

MISSOURI BISON ASSOCIATION



22ND ANNUAL SPRING SHOW & SALE

Saturday, March 20, 2021 – 11:00 AM

Mo-Kan Livestock Market, Butler, MO

Dinner & Business Meeting:
Friday, March 19th, Sale Barn Cafe, 6:30pm

To Consign, Call:
Carol Morris: 660-998-0990
or Peter Kohl: 816-585-4779



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

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NBA Weekly Update for March 5, 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.

NBA Compiles USDA Resources to Aid Bison Producers Hit by Recent Disasters

The adverse weather and other events over the past couple of months have created severe challenges for many bison producers.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture provides many programs to assist producers who have been impacted by natural disasters and severe weather conditions but applying for that assistance can be a confusing and intimidating process for many ranchers. The NBA has compiled the following information to help eligible producers access those programs.

This message is intended to let you to know how to access the programs that are available for bison producers.

Key programs that may be available for livestock producers through USDA's Farm Service Agency include:

- The [Livestock Indemnity Program](#). This specifically covers any livestock losses in excess of normal mortality because of adverse weather. The NBA worked with USDA's Farm Service Agency in recent years to assure that reimbursement rates for bison reflect actual market values.

· and the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee and Farm-raised Fish Program](#). ELAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers of livestock for losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events or loss conditions, including blizzards and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary. ELAP assistance is provided for losses not covered by other disaster assistance programs authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill, such as losses not covered by the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

Access to these programs often is limited to producers in areas (including adjacent counties) declared as disaster areas (The Farm Service Agency (FSA) also has a variety of loans available including emergency loans that are triggered by disaster declarations and operating loans that can assist producers with credit needs.

A list of the counties eligible for assistance under the President's recent disaster declaration is included at the end of this message.

Producers may also be able to obtain cost-share assistance with the [Environmental Quality Inventory Program \(EQIP\)](#), which is administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Items eligible for EQIP cost-sharing include:

- Animal Mortality and Animal Mortality Facility
- High Tunnel Systems
- Irrigation System and Irrigation Pipeline
- Livestock Pipeline
- Obstruction Removal
- Pumping Plant
- Roofs and Covers
- Waste Storage Facility
- Water Well
- Watering facility

EQIP funding is available year-round, but applications are accepted on a quarterly basis. The next application deadline is March 5th.

How do I Apply for any of These Programs?

To determine eligibility for any disaster assistance, producers are advised to contact their local USDA Farm Service Agency Office. To find the contact information for your local farm service agency office, click on the [link to this map](#). Once the map comes up, click on your state, then click on the "County offices" link on the left-hand side of the page.

Current Presidential Disaster Areas

Note: This list is being updated regularly. To find if your ranch is in a declared disaster area, use the maps available on the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) website. Remember: USDA Disaster Assistance is also available to producers in counties adjacent to declared disaster areas.

Alaska

Entire state

Louisiana

Entire state.

North Carolina (from November Floods)

Counties of Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Beaufort, Burke, Caldwell, Davidson, Davie, Duplin, Edgecombe, Hertford, Iredell, Robeson, Rowan, Sampson, Stokes, Wilkes, Wilson, and Yadkin.

Oklahoma

Counties of Canadian, Carter, Cherokee, Comanche, Cotton, Hughes, Jefferson, Le Flore, McIntosh, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Osage, Pittsburg, Stephens, Tulsa and Wagoner.

Texas

Counties of Angelina, Aransas, Bastrop, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Brazoria, Brazos, Brown, Burleson, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Collin, Comal, Comanche, Cooke, Coryell, Dallas, Denton, DeWitt, Ellis, Falls, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gillespie, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hardin, Harris, Hays, Henderson, Hidalgo, Hood, Jasper, Jefferson,

Johnson, Kaufman, Kendall, Lavaca, Liberty, Madison, Matagorda, Maverick, McLennan, Montague, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Nueces, Orange, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Polk, Rockwall, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Scurry, Shelby, Smith, Stephens, Tarrant, Travis, Tyler, Upshur, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Wharton, Wichita, Williamson, Wilson, and Wise.

