

# Spring Bison Auctions

Carlson Bison • Hordville, NE • Online Only Bison Auction • May 17, 2021 • 10:00 A.M. CDT

Offering Approximately: (10) 2020 Born Heifers • (11) 2020 Born Bulls

Blackfeet Nation Buffalo Program • Browning, MT • Webcast Bison Auction • May 17, 2021 • 10:00 A.M. MDT

Offering Approximately:

(80) 2020 Born Heifers • (90) 2020 Born Bulls



Jud Seaman - Auctioneer  
(605) 390-1419

Photos, video, description and registration at

[www.qasbuy.com](http://www.qasbuy.com)



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

Reprint is encouraged and permission is granted when the following credit appears:

©National Bison Association; Westminster, CO

## NBA Weekly Update for May 14, 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.*

**June 27 - 29 - Cheyenne, WY- Little America Hotel**  
**Register by June 11th at [bisoncentral.com](http://bisoncentral.com)**  
**Reserve Lodging by June 4th**



## Just One Month Left To Register!

- **2 Days of bison networking, learning and socializing**
- **2-Ranch tour that includes animal handling demo**
- **4 bison feasts over the two day conference**
- **Sunday evening welcome reception and Bison bag toss**
- **Presentation topics - How to fence your operation, a Bison marketplace update, How to manage drought, How to manage a bison emergency, and more!**
- **Registration: \$175/members, \$400/Membership/Registration package, guest dinner tickets available**
- **Questions? [info@bisoncentral.com](mailto:info@bisoncentral.com) - 303-292-2833**

The deadline to reserve your discounted lodging at [Little America Hotel and Resort](#) is June 4th. Please [reserve online here](#), or call 800-235-6396 and request the National Bison Association room block. Room rates are \$122/night/double occupancy and \$132/night triple/quad. Prices apply before and after conference, pending availability.

[Register Here](#)

---

### Vilsack Pledges to Support Tariff Elimination for U.S. Bison to EU

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack this week told the National Bison Association that he and the U.S. Trade Representative would work to eliminate the 20 percent tariff imposed on bison meat exported to the European Union and the United Kingdom and would work to provide greater market access for bison in other foreign markets.

The assurance came in response to March 30 letters that the NBA sent to Secretary Vilsack and U.S. Trade Representative Katheryn Tai urging that elimination of the 20 percent tariff on bison meat be included as a priority in any trade negotiations with the EU and UK.

Vilsack wrote this week, "Thank you...for requesting that priority be given to the 20 percent tariff on U.S. bison meat in the trade negotiations with the European Union and the United Kingdom."

“The USDA is working closely with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to ensure U.S. bison exports of bison have greater market access abroad. The information you provided to USDA will be useful in our considerations on how to address market access concerns and competitiveness determinations with the European Union and the United Kingdom,” he wrote. “I appreciate your support in eliminating trade barriers for U.S. exports of bison meat.”

The entire text of the Secretary’s letter to the NBA is available [here](#).

---

## Marketers Surveyed on Potential Byproduct Database

An on-line survey distributed to NBA commercial marketers this week is gauging the Interest in establishing an online database that would aggregate the available supply of bison byproducts that could be used in pet food, apparel, cosmetics and other outlets.

In the introduction to the survey, the NBA wrote, “Getting full value for byproducts continues to be a challenge for many bison processors, in part because of the relatively small volume of animals processed. The National Bison Association is exploring the potential for creating an online database that could aggregate the potential supply of byproducts and could serve as a clearinghouse for potential customers for those ingredients. As a starting point, we want to identify the types of byproducts that may be available, and the potential interest among marketers in participating in an online database.”

NBA Executive Director Dave Carter noted, “We regularly receive calls from companies wanting to buy bison ingredients for their products. Sometimes, though, the buyers are concerned about being able to source an adequate supply. We want to see if there is potential in developing an on-line database that would help connect those potential buyers with the available supply.”

Marketers have until the end of Monday to complete the survey.

---

***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.***

---



**REACH THE WHOLE HERD!**

WITH A WEEKLY UPDATE BANNER AD  
JUST \$65/WEEK FOR THIS SPOT  
CONTACT [KAREN@BISONCENTRAL.COM](mailto:karen@bisoncentral.com) TO RESERVE



---

## Motherhood Is A Communal Activity for The American Bison

*(From the Emporia Gazette)*

With their shaggy reddish-brown coats and short curved horns, the American bison is one of the country’s — and the state’s — most easily recognizable animals.



And, as it turns out, protective and nurturing mothers.

