

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

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NBA Weekly Update for May 12, 2023

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

Anniversary of Signing of the National Bison Legacy Act

Seven years ago, on Monday, May 9th, 2016, the American Bison was officially named the National Mammal of the United States of America.

The act was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. William Lacy Clay (D-MO) on June 25, 2015. It was introduced in the Senate by Senator John Hoeven, (R-ND) on September 14, 2015. The bill was co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of

lawmakers from across the country and finally, seven years ago this week, President Obama signed the National Bison Legacy Act into law.

The bison are a symbol of our American identity, representing unity, resilience and health. They inspire and are living testament for conservation success forged by diverse backgrounds joining together to preserve, promote and produce the great American Bison.



Progress Reported on MCF Vaccine Development

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service (USDA ARS) reported optimism to the National Bison Association this week in regard to the vaccine they are developing to combat Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF), a virus that sheep carry that can be lethal to bison.

The NBA Has been working with ARS for over 15 years on developing this vaccine and has always been a staunch supporter of the program, lobbying for funding every year during the association's fly-in to Washington, DC.

Dr. Cristina Cunha, with ARS based at Washington State University in Pullman, reported on the live vaccine trials currently taking place at the University of Wyoming, "We are very excited with the vaccine trial in bison so far. The animals have received 3 immunizations and no adverse effect was noticed, which confirms that this vaccine candidate is safe for bison."

The NBA is currently working with the USDA to potentially manufacture the vaccine, if ultimately proven effective, and is visiting with various labs to gauge interest in production. While this will inevitably be a lengthy process, the NBA will make this a top priority among herd-health issues, and hopefully bring a vaccine to bison producers in the near future.

Said NBA executive director, Jim Matheson, "While this is not the final conclusion of the study, it's very encouraging and even today I saw mention of a potential case of MCF on one of the Facebook bison groups, so it's still a very real and present danger to our herds. I've personally worked on this issue for over 15 years, and it's great to see such progress being made and a potential solution in sight."

Bison Marketers Meet to Discuss Q1 2023

The National Bison Association Marketer's Committee, chaired by Dick Gehring, met recently through an online meeting to discuss how the bison industry performed in the first quarter of 2023.

NBA executive director, Jim Matheson, provided an overview of year to date bison slaughter figures, and current wholesale prices, according to the USDA Agriculture Marketing Service. Overall, both slaughter, and prices being paid to producers are up with prices for young bulls (20 - 24 months) at their highest in nearly three years.

Federally inspected slaughter:

- 16% increase from April 2022 to April 2023
- 34% increase from February to April
- 7% increase in YTD slaughter compared with 2022
- 10% increase from 2022 over 2021 in total slaughter

Wholesale prices for March:

- March 2023 \$3.97/lb. Young Bulls
- Heifers \$3.66/lb.
- March 2022 \$3.93/lb. Young bulls
- March 2022 \$3.73/lb. Heifers

The group also discussed the NBA's outreach and promotional efforts to both consumers and producers, which is detailed in the article below on the NBA's Growth Fund, as well as the NBA's involvement in South Dakota State University's "Grass is Greener" USDA Climate Smart Grant, which has great potential to support growing bison market share as a regenerative protein.

All agreed that the industry is processing more and more bison to meet growing

consumer demand, though this growth will only be sustainable if supported by an increase in market share and new producers getting involved in our business. Most marketers reported a tightening supply of market-ready animals, and higher prices being paid to their suppliers.

Regional Event Updates

<u>Registration</u> for these, and all 6 regional NBA events, is open. Visit our <u>website</u> for the complete agenda and to learn more!



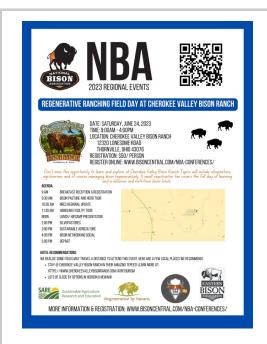
South Dakota - June 16 & 17 A two day event emphasizing the partnership bison ranchers have with the land, the animals, and the people.