If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the NBA at info@bisoncentral.com.

House and Senate Co-Sponsors for Local Processing Act

The Strengthening Local Meat Processing Act has been introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate. The Senate bill sponsored by U.S. Sens Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and John Thune (R-SD), has been assigned a new number: S 370. The House Bill is sponsored by U.S. Reps. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) is H.R. 1258.

If you live in one of these districts, or in a state of one or more of these Senators or Representatives, please reach out to their agricultural aide to encourage them to sign onto the bill.

Here's a sample email to send to your Senator:

Dear Sen. _____
Attn.: _____(ag aide name)

I am a bison producer in your district (or state) who relies on small meat processing plants to connect me with my customers. The COVID-19 pandemic and other market forces have placed serious strain on these small plants that are vital to the economic survival of many livestock producers in this area.

That is why I am writing to urge you to sign on as a co-sponsor to S. 370, The Strengthening Small Meat Processing Act, by Sens. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and John Thune (R-SD).

This legislation would implement a series of important provisions, including:

- Appropriating funds to establish the ability for FSIS to assist plants in developing the HACCP plans and food safety procedures;
- Expanding the cost-share amount for state meat and poultry inspection programs;
- Establishing a Small Plant Grant Program that will provide financial resources to assist small facilities in expanding and improving their infrastructure; and
- Expanding the Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program.

If you can co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Logan Hollers in Sen. Merkley's office at logan_hollers@merkley.senate.gov, or Ryan Donnelly in Sen. Thune's office at ryan_donnelly@thune.senate.gov.

I certainly hope that you will sign onto this important legislation to assist livestock producers throughout your district and our entire nation.

With Best Regards,
(Your name)

Here's a sample letter to send to your representative:

Dear Rep. _____
Attn.: _____(ag aide name)

I am a bison producer in your district (or state) who relies on small meat processing plants to connect me with my customers. The COVID-19 pandemic and other market forces have placed serious strain on these small plants that are vital to the economic survival of many

livestock producers in this area.

That is why I am writing to urge you to sign on as a co-sponsor to H.R. 1258, The Strengthening Small Meat Processing Act, by Reps. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) and Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE).

This legislation would implement a series of important provisions, including:

- Appropriating funds to establish the ability for FSIS to assist plants in developing the HACCP plans and food safety procedures;
- Expanding the cost-share amount for state meat and poultry inspection programs;
- Establishing a Small Plant Grant Program that will provide financial resources to assist small facilities in expanding and improving their infrastructure; and
- Expanding the Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program.

If you can co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Katie Bergh in Rep. Pingree's office at katie.bergh@mail.house.gov or Alan Feyerherm in Rep. Fortenberry's office at alan.feyerherm@mail.house.gov.

I certainly hope that you will sign onto this important legislation to assist livestock producers throughout your district and our entire nation.

With Best Regards,
(Your name)

NBA Joins Groups Pushing for USDA Discretionary Funding

The National Bison Association this week joined a long list of agricultural organizations signing a letter to the heads of the House and Senate Budget and Appropriations Committees urging additional discretionary budget authority within USDA to support the agency's work in research, food safety, marketing and a variety of other areas.

The letter notes that discretionary spending authority at USDA has increased only 13.6 percent since 2015. This is far below the level provided for other major federal departments.

“According to USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS), ‘agriculture, food, and related industries contributed \$1.109 trillion to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019, a 5.2-percent share,’ and account for 10.9 percent of U.S. employment,” the letter notes. “Farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers are the lifeblood of our rural communities. Strengthening investments in USDA programs will help rebuild our rural communities, provide additional resources for socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers, enhance our agriculture and food system, provide solutions to climate change, and protect our national security.”

The letter stresses that public investment of USDA’s programs should be significantly increased because:

- 1.) Farm Production and Conservation programs provide crop insurance, conservation and technical assistance programs, and commodity, lending, and disaster programs for farmers, ranchers, and other stewards of private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest lands.
- 2.) Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services programs work to end hunger across the United States and improve the health of all Americans.
- 3.) Food Safety programs ensure that our commercial supply of meat, poultry, egg products, and catfish is safe, wholesome, and properly labeled and packaged.
- 4.) Marketing and Regulatory Programs enable the marketing of U.S. agricultural products, including organic and specialty crops, and ensure the care and health of animals and plants.

