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# Weekly Update



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## NBA Weekly Update for May 13, 2022

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*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.*

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## Mycoplasma bovis Fact Sheet — May 2022

**2021 Case Count:** 21 herds with confirmed cases in 10 states, according to the Mycoplasma Task Force with the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies at South Dakota State University.

**Disclaimer:** *The National Bison Association assumes no responsibility for the below content, provided for informational purposes only. This content is based solely on anecdotal information from volunteers in the bison industry who have experienced losses due to Mycoplasma bovis as the science of M. bovis in bison advances.*

### Conditions That May Cause Incidents of M. bovis

- Drought, poor pasture and water conditions.
- Crowded, dusty, high-stress environments.
- Excessive wildfire smoke.
- Any type of stress — environmental, nutritional, behavioral, etc.
- Parasite loads or other causes for a depressed immune system.

### Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms may depend on the primary type of infection. The two most common areas of infection will occur in the throat (upper respiratory) or lungs (lower respiratory). The animal can be infected in both places, but the early symptoms appear different depending on the

primary infection site but usually include coughing, sneezing, or runny nose. In some cases, the primary site is localized to leg joints, uterine tissue, mammary system, eyes, and other places, but these outbreaks seem less common. Symptoms may also be systemic and appear widespread in the animal's systems upon necropsy.

- Animals will tend to separate themselves from the herd.
- General lethargy is common.
- Poor posture — animals will appear uncomfortable and humped up.
- Dull eyes — "40-yard stare". Animals may appear introspective and have no interest in surroundings or other animals.
- The throat area may appear swollen, and animals may extend their neck to help increase air intake. Difficulty breathing may be apparent.
- Animals don't move willingly. If they move, you may observe a jerky gate or "short stepping" in the front legs, a possible result of lungs adhering to the ribcage, so the animal doesn't want to take big steps with front legs. Joints may appear swollen, thus making moving painful and difficult. Additionally, animals are slow to move, limping and guarding extremities, usually from severe arthritic pain.
- Noticeable swelling and weeping around eyes/orbital sockets.
- Thick pus may be observed in the corner of the eyes.
- Pacing, or walking by moving the feet on the same side instead of the normal four-beat alternating gait.

### **Management Suggestions**

- Use caution when bringing in new animals, especially if the new arrivals are from an open herd. If possible, isolate new animals for a quarantine period (e.g., 30-days) before introducing them into the herd.
- After identifying suspect symptoms, separate infected animals from the herd as quickly as possible. Try to maintain a 100-yard minimum distance from healthy animals, ideally downwind.
- Keep animals out of dusty or wet conditions whenever possible.
- Limit stress on the animals. Keep hay and water within reach and consider providing ample free choice or lick-block minerals.
- Slaughter is a reasonable option — rapid euthanasia can help prevent the spread to other animals. If this choice is made, the earlier it's done, the better, and if harvesting for meat, the sooner, the better to increase salvage value.

### **Action Plans**

- Autogenous vaccines are available, but strain mutation, outbreaks in vaccinated herds, and poor etiology understanding have raised vaccine efficacy questions. While vaccination with an autogenous *Mycoplasma* vaccine won't harm animals, understand that it may or may not be effective.
- Consult with your veterinarian as needed to perform a necropsy on deceased animals and collect samples to send in for analysis so the strain of *M. bovis* can be identified and documented.
- Document all cases in your herd through photographs, dates, weather and management conditions, and necropsy results.
- Please fill out the *Mycoplasma* Anecdotal Interview, [available here](#), and return it to [Karen@bisoncentral.com](mailto:Karen@bisoncentral.com). All information you provide is kept confidential. Interviews and other information will be shared with the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies for compilation in their reports and research.

Any U.S. affected producers may be eligible for financial assistance for animals lost to *M. bovis*. Please visit the USDA's livestock Indemnification Program to learn more: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/livestock-indemnity/index> or Farmers.gov recovery resources: <https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery>.