Locations: Ramkota Hotel in Rapid City, SD & the 777 Bison Ranch near Hermosa, SD

Who are the speakers?
Cody Smith and the rest of the 777
ranch will provide the ranch tour
and discussion on bison handling,
FSA & NRCS staff exploring bison
and regenerative agriculture,
Glenn Plumb speaking on bison &
species recovery, Liz Riffle exploring
holistic management and more.

Important Dates:

Take advantage of the great group hotel discount by calling 605-343-8550, and specify "National Bison Association 2023 Meeting" when making your reservation at the Ramkota. This discount ends May 22nd, 2023. Register for the conference by June 2.



Ohio - June 24
Meet Kahuna and the rest of the bison herd at this one day Regenerative Bison Ranching event.

Location: Cherokee Valley Bison Ranch near Thornville, OH

Will there be food? Absolutely- and included in your registration! Chef Meagan will be there with her food truck offering your choice of a kimchi grilled teriyaki bison brat, juicy lucy bison burger or tender traditional bison brisket.

Who are the speakers?
We've got an amazing line upincluding our hosts Jarrod and Carie Starr providing ranch tour and bison management insight, Emily Price from the Natural Resources
Conservation Service, Molly Sowash speaking on silvopasture, and Chris Chmiel talking about Paw Paws.

Important Dates: Register by June 12!

Sponsorship Opportunities for Regional Events

Bison are more than livestock or wildlife. They are the heritage and future of North America and the National Mammal of the United States. Thank you for all you do for the heritage and future of this unmatched animal, and the people that love them.

We've heard from members that while they would love to join the NBA for its summer conference, it's typically too far from home during the busy farming and ranching season. So, we are bringing the summer conference closer to our members.

We are offering six regional events, reaching five of nine NBA member regions in 2023! We are on track to hold events in the remaining regions in 2024. Each event will feature local speakers, collaborate with local state/regional bison associations to provide the collective membership with top-notch learning and networking opportunities.

So what is your role in all of this?

- 1. Participate We warmly invite you to attend any or all of the events.
- 2. <u>Support</u> Consider sponsorship. We are offering exclusive promotional opportunities that include prominent recognition of businesses to the bison community and business commitment to the bison business. Please contact us right away with interest or questions: jim@bisoncentral.com or lydia@bisoncentral.com, or call 303-292-2833.
- 3. <u>Share</u> Please share widely these learning and networking opportunities- use the information in this newsletter, or utilize our content on social media platforms @nationalbison.



NBA

2023 SUMMER/FALL EVENTS

JUNE JULY SEPTEMBER OCTOBER JUNE 17TH - REGION 3: 777 RANCH - SD JUNE 24TH - REGION 7: CHEROKEE VALLEY RANCH - OH

JULY 9TH - REGION 5: SLEEPY BISON RANCH - MN JULY 15TH - REGION 1: SHOEMAKER BISON RANCH - ID

SEPT. 30TH - REGION 5: DOUBLE J BISON RANCH - WI

OCTOBER 7TH - REGION 8: RIFFLE FARMS - WV

National Bison Association Regions



MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION: WWW.BISONCENTRAL.COM/NBA-CONFERENCES/



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.

Roaming the research of bison production in South Dakota

From Ariana Schumacher/Ag Week May 8, 2023

CUSTER, S.D. — Bison production and research is growing across the state of South Dakota. More than six researchers at South Dakota State University alone are researching the species, both on campus in Brookings and at the SDSU Center of Excellence for Bison Studies in Rapid City.

As you drive through the state of South Dakota, you may notice several bison herds roaming the open prairies. These animals are a crucial livestock species to the state.

"Bison punch above their belt when it comes to economic input and return. They have a high return on investment for not just producers but also for agritourism. These things are completely coupled in this state," said Dr. Jeff Martin, assistant professor for the Department of Natural Resource Management at South Dakota State University.