5.) Research, Education, and Economics programs, that include the Cooperative Extension System and 4-H, deliver science and innovation to our farmers, ranchers, foresters, and producers, giving them the tools needed to help mitigate the impacts of challenges facing our world, while still improving our Nation's food security.

6.) Rural Development programs improve our rural economy and quality of life in our rural communities by providing financial support for essential public facilities and services, which include broadband, electric and telephone service, emergency service facilities, health clinics, housing, and water and sewer systems.

7.) Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs programs provide farmers, ranchers, and producers with opportunities to compete globally by promoting exports of U.S. agricultural products.

Challenge Grants Double Support for Bison Center of Excellence

People wanting to support the newly chartered Center of Excellence (COE) for Bison Studies now have an opportunity to double the value of their contribution, thanks to two generous donors committing challenge grants to support fundraising efforts last week.

The Center of Excellence was formally launched in September 2020 as a partnership between South Dakota State University, the National Bison Association and the National Buffalo Foundation. The Center of Excellence for Bison Studies is headquartered at SDSU's West River Research and Extension facility in Rapid City.

Following a presentation on the Center's activities at the National Bison Association Winter Conference last week, an anonymous donor offered to match up to \$50,000 in new donations in support of the Center. Immediately after that announcement, John Flocchini of the Durham Ranch in Wyoming announced that the ranch would match the \$50,000 commitment and would pledge an additional \$50,000 as a new challenge grant. Conference participants stepped up with pledges of \$23,000 toward that second \$50,000 challenge.

The next \$27,000 in pledges will continue to be matched by the Durham Ranch. Those pledges can be submitted to the National Buffalo Foundation, a public 501(c)(3) organization www.nationalbuffalofoundation.org/donate/

National Bison Association Executive Director Dave Carter said, "This grassroots commitment from individual bison producers demonstrates the strong commitment our members are making to support new research that will strengthen the health of our herds and the land, and that will help us continue to connect the public with deliciously healthy bison meat."

COE Director Dr. Kristi Cammack said, "the commitment made by the bison community today will go a long way to supporting the type of research and outreach that will benefit everyone in our business, and the customers who rely on us for high quality, nutritious products."

The 2018 U.S. Farm Bill authorizes the USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture to recognize centers of excellence in research, extension and education in the food and agricultural sciences. The Center of Excellence for Bison Studies is coordinated through SDSU but will include active participation by researchers and extension officials from other land grant universities, including 1994 tribal land-grant colleges and universities.

The Center focuses on research activities to improve bison herd health and the economic viability of both private and tribal bison producers.

****Correction* - We apologize for the errors in the GTSS winners' article. Please see the corrected information below:***

2J Bison Notches Producer of the Year at GTSS

2J Bison Ranch of Terreton, ID, earned the Producer of the Year honors at the annual Gold Trophy Show in Rapid City, SD. The ranch is owned and operated by Joe and Bonnie Brown. One of the heifer calf entries was named Reserve Grand Champion Female and they picked up first and second place in the Heifer Calf class and first and second in the Bull Calf class.

The Grand Champion Male was awarded to Buffalo Run Ranch's two year old bull entry. Buffalo Run Ranch is owned and operated by Joe Sorenson and Wade Klingler.

The Grand Champion Female, a two-year-old bred heifer, was shown by Prairieland Bison, shown by GTSS newcomers Cole and Shelby Haubrich of Hodgeville, Saskatchewan. The Haubrichs' were also awarded the GTSS Rookie of the Year.

The Reserve Grand Champion Male was shown by Beldon Bison Ranch, operated by Nathan and Penny Scott of Nipawin, Saskatchewan.

See the full GTSS results [here](#).



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.

TRIPLE CROSS RANCH SIMULCAST BISON AUCTION

Monday, March 8 • 10:00 a.m. MDT



Offering Approximately:

- (154) Heavy bull calves, average 498 lbs.
- (6) Light bull calves, average 360 lbs.
- (102) Heavy heifer calves, average 445 lbs.
- (32) Light heifer calves, average 370 lbs.

