

(From meatingplace.com)

Meat in the diet offers more nutrition than grains or tubers and is positively correlated with increased life expectancy, according to a new study by a global multidisciplinary team of researchers.

Published in the *International Journal of General Medicine*, the study examines the overall health effects of total meat consumption in 170-plus countries around the world. The researchers found that the consumption of energy from carbohydrate crops (grains and tubers) does not lead to greater life expectancy, and that total meat consumption correlates to greater life expectancy, independent of the competing effects of total calories intake, economic affluence, urban advantages and obesity.

"We wanted to look more closely at research that has thrown a negative spotlight on meat consumption in the human diet," said Wenpeng You, study author and University of Adelaide researcher in biomedicine. "Looking only at correlations of meat consumption with people's health or life expectancy within a particular group, and/or a particular region or country, can lead to complex and misleading conclusions."

Read more [here](#).

Meat Processing Bootcamp Now Open for Registration

(From meatingplace.com)

Registration is now open for a new intermediate-level short course for small- and mid-scale meat processors, according to organizers.

Meat Processor Academy, a [virtual bootcamp](#) for independent processors, is a collaborative effort of the Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network (NMPAN) at Oregon State University, the American Association of Meat Processors (AAMP), and Kitchen Table Consultants.

Funded by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Services Local Foods Promotion Program grant, the Meat Processor Academy is an opportunity for meat processor operators and owners to learn directly from industry experts, meat scientists and extension agents in an interactive, but remote, format.

This six-week course will cover business planning, operations, facilities, financial management, human resources and marketing for meat processors with less than 150 employees. An optional class in humane handling programs for slaughterhouses will also be available.

The 100% online course will be held on consecutive Tuesday evenings, March 22 through April 26, 2022.

Registration fees are \$150 for up to two members of each company enrolled. A limited number of scholarships are available for people who identify as BIPOC or limited resource.

Visit the Meat Processor Academy website for details and to enroll.

USDA Seeking Value-Added Grant Applications

USDA this week announced that the application period is open for \$19.75 million in funding through the agency's Value-Added Producer Grant Program. Online applications will be accepted until April 25, 2022 through grants.gov and paper applications must be postmarked by May 2, 2022.

“Value-added” foods and goods are made from raw agricultural products (e.g., vegetables, grains, or dairy) that are minimally processed and then transformed into products like cheese, sauces, and breads. Specially labeled or marketed goods (e.g., “organic” or “locally grown”) can also be considered value-added as the label claim makes their products more appealing (and therefore valuable) to consumers. Value-added products bring in higher prices than raw products alone, helping farmers and ranchers improve their bottom lines and grow their businesses – which in turn increases hiring and spending in their local communities.

There are two types of grants awarded through VAPG:

1. Planning projects provide grant funds of up to \$75,000 in economic planning activities such as the development of business and marketing plans and feasibility studies needed to establish viable marketing opportunities for value-added products.
2. Working capital projects are directly related to the processing and/or marketing of value-added products with a maximum award amount of \$250,000. In general, applications with requests of \$50,000 or more must be supported by an independent feasibility study and business plan.

The FY 2022 application window is currently open through April 25, 2022 for online applications and May 2, 2022 for paper applications.

- Paper applications: All materials for paper applications must be submitted and/or postmarked by May 2, 2022 to be considered for this funding cycle.
 - Electronic applications: All materials must be submitted via <http://www.grants.gov> and be received before Midnight EST on April 25, 2022
 - You may also opt to submit your application via email or in-person at your local field office. In-person submissions must be done before the close of business, local time on May 2, 2022.
 - Contact your State Rural Development Coordinator with any questions.
-

Tobacco Root Elk Test Positive for Brucellosis

(From the Billings Gazette)

WHITEHALL - Elk recently captured in the Tobacco Root Mountains south of Whitehall tested negative for brucellosis as part of a multi-year surveillance project, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks reported.

In the northern portion of the Tobacco Roots, which is south of Interstate 90 from Whitehall to Three Forks, 100 cow elk were captured with the aid of a helicopter. Forty of those elk were outfitted with radio collars, which will be active for one year and help wildlife managers understand their seasonal ranges, migration routes and potential mixing with other herds.

FWP staff helped capture 63 elk in the southern portion of the mountains, which is north of Montana Highway 287 from Twin Bridges to the Virginia City hill. FWP staff did not deploy radio collars in the southern portion because elk were captured here in 2014, and

movement data was collected from 26 animals at that time. While 49 elk tested negative for brucellosis in 2014, this herd was sampled for brucellosis testing again because two cow elk in the nearby Ruby Mountains to the south tested positive for brucellosis in 2020. Collar movement data in this area showed potential for herd mixing.

Read more [here](#).



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Save the Date!

- 3/05/2022 - Rocky Mountain Bison Association's Spring Conference - CO
- 3/10/2022 - Eastern Bison Association Annual Conference - PA
- 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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