Please note, this information will be formatted into a more substantial fact sheet with graphics and distributed to the membership shortly.

The National Bison Association's executive director, Jim Matheson, has been soliciting bids from Denver-area hotels as the NBA searches for a new hotel to host its annual Winter Conference, the third week of January.

The NBA has long held the event at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver, but the surrounding neighborhood, unfortunately, has declined over the years and has resulted in a less hospitable environment. Due to member demand, the NBA will seek a new hotel, likely outside of NBA city limits.

Matheson and NBA Winter Conference committee Chair, Beverly Brown, will provide suggestions at the next NBA Board of Directors meeting next Thursday, May 19th.

More details soon as they emerge, and please mark your calendars for the 2023 NBA Winter Conference, January 18 - 21. Wherever we end up, it's sure to be a great bison get together packed with learning opportunities, networking and fun!

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## Still Time to Register for the 2022 IBC!

You are invited to a four-day convention for bison producers, marketers, researchers and industry experts.



**Full Conference Registration\*: \$441.00 CAD**

**Full Conference Family Registration\*: \$892.50 CAD – Ticket includes admission for three persons (16+) in the same family (SAVE \$430.50)**

### IBC 2022 - Convention Agenda

#### Tuesday, July 12 – TCU Place

6 PM – 11 PM | Opening Night Reception - Taste Saskatchewan

Come socialize at TCU Place and enjoy a selection of appetizers and drinks from some of our favourite local breweries and distilleries.

#### Wednesday, July 13 - TCU Place

9 AM - 12 PM: Key note speaker and presentations

1 PM - 5 PM: Tours (must be pre-registered. Sales close July 10, 2022. If you would like to book the tour after the date, please check-in with the INFORMATION DESK at TCU Place.)

6 PM - 11 PM: Banquet  
Dinner and networking

#### Thursday, July 14 - TCU Place

9 AM - 4 PM: Keynote Speakers and Breakouts

For more details, please visit our website

6 PM - 11 PM: Banquet  
Dinner and networking.

#### Friday, July 15 - TCU Place

9 AM - 12 PM: Speakers and Breakouts

12 PM - 2 PM | Farewell Luncheon

Learn more and register for the IBC at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/international-bison-convention-2022-registration-126340121705>.

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***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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### **New Texas A&M Research Documents Domestic Cattle Genetics In Modern Bison Herds** (From *AgriLife Today*)

A new study published in the journal *Scientific Reports* has revealed the strongest evidence to date that all bison in North America carry multiple small, but clearly identifiable, regions of DNA that originated from domestic cattle.

In the study, Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVMBBS) researchers, led by James Derr and Brian Davis, compared genome sequences among the major historical lineages of bison to 1,842 domestic cattle, establishing that all analyzed bison genomes contained evidence of cattle introgression.

“This comparative study clearly documents that the people responsible for saving the bison from extinction in the late 1800s are also responsible for introducing cattle genetics into this species,” Derr said.

This study updates findings from a series of studies published 20 years ago in which Derr’s team revealed that only a few bison herds existed that appeared to be free of domestic cattle introgression. Now, with better genetic technology, these researchers have shown that even those herds are not free from hybridization.

“Today, it appears that all major public, private, tribal, and non-governmental organization bison herds have low levels of cattle genomic introgression,” said Sam Stroupe, a Ph.D. student in Derr’s lab and first author of the study. “This includes Yellowstone National Park, as well as Elk Island National Park in Canada, which were thought to be free of cattle introgression based on previous genetic studies.”

Derr said that these new findings will also have ramifications for bison conservation efforts; in this case, their findings could actually make conservation efforts easier, since certain herds will no longer need to be isolated.

[Read more.](#)

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### **Matheson Receives Sustainable Agriculture Grant** (From *IAfalls.com*)

(May 9, 2022) - Jim Matheson with the National Bison Association in Westminster, CO



was selected to receive a \$39,087 grant from the North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (NCR-SARE) for the project, "National Bison North Central Regenerative Ranching Workshop Series."