Jud Seaman - Auctioneer
16051390-1419



Photos, videos and bidding available at:

www.qas.hibid.com

Bison Industry Charters Center of Excellence at South Dakota State University

(From KNEB)

The Center was formed as a partnership between South Dakota State University, the National Bison Association, and the National Buffalo Foundation. The Center of Excellence for Bison Studies is headquartered at SDSU's West River Research and Extension facility in Rapid City.

"This is really important for the development of the bison industry. We haven't had the resources out there to help us, most of the knowledge we have comes from someone trying something and it works, or it doesn't, and then telling others at a conference," said Dave Carter executive director of the National Bison Association.

The COE will give the bison industry scientific and academic focus on the areas which will help build the business.

After the COE was chartered a family foundation stepped forward along with the National Buffalo Foundation with commitments of around \$400,000 to begin research projects.

"We sent out our first batch of request letters of intent for projects to focus on and we were really thrilled we got 36 letters of intent from all over the country," Carter said.

The COE has sorted the letters and 16 writers have been invited to submit full proposals by this month March.

Carter said the proposals were divided into five categories, bison health, genetics, bison in the environment, stimulating production in native bison herds, meat quality, and marketing, all important priorities for the bison business.

The COE had another big lift at the National Bison Association Winter Conference held on Feb. 20-21 in Rapid City.

"An anonymous donor offered to match up to \$50,000 in new donations in support of the Center. Immediately after that announcement, John Flocchini of the Durham Ranch in Wyoming announced that the ranch would match the \$50,000 commitment and would pledge an additional \$50,000 as a new challenge grant," Carter said.

Read more [here](#).

National Nonprofit Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) Awards Grants to 56 Farms in 33 States

(From foodanimalconcernstrust.org)

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT), a national nonprofit organization that works to

ensure that all food-producing animals are raised in a humane and healthy manner, recently awarded more than \$130,000 in Fund-a-Farmer Grants to a diverse slate of 56 livestock farmers and ranchers located across the country.

The grants range from \$1,000 to \$2,500 and were awarded for projects that improve farm animal welfare and increase the capacity of humane farmers. In solidarity with the movement to address racial inequity in agriculture, half of the grants were made to farmers who identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color. Of the 56 total grants, FACT awarded 19 grants to farmers who are seeking to attain or who already hold one of three animal welfare certifications (Certified Animal Welfare Approved (AWA) by A Greener World, Certified Humane, or Global Animal Partnership (GAP) Animal Welfare Certified), and 37 grants to farmers who wish to improve or expand access to pasture for their animals.

For the first time, bison farms were included in the Fund-a-Farmer grant portion of the project. NBA members Carie and Jarrod Starr from Cherokee Valley Bison Ranch in Thornville, OH were one of the bison farms to receive a grant. They received a grant of \$2,192 to install piping, hydrants and automatic watering systems to supply clean reliable water on demand to bison on pasture. The other bison farm recipient was McLeod's Flying Bull Bison Ranch in Big Timber, MT which received \$2,500 to purchase fencing equipment/supplies to complete perimeter fencing for their bison herd.

Read more [here](#):

Tips on Preparing Bison with Harden Ranch

(From WCIA)

Welcome to Harden Ranch! Raising Grass Fed Bison in East Central Illinois
34 years ago we built our log home on a 30-acre tract of land hoping that one day we would be able to fulfill our dream of having bison roam the pasture. In 2012 we made that a reality with our first 4 animals stepping onto the property and starting our herd. Since then, we have grown our herd to 14 animals and fallen in love with bison and the ranching life. As we grow our pastures, our herd and our family; our ambition grows with it.

Our goal is to raise bison the way it is supposed to be done. Giving the animals the grass, clover and land, they are meant to have and watch them grow naturally. We found out early in our endeavor that happy animals equal happy customers. We hope you enjoy navigating our website and get as excited about our bison meat and ranch as we are!