"Bison and cattle as we have been learning through research now is that they do not graze the same. They utilize different areas of the landscape, especially when you have hills," Martin said. "They will also avoid eating forbes, so your flowering plants. That allows for those flowing plants to well, flourish. So, we get this increased what's called alpha diversity, that very first biodiversity measure of plants. They also don't graze near as hard, so you don't have grass taken all the way down to the soil."

There are many similarities between bison and beef cattle, however there are some differences.

"We have the benefit of a lot of beef research and veterinary training on beef, but the problems are that they aren't exactly the same species," Martin said. "So, some of the knowledge that we can gain for veterinary and other animal science is applicable to a point or bare minimum in the scientific realm, serves as a known model for us to test against. So, like 'this is what we suspect, do they do it?' Well, more and more times, they don't do that, they do something slightly different, for example."

Read more.

Klondike Bison & Bee

Jamie Mowers/ Webster-Kirkwood Times (MO) May 11, 2023

Bison and bees might seem an unlikely combination, but Peggy Ladd is proving the two are a perfect pair.

That's the case at Klondike Bison and Bee, anyway. Ladd, a St. Louis city resident with a master's in business administration from Webster University, has spent the past several years pouring her heart and soul into this 150-acre farm in DeSoto.

Eight years ago, the biomedical engineer left her corporate job at a utility company for something she never imagined — one that involved getting dirty and required lots of blood, sweat and tears, and rolling up her sleeves.

But since transforming the property her parents bought in 1959 where she was born and raised into a successful farm, the woman with one foot in the city and one in the country wouldn't trade it for anything.

Ladd, 63, has spent nearly every day of the past four years making the 110-mile round-trip drive from her home in the city's Benton Park neighborhood to the farm in DeSoto and back, which has made for many very long days. But the hard work has paid off for this self-taught bison rancher and beekeeper.

"A day on the farm beats a corporate job any day," Ladd said. "I never expected to be using my MBA from Webster for this, but it's come in handy."

After five years of rebuilding and cleaning up her family's 61-year-old farm with help from her sister and a few selfless friends, the bison began arriving in the fall of 2019. Ladd purchased 21 bison from two other ranchers in Jefferson County, learning much about caring for and raising the animals through the National Bison Association.

Read more.

Bison in the Blood

From Geralyn Wichers/ Manitoba Cooperator (Canada) May 10, 2023

Faces of Ag: Erin and Jason Boily started a bison cow-calf operation from scratch before the pandemic forced them to pivot.

Today, Iron Head Bison Ranch sells bison meat and leather products from its website but is focusing on branching into retail and restaurants. It has collaborated with companies like Bones and Marrow Broth Company, Trans Canada Brewing Company, and Bistro on Notre Dame.

The dream has always been to build a family farm, Jason Boily said. The kids love it, and the ranch has been a place of solace for the family, as well as for his father during his mom's recent illness and death.

The vision is to build a house and live there, to raise grandkids there, and to grow the herd.

"[The kids] are able to see mom and dad's ... hard work and starting something from nothing," Erin Boily said. "You can't teach that in school."

Read More.

Bison lick each other's wounds after a traumatic experience

From Corryn Wetzel/ New Scientist May 6, 2023

American bison have been observed licking each other's wounds, a stress-reducing behaviour not documented in a hoofed mammal until now.

When animals sustain injuries, licking is often the first line of defence for wound care. Licking a laceration or puncture can remove debris that causes infection and help wounds heal faster. The saliva of some animals – including humans – has antibacterial properties and supports tissue and nerve regrowth.

Read More.

Gene-edited super calf resistant to brutal virus [BVDV]

Univ. of Nebraska - Lincoln ScienceBlog.com May 9, 2023

Scientists have found a way to make cows more resistant to a virus called bovine viral diarrhoea virus (BVDV). This virus can make cows very sick, especially if they are pregnant. Sometimes, infected cows give birth to calves that are also infected for their whole life. This can spread the virus to other cows.