"The National Bison Association proposes a series of six field days/workshops that will feature tours and speakers on working bison farms/ranches to demonstrate how to maximize producers' regenerative impact in bison production through the holistic management of bison operations across the North Central region," said Matheson. This grant was awarded as part of NCR-SARE's Partnership Grant Program. The Partnership Grant Program is intended to foster cooperation between agriculture professionals and small groups of farmers and ranchers to catalyze on-farm research, demonstration, and education activities related to sustainable agriculture. Learn more about the NCR-SARE Partnership Grant Program online at <http://www.northcentralsare.org/Grants/Our-Grant-Programs/Partnership-Grant-Program>

The focus for each of the NCR-SARE grant programs is on research and education. Funding considerations are based on how well the applicant presents the problem being addressed, the project's relevance to sustainable agriculture in the 12-state North Central region, and how well it aligns with NCR-SARE's goals, among other factors specific to each grant program.

NCR-SARE's Administrative Council (AC) members decide which projects will receive SARE funds. A collection of farm and non-farm citizens, the AC includes a diverse mix of agricultural stakeholders in the region. Council members hail from regional farms and ranches, the Cooperative Extension Service, universities, federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

[Source.](#)

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## **Bison herd at central Nebraska's Crane Trust protects habitat, attracts visitors** *(From The Omaha World-Herald)*

Several new "prairie ambassadors" are frolicking at the Crane Trust.

Small, hairy and adorable, baby bison will keep arriving through May at the habitat conservation area along the Platte River in central Nebraska. About 50 are expected.

The newcomers, and the rest of the herd of 113, have a dual purpose, according to Crane Trust President Brice Krohn.

"The Crane Trust is there to protect habitat," he said. "This is another tool to learn from. It helps us attract visitors as well."

The bison, along with controlled burns, haying and disking, are important factors in keeping grasslands grasslands, said Tim Smith, director of land management.

Only 2% of wet meadow tall grass prairie remains in the state, and the Crane Trust has one of the biggest contiguous tracks left intact.

"We don't want to see it going from grasslands to forest," Smith said.

To help with that goal, Krohn said, the Crane Trust made the decision seven years ago to bring bison back to about 1,200 acres of the 5,617-acre property. Tens of millions of them once roamed the Great Plains before they were hunted almost to extinction in the late 19th century.

Their presence now is making a difference, both in terms of protecting bird habitat and drawing crowds.

[Read more.](#)

## **Belwin Bison Festival returns**

*(From The Lowdown)*

A herd of 20 bison from NorthStar Bison is getting ready for its release at the annual Belwin Bison Festival on May 21.

Thanks to a partnership between the Belwin Conservancy and Northstar Bison in Cameron, Wisconsin, a herd of juvenile bison will spend the summer months living on Belwin's prairie.

"Bison are an integral part of a healthy prairie. They have taught us a lot about maintaining a prairie," said Belwin Conservancy's program director, Susan Haugh. "It's a beautiful way of educating people about the bison and healthy prairies, which is Belwin's main goal: to restore the land and create a healthy ecosystem."

The bison release will begin around noon, but prior to that, there will be a 5K fun run at 10 a.m., family-friendly educational activities and a variety of food from local food trucks. Once the bison are released, they will remain at the conservancy until early fall. They can be seen from a safe distance from two observation platforms at the conservancy. "It's beautiful to see them come off the truck," said Haugh.

Like many other events, the Belwin Bison Festival has been on hold for the last two years due to COVID-19. The celebration officially began in 2018, but Belwin is ready to go back to educating the public on the importance of the prairie through eco arts.

Attendees can expect to learn about the prairie through bison artifacts, creating artwork using plants and dirt and looking at prairie plants. The Washington County Conservation District will attend the event and bring interactive arts and science activities for all ages. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the 5K at 10 a.m. and the bison release at noon. Attendees will pay \$10 per car, but no registration is required for the festival.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Gordon donates bison license for conservation raffle**

*(From The Buckrail)*

WYOMING — For the fourth year in a row, Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon has donated a wild bison license to be raffled off to raise money for wildlife conservation.