Environmentalists like grass-fed bison because this method of meat production is more sustainable and less polluting than conventional methods. As bison graze, they keep the ecosystem in check by preventing grasses from overgrowing, while their waste nourishes the soil, among other benefits. Properly grazed grasslands can, in fact, help stem global climate change because they trap the carbon from greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and redistribute it in soil.

Whether 100 percent grass-fed or grain-finished, bison meat is leaner than beef, though grain-finishing does increase the fat content somewhat. And like all meat, it is rich in protein, iron, zinc, vitamin B12 and other nutrients. The National Bison Association promotes it as having only 2.4 grams of fat and 143 calories in 3.5 ounces cooked, compared to 8 grams of fat and 200 calories in a piece of "select" beef. That's based on the leanest cuts, trimmed of all fat. Other bison cuts have 4 to 9 grams of fat and 165 to 190 calories, comparable to some lean beef cuts; ground bison meat can have 15 grams of fat and 240 calories in 3.5 ounces.

Read more [here](#).

Biden Administration Suspends UK Tariffs as Goodwill Gesture

(From Agri-Pulse)

The Biden administration on Thursday announced it is suspending some tariffs on the United Kingdom as the U.S. seeks allies to counter growing threats from “non-market economies” like China.

The UK, when it was part of the European Union, was a party to a European WTO challenge against U.S. subsidies for Boeing. The EU hit the U.S. last year with WTO-sanctioned tariffs that targeted U.S. commodities like cheese and wine. Meanwhile, the U.S. was levying its own tariffs on the EU to punish it for subsidizing Airbus.

While the impact of the U.S. lifting tariffs on some British products may have little effect on American farmers, it shows that the Biden administration is following through on promises to amass the support of allies before it confronts China, which currently maintains billions of dollars' worth of tariffs on U.S. agricultural commodities. Many of those tariffs are not currently in effect as a result of the “phase one” deal struck between the U.S. and China in February last year.

But Joe Glauber, a senior fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute and former USDA chief economist, warns that the Chinese tariff-relief is not permanent and is only the result of arbitrary decisions by the government to temporarily exempt some U.S. farm products from the tariffs.

“The United States will now suspend retaliatory tariffs in the Airbus dispute from March 4, 2021, for four months,” the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative said in a statement. “This will allow time to focus on negotiating a balanced settlement to the disputes, and begin seriously addressing the challenges posed by new entrants to the civil aviation market from non-market economies, such as China.”

China has been beefing up its aerospace industry and the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China, affiliated with the Chinese military, is a growing competitor to companies like both Boeing and Airbus, according to a recent report by the Asia Times.

Committee OKs \$500K for Bison Center in Custer

(From KOTA)

A new Bison Center at Custer State Park is a step closer to reality. The state legislature’s Joint Committee on Appropriations passed a bill [Tuesday that would provide \\$500,000 for the center.](#)

[Senate Bill 54](#) would allocate funds to the Bison Center, which has already received over [\\$4 million from the Helmsley Charitable Trust, and funds raised by the park itself.](#)

Kobee Stalder is the Visitor Services Program Manager for Custer State Park. He says he’s happy the state legislature is taking steps to ensure the bison center is built.

“The Bison herd is our most iconic attraction here in the park,” Stalder said. “Visitors want to know why we have bison, why they’re in the park, where they are and what they do here. So, the bison center can just further explain and tell that story to an entirely different level.”

Stalder says the park hopes to break ground on the project this spring and have it finished by 2022.

Read more [here.](#)

Texas A&M Economists Peg Livestock Storm Losses At \$228M

(From Meatlingplace.com)

Winter Storm Uri caused at least \$600 million in agricultural losses across Texas, including \$228 million in the livestock sector, according to preliminary data from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agricultural economists.

Citrus crops sustained at least \$230 million in losses, and vegetable crop losses were estimated at \$150 million.

The data used to determine the losses came from ranchers, farmers and others involved in or supporting production agriculture across the state, the economists said.

Livestock losses include not only cattle, sheep and goats and their offspring that died or were badly injured during the freeze, but also damage to the livestock industry infrastructure, said David Anderson, AgriLife Extension livestock economist, Bryan-College Station.

The livestock loss estimate also included initial poultry losses and costs related to bird loss, damage to housing facilities and increased heating costs to keep the animals warm, Anderson said.