"The most successful version of the future that I can see is one where we don't have to deal with antimicrobial resistance because we just don't use that many antimicrobials," said veterinary epidemiologist Brian Vander Ley, an associate professor in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. "That's better for everyone. That means that we have eliminated the cause of a lot of the antimicrobial use and we've eliminated that expense for livestock producers."

The scientists changed the way the virus attaches to the cows' cells using a special tool called gene editing. "Our objective was to use gene-editing technology to slightly alter CD46 so it wouldn't bind the virus yet would retain all its normal bovine functions," said Aspen Workman, a scientist with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Clay Center, Nebraska.

They tested this on cow cells in a lab, then used the same technique to make a calf that was resistant to the virus. "Our objective was to use gene-editing technology to slightly alter CD46 so it wouldn't bind the virus yet would retain all its normal bovine functions," said Aspen Workman.

The calf, called Ginger, was born healthy and did not get sick when she was put with a sick calf. This shows that the technique worked and could help cows stay healthy in the future.

Read more.

UC Davis study: Cultivated meat is worse for climate

From Meatingplace

Research led by scientists at University of California, Davis, finds that the environmental impact of cultivated meat production is "likely to be orders of magnitude higher" than beef production.

The study, published as a non-peer-reviewed preprint on the bioRxiv server, estimates the energy required to grow cultivated meat and compares those estimates against conventional beef.

Based on their estimates, the researchers report that the global warming potential for cultivated meat is four to 25 times greater than the average global warming potential for retail beef.

The researchers note that the quality and quantity of growth medium components - including amino acids and glucose - are a major contributing factor to the high global warming potential of cultivated meat.

In response, the Good Food Institute noted that "several key assumptions in the UC Davis study do not align with the current or expected practices for sourcing and purification of cell culture media ingredients."

Source.

Senator Marshall introduces legislation for livestock, poultry producers

By Shayndel Jones WIBW.com May 10, 2023

TOPEKA, Kan. - On Wednesday, May 10, Senator Roger Marshall, M.D.(R-KS) introduced legislation with Senator Peter Welch (D-VT) that would give livestock and poultry producers greater access to consumers nationwide.

Senator Marshall announced currently, meat and poultry cannot be sold across state lines unless it was processed at a USDA-inspected facility. The Direct Interstate Retail Exemption for Certain Transaction Act (DIRECT) creates a narrow exemption to allow small producers and butchers more flexibility for interstate sales without compromising food safety or jeopardizing international trade market access.

Senator Marshall shared a comment about the legislation.

"During the pandemic, we saw first-hand the resiliency challenges of our food sector - millions of people stopped going to restaurants and started looking to cattle producers to source their beef directly from the farm. Unfortunately, the number of USDA-inspected facilities needed to meet consumer demand was lacking," Senator Marshall said. "The DIRECT Act creates a small and simple exemption to allow state-inspected butchers to sell meat and poultry online directly to a household consumer. If Kansans can buy meat directly from my butcher, my butcher should be able to sell their meat to consumers out-

of-state as well."

Read more.

The bad, the good, and the up slightly: Q1 meat trade report From Meatingplace

Beef exports faltered, pork exports rose and broiler exports increase somewhat for the first quarter of 2023, compared with the year-earlier results, according to USDA trade data analyzed by the analysts of the Daily Livestock Report.

Beef exports totaled 779.0 million pounds for the first quarter of the year, down 7.9% or 66.7 million lbs from the same period last year. Shipments to Japan rose 0.2% over the quarter, to 186.4 million lbs., while those to Mexico saw a 17.8% increase, 77.6 million lbs.

The increases were more than offset, analysts noted, by double-digit declines in beef exports to South Korea (down 16%), China (down 4.4%), Canada (down 11.8%) and Taiwan (down 19.8%).

Meanwhile, first quarter pork exports increased 127.5 million lbs or 8.3% over the same period last year, to nearly 1.74 billion lbs. Increases were seen to the top five destinations for U.S. pork, with Mexico registering a record first quarter level of 632.2 million lbs, up 4.9% from the same period last year.