The license will be issued through a random raffle that is open only to residents of the Cowboy State.

"The bison is a stately symbol of Wyoming and a fitting hunt to raise money for conservation," said Gordon. "I am pleased to once again offer this opportunity to residents who care so deeply for wildlife."

More information pertaining to the raffle can be found on the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's website [here](#). The winner of the raffle will be announced on June 15.

According to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, bison hunting in the Jackson area is currently limited to portions of the Bridger-Teton National Forest, the National Elk Refuge, small parcels of state-owned land and potentially some private lands with landowner permission.

Applicants successful in drawing a wild bison license can apply for a permit to hunt the National Elk Refuge. The application process for National Elk Refuge hunting permits is conducted in cooperation with the National Elk Refuge prior to the start of the hunting season. Applications are available through, [Access Yes Program](#). Alternate permits will also be available during each hunt period through the Department's website.

Read [more](#).

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## **Yellowstone National Park: Bison Herd Tries To Help As Baby Pronghorn Runs For Its Life From Lone Wolf**

*(From The Whiskey Riff)*

Among the 3,468 square miles of Yellowstone National Park, it's hard to even imagine everything that goes on amongst the wildlife out there.

However, lucky for us, we're blessed with a number of videos taken by either the park or tourists, giving us all a glimpse of the natural beauty, and often times, not so pretty, aspects of the park.

In the latest edition of wild Yellowstone videos, a tourist shot a video of a black wolf chasing a baby pronghorn in Lamar Valley, Yellowstone, from their car.

The caption of the video reads:

"A black wolf chases a baby pronghorn in Lamar Valley, Yellowstone National Park. The mother pronghorn helps protect the baby by trying to distract and make the wolf chase her instead. Even the bison try to help the baby pronghorn by blocking the wolf's path.

The baby pronghorn was able to escape the wolf by using its amazing speed and endurance. Handheld video was taken from inside our car.

We were towing our trailer on our way to our campsite for the evening and were not prepared for this incredible sight!"

[Read more.](#)

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## **Bison could soon be roaming land near Shakopee again**

*(From Bring Me the News)*

A plan to reintroduce bison on tribal land near Shakopee is under development.

Questions remain on where, when, how and how many bison will be reintroduced, a spokesperson for the [Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community](#) told [Bring Me The News](#).

According to Scott County Administrator Lezlie Vermillion, roadway pull-outs for viewing areas are being planned for County Highway 16 and County Highway 87.

An SMSC spokesperson said more details will be available in the coming months. There are several bison reintroduction efforts underway elsewhere in Minnesota, including at the [Spring Lake Park Reserve](#) in Dakota County. Bison will also return to the prairie this month at the [Belwin Conservancy](#) in Afton.

The efforts are intended to restore the ecological role of grazing in prairie preservation. Disturbing prairies through fire and grazing promotes plant diversity.

Both [natural processes give flowers an opportunity to compete with tall grasses](#), which supports the diverse prairie habitat needed for birds, butterflies, amphibians, bees and other mammals.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Bus collides with bison after delivering flood evacuees to Yellowstone**

*(From The CBC)*

One of the buses used to transport people from Hay River to Yellowknife collided with a bison on the way back to Hay River.

The driver was returning in his empty school bus after dropping 40 people off in Yellowknife. Just north of Fort Providence, N.W.T., at 4:30 in the morning, the bus collided with a bison.

The impact was "huge," said Frazer Pike, the owner of the bus, which is part of a fleet that normally shuttles students to and from school.

"It hit on the driver's side and broke the left hand tie rod," said Pike. "That's why it veered into the ditch."

The bison died instantly. Pike said the driver was unhurt, though he had to wade through the flooded ditch to get out.

The bus was to be pulled out of the ditch and transported back to Hay River Friday afternoon.

[Read more.](#)

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## **WWF Launches Open-Source App To Make Food Supply Chains More Transparent** *(From Forbes)*

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has launched an app that aims to help food supply chains become more transparent.