Watch Yellowstone's Junction Butte Wolf Pack Try to Catch a Bison

(From Laramie Live)

Once again nature was on display in Yellowstone National Park. New video shows the Junction Butte wolf pack trying to chase down a bison. Spoiler alert: the wolves didn't win this time.

Yellowstone Wolf Tracker is one of the more active tour groups in Yellowstone National Park. They frequently share video from groups who want to see wolves in their natural habitat. This group was not disappointed.

It's no secret by now that the [Junction Butte Wolf Pack is the largest in Yellowstone](#) and it appears they're growing based on [recent video of new pups](#). Despite the fact that this lone bison was wildly outnumbered, it appears that he escaped this time.

According to the [Jackson Hole News & Guide](#), the Junction Butte wolf pack is highly habituated to humans. They don't seem to be phased by groups that observe them. That's probably why we're seeing more and more experiences shared of this pack in the wild.

I appreciated this new video share since it's nice to see a bison win (sort of) one of these battles since bears and wolves often end up on the receiving end of a meal.

See the video [here](#).

Eastern Montana Prairie Bison Pursuit Challenges Wounded Marine Veteran

(From the Billings Gazette)

BILLINGS – Late in life, Brian Meyer found his people. They are hunters. “My parents were not those kinds of people,” he said.

Yet as a child growing up in Arizona, Meyer loved to shoot his BB gun and would fashion a bow and arrows from the string and wood of the kite his father bought him.

“My dad said, ‘I don’t know about you, Brian,’” Meyer said.

A love of hunting is what propelled the 39-year-old to the remote prairie of eastern Montana on a gray January day. Wounded Warriors Outdoors had arranged for Meyer to participate in a donated bison harvest on land owned by American Prairie Reserve. The nonprofit conservation organization has a goal of preserving the unique badlands ecosystem but has faced opposition from some county officials and legacy ranchers.

It is wild country. Crows squawking and coyotes mournfully howling are the few sounds to pierce the heavy overcoat of silence on a calm day. The clean air feels as cool on gasping lungs as evaporating rubbing alcohol, and the sharp tang of sagebrush crushed under hiking boots adds a pinch of spice to the untamed atmosphere.

On the APR's 27,000-acre Sun Prairie unit more than 400 bison roam the coulees, bluffs and creek bottoms.

Two smaller herds occupy other areas for a total of about 800 bison. The conservation group manages more than 419,600 acres in the region – about 315,000 of which are public and state lands leased for grazing bison and 13,000 head of cattle.

Although annual drawings have been held the past four years allowing 67 individuals to shoot a bison, the organization is adamant these are not hunts.

“This is a harvest, not a hunt, because the bison are livestock, and because they are in a fenced area,” said Beth Saboe, APR's senior manager of media and government relations.

Despite the assertion, Garrett Long – who was assisting Meyer with the bison harvest – said the activity is “as close to hunting wild game as you can get.” Long has taken part in eight bison harvests on APR and has seen the large animals run for 3 miles after being spooked. He compared the opportunity to antelope hunting: spotting a herd in the distance across the open prairie, then planning a stalk to get within rifle range.

“The biggest thing I found is to take it very seriously,” Long said to Meyer on the first morning of the outing.

Read more [here](#).

NCAT Offers Virtual Armed to Farm Training

(From NCAT)

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is now offering a virtual version of its popular sustainable agriculture training program for military veterans. NCAT is moving the training online to make it accessible during COVID-19 restrictions. Veterans who want to attend the Virtual Armed to Farm training, which will take place in six sessions during April and May, can [apply online now](#).

Virtual Armed to Farm will cover topics essential to farm success, including business planning, budgeting, recordkeeping, marketing, and USDA programs, as well as specific enterprise discussions. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and network with other beginning farmers from across the country. The training will also include breakout sessions for region-specific networking and resource-sharing.

Virtual Armed to Farm will include an engaging blend of interactive online instruction and video farm tours via Zoom. Participants will be expected to be involved in virtual activities, complete assignments, and interact with other attendees. NCAT Sustainable Agriculture specialists will teach the training sessions. Staff from partner organizations, USDA agencies, and experienced crop and livestock producers will provide additional instruction.