Read more.

As the pandemic stressed the supply chain, South Dakota's ranchers worked on solutions

From Tod Stephens/ Rapid City Journal (SD) May 11, 2023

The owners of Wall Meat Processing, Charfauros, Niehaus and Tom Fitch, were recently awarded a \$3.3 million federal grant as part of the current administration's executive order to grow the nation's independent processing capacity. The money will be used to build a 30,000-square-foot meat processing plant in New Underwood that will include a training center fit with an audiovisual display and full kitchen to show how to properly prepare meat.

Federally funded and inspected, the new facility, to be called I-90 Meats, will have the capability to process 4,000 head of beef, pork, lamb and bison annually.

The big processors and federally inspected plants acquire beef from around the country and world, but Charfauros is focused on South Dakota. To support local producers, each package of meat he sells says the name of the producer on it. If customers like that steak, then they can order a quarter, half or full cow directly from the producer for cheaper than they would by buying separate packages at the store. Since the meat would be processed by a USDA inspected plant, the producers can sell to customers in all 50 states including restaurants, federal installations and schools.

Read more.

Minnesota Local Food Purchase Assistance Program

Applications are due by May 30, 2023.

The Minnesota Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Program is a new grant program from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to fund projects that buy local food,

primarily from socially disadvantaged and emerging farmers, and distribute that food at no charge to underserved communities throughout the state.

Individuals (including farmers), nonprofit organizations, for-profit businesses, tribal nations, government entities, agricultural cooperatives, economic development organizations, educational institutions, and representatives of a community collaboration are eligible to apply, though required to partner with at least one other individual or organization.

The maximum award is \$100,000 and the minimum is \$10,000.

Read more.

Conservation Innovation Grants in Virginia

Applications are due by May 29, 2023.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Virginia is accepting applications for Conservation Innovation Grants to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. A total of \$400,000 is available. CIG generally funds pilot projects, field demonstrations, and on-farm conservation research. Soil health and forestry are state priorities this year.

Read more.

Conservation Innovation Grants in South Carolina

Applications are due by June 5, 2023.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in South Carolina is accepting applications for Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) State Program funding to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. A total of \$500,000 is available for the South Carolina CIG competition in FY 2023. Nonfederal entities and individuals are invited to apply. Projects may be between one and three years in duration, and the maximum award amount for a single award in FY 2023 is \$250,000. State priorities for projects are water quality, soil health, air quality, and climate-smart agriculture and forestry.

Read more.

farm crisis center

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

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

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

https://farmcrisis.nfu.org/

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



Save the Date!

- 5/25/2023 Jack Auction Group Video Auction Online
- 6/09/2023 Texas Bison Assn. Spring Conference Waco, TX
- 6/16/2023 NBA Regional Conference Rapid City, SD
- 6/16/2023 Montana Bison Association Summer Meeting MT
- 6/21/2023 Jack Auction Group Video Auction Online
- 6/24/2023 NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day Thornville, OH
- 7/09/2023 NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day Sleepy Eye, MN
- 7/15/2023 NBA Regional Conference New Plymouth, ID
- 8/9/2023 Jack Auction Group Video Auction Online
- 9/13/2023 Jack Auction Group Video Auction Online
- 9/29/2023 Eastern Bison Association Fall Conference Varysburg, NY
- 9/30/2023 NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day Baldwin, WI
- 10/7/2023 NBA Regional Conference Terra Alta, WV
- 10/13/2023 Jack Auction Group Video Auction Online
- 11/8/2023 Antelope Island State Park Production Auction Webcast
- 11/10/2023 Illinois Indiana Bison Association Fall Conference Roanoke, IN

- 11/10/2023 Jack Auction Group Video Auction Online
- 12/6/2023 Jack Auction Group Video Auction Online
- 1/1/2024 Prairie Legends Bison Auction Webcast

Please visit https://bisoncentral.com/calendar/ for details and more up-to-date events. If you have a bison event coming up that's not listed, please send the details to iim@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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