The [transparenC app](#) (available for both Android and iOS devices) and web portal is the world's first open-source traceability software for any kind of food supply chain.

It can be used anywhere by farmers, buyers and retailers without paying licensing fees to ensure transparency and accountability across all stages of food production. The app has been co-developed with Republic Systems.

The WWF's global network lead for aquaculture, Aaron McNevin told Forbes the genesis for the app was the issues faced by shrimp farmers in Thailand, who could not get the source of the fish meal they were using to meet certification requirements.

McNevin said the seafood supply chains are particularly complicated because of the number of small owners involved, who make traceability more difficult and therefore increase the risks involved for retailers who purchase their products.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Ag groups get some breathing room on SEC climate disclosure proposal** *(From Meatingplace.com)*

Agriculture organizations seeking a lengthy extension to the comment period for the Securities & Exchange Commission's proposed climate-related disclosure requirement have scored a partial victory.

The SEC has extended the deadline for the comment period to June 17, 2022, from the original date of May 20.

"This action will allow interested persons additional time to analyze the issues and prepare their comments, which would benefit the Commission in its consideration of final rules," the agency said in its filing.



More than 100 [ag organizations had asked for](#) an extension of the comment period to Nov. 15.

The proposed rule, "The Enhancement and Standardization of Climate Related Disclosures for Investors," would require reporting on climate-related information from up and down the supply chain in company registration statements and annual reports. Ag interests' representatives believe that the rule's "expansive treatment" of the reporting of Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions may create multiple new sources of substantial costs and liabilities for their members.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Canadian government invests in growth of red meat exports** *(From Meatingplace.com)*

The Canadian government announced Tuesday an investment of up to C\$543,271 to support efforts by the Canadian Meat Council (CMC) to grow Canada's red meat exports. In collaboration with the Canadian Pork Council and Canadian Cattlemen's Association, the CMC will implement a global market strategy that aims to maintain existing markets and identify new opportunities to diversify trade.

CMC is undertaking activities such as trade advocacy missions, engaging with in-market intelligence specialists, and arranging inspection visits by international officials to demonstrate compliance with food safety standards for export. This work will help build and strengthen relationships with foreign industry partners and boost Canada's reputation for high-quality and safe products.

Funding for the initiative comes from the federal AgriMarketing Program, which aims to increase and diversify Canadian exports.

Canada's red meat sector is an important part of the Canadian economy, with exports worth more than \$9.4 billion in 2021. The red meat sector represents Canada's largest source of farm cash receipts, totaling more than \$16 billion in 2021.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Save the Date!**

- 5/26/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 6/03/2022 - Texas Bison Association Spring Conference - TX
- 6/17/2022 - Montana Bison Association - MT
- 6/18/2022 - NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop - Rugby, ND
- 6/23/2022 - Western Bison Association Spring meeting - UT
- 6/23/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online

- 7/06/2022 - ITBC 3rd Annual Buffalo Worker Safety Workshop - SD
- 7/12/2022 - International Bison Conference - Saskatoon, SK
- 7/21/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 8/15/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - Online
- 9/10/2022 - NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop - Mission, SD
- 10/13/2022 - ITBC 3rd Annual Buffalo Worker Safety Workshop - SD
- 9/10/2022 - NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop - Villa Grove, IL
- 11/9/2022 - Antelope Island State Park Bison Auction - Online
- 11/25/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Bison Fundamentals - MN
- 11/26/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Legends of the Fall Sale - MN
- 11/14/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - Online
- 12/01/2022 - Kansas Buffalo Association Sale - KS
- 12/01/2022 - Western Bison Association Meeting and Show/Sale - UT
- 1/07/2023 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Simulcast Auction - SD
- 1/18/2023 - NBA Winter Conference - CO
- 1/21/2023 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - Denver, CO
- 2/11/2-23 - Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Sale Simulcast Auction - SD

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](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com) and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

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[Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events](#)

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