Applications are available at https://ncat.org/atf_virtu/ and are due by March 12, 2021.

Virtual Armed to Farm topics will be applicable to all beginning farmers regardless of location in the U.S. Military veterans interested in farming are encouraged to apply. Spouses are welcome to participate as well but must submit a separate application. The number of participants will be limited to facilitate effective online interaction. NCAT will notify selected participants by March 19.

Training Session Dates

Virtual Armed to Farm will consist of two-hour sessions on the following dates:

April 1

April 8

April 15

April 22

April 29

May 6

The training sessions will take place from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Pacific time/4:00-6:00 p.m. Mountain/5:00-7:00 p.m. Central/6:00-8:00 p.m. Eastern.

The Virtual Armed to Farm training is free. While participants may join the live sessions via phone only, access to a computer, tablet, or mobile device and internet is required in order to watch recorded sessions and complete online assignments.

Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack Talks Priorities as He Retakes Control at USDA

(From AgWeek.com)

Tom Vilsack is back in the saddle at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Vilsack, confirmed and sworn in as America's 32nd ag secretary earlier this week, said USDA has a full plate and a tight timetable.

"There's quite a bit to do, and, as I've been saying, very little time to do it," said Vilsack, who previously served eight years as ag secretary under President Barack Obama. Vilsack spoke Thursday, Feb. 25, in a wide-ranging, fast-moving conference call with the news media.

USDA's immediate priority, in keeping with President Joe Biden's agenda, is "controlling the (COVID-19) pandemic," Vilsack said.

"Rural residents are more vulnerable to serious infections and death," for which there are a number of causes, Vilsack said. "So, it's incredibly important for the Department of Agriculture to help" through its programs aimed at rural residents.

Another USDA action to combat the pandemic is assigning 350 USDA employees to enhance the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccination program, Vilsack said.

Vilsack, who served as president and CEO of the U.S. Dairy Export Council between his stints as ag secretary under Obama and Biden, said his dairy experience has given him greater appreciation for the importance of U.S. ag exports.

Though China has received most of the recent attention involving U.S. ag exports, America needs strong trading partners worldwide to keep its ag exports robust and, he said.

Read more [here](#).

Genome to Phenome: ARS Research in Precision Agriculture

(From the High Plains Journal)

How do you build a better dairy cow? Use a tool designed to study the human genome, of course.


Working alongside international research partners in the Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative, Agricultural Research Service scientists are using technology to meet the challenges of the increasing global population and ever-changing environmental stressors. The goal of AG2PI is to better understand how genetics and the environment together influence the performance of plants and animals. This is easier said than done because regional environmental differences can vary the results of seeds from the same plant.

"We know that nature (genotype) and nurture (environment and management) are both important factors in agricultural production (phenotype)," said Caird Rexroad III, ARS national program leader for animal production and protection in Beltsville, MD. "We need to better understand exactly how they affect production to develop optimal production strategies that are tailored to the diversity of genetics and environments that make up U.S. and world agriculture."

To achieve this goal, AG2PI reaches across kingdoms (scientific classifications) to

examine genome-to-phenome challenges. Scientists in the various specialties work together to identify and fill in similar research gaps, access advanced cyberinfrastructure, and share data and new technology, such as sensors, robotics, and imaging platforms.

Read more [here](#).



REACH THE WHOLE HERD!

WITH A WEEKLY UPDATE BANNER AD
JUST \$50/WEEK FOR THIS SPOT
CONTACT [KAREN@BISONCENTRAL.COM](mailto:karen@bisoncentral.com) TO RESERVE



Save the Date!

- 3/08/2021 - Triple Cross Ranch Bison Webcast Auction - SD
- 3/12/2021 - Eastern Bison Association Annual Winter Conference - PA
- 3/20/2021 - Missouri Bison Association Spring Sale - MO
- 4/09/2021 - Minnesota Bison Association's Annual Education Conference - MN
- 6/27/2021 - National Bison Assn. Summer Conference - Cheyenne, WY

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](https://bisoncentral.com/calendar/)

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