"Everybody who lives in Kansas knows what the American bison looks like, and they do hold a lot of history behind them," said Dehlia Sutton, zoo education coordinator at the David Traylor Zoo. "In 1955, the American bison was named the Kansas state mammal, and, in May 2016, it was named the national mammal. So, it ranks right up there with the bald eagle, which is our national symbol. They are especially hard to miss if you see them on the road — they are very, very large animals."

Sutton said male bison can stand up to 6-feet tall at the shoulder and reach up to 2,000 lbs. Females are considerably smaller at 4-5 feet at the shoulder and reaching about 1,000 lbs. Bison calves typically weigh in at about 30 - 70 lbs., much like a bovine calf.

Bison females raise their young in communal, maternal herds.

"Basically, you'll find bands and the males tend to stick together once they reach maturity. You'll see small bands of all males together," Sutton said. "The females stick together along with their young and you'll find immature bulls in those bands as well. They really only start to co-mingle during the breeding season, which is anywhere from July to September."

The maternal herds have a "pecking order," Sutton said, but there is a definite group effort when it comes to keeping the calves safe.

"I think that's why they keep those bands," she said. "It's an adaptation to keeping the young ones alive. They are very protective of their young. If there are predators around, they are not going to run off and hide like an elk. Young elk just drop to the ground and try to blend in and the moms run off to hide and come back later; bison do not do that."

Read [more](#).

---

## **Prehistoric Horses, Bison Shared Diet**

*(From EurekAlert)*

University of Cincinnati researchers studied the teeth of prehistoric horses and bison in the Arctic to learn more about their diets compared to modern species.

What they found suggests the Arctic 40,000 years ago maintained a broader diversity of plants that, in turn, supported both more -- and more diverse -- big animals.

The Arctic today is spartan compared to the wildlife-rich landscape during the ice ages of the Pleistocene epoch between 12,000 and 2.6 million years ago when wild horses, mammoths, bison and other big animals roamed the steppes and grasslands of what is now northern Canada, northern Europe, Alaska and Siberia. Short-faced bears, ground sloths and even cave lions called the 49th State home.

The Arctic supported greater populations as well, even compared to today's spectacular herds of caribou that can number more than 750,000 animals. The area supported between six and 10 times as many large animals as today's Arctic.

"In the Pleistocene, the diversity of wildlife was so much greater than we see today," UC assistant professor Joshua Miller said. "It looked completely different. A key question is why the Arctic so depauperate by comparison today?"

Read [more](#).

---

## **GFP Commission Sets Custer State Park Bison Hunts**

*(From DRG News)*

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission proposed to maintain the

Custer State Park Trophy Bison and Non-Trophy Bison for 2021.

The Trophy Bison season will offer 8 licenses. This season will run from November 15, 2021 – January 14, 2022. License holders are restricted to three days for the harvest and must arrange their hunting dates with the Custer State Park Office and be accompanied by an authorized park official when hunting.

The Non-Trophy Bison season will offer 15 licenses. This season will run from October 4, 2021 – November 12, 2021. License holders are restricted to one day for the harvest, must arrange the hunt date with the Custer State Park office and shall be accompanied by an authorized park official when hunting.

The bison seasons are a management tool to maintain herd health and also support the bison population of the park overall.

Read [more](#).

---

## **CSKT Establishes Renewed "Footprint" On Bison Range**

*(From KPAX 8)*

MOIESE — This Mother's Day weekend marked the [traditional re-opening of Red Sleep Mountain Drive](#), where folks can observe the majestic bison that live on the Flathead Reservation but this year in particular marks a monumental new chapter for the Bison Range.

Members of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes gathered Friday for a small ceremony to commemorate the opening weekend.

The Flathead Nation flag was raised in front of the visitor's center, and traditional prayer, song, and drumming by the group Yamncut Drum ushered in the occasion.

A "Buffalo Calling Song" was sung in celebration, and Séliš-Ūlispé Culture Committee Director Tony Incashola explained to MTN News the significance of the song.

"The 'Buffalo Calling Song' is kind of a special, spiritual song. It was a gift to the people from the buffalo that whenever they needed help, they'd sing that song - the call of the buffalo," Incashola said.

This opening weekend of the Bison Range is especially significant because this is the first season after the [Tribes were restored federal trust ownership](#). The U.S. Congress repealed a statute that created the National Bison Range on Dec. 27, 2020, effectively establishing the Tribes would once again manage the land and roaming bison.

Read [more](#).

---

## **Gianforte Scraps Plan for Free-Roaming Bison**

*(From Montana Public Radio)*

Montana officials are butting heads over the future of the national mammal. At stake is whether bison should be treated as livestock or as wildlife. New legislation and policy changes under the Gianforte administration are derailing hopes of establishing the first free-roaming bison herds in the state.

It's baby bison season in Yellowstone National Park. Tourists are pulled off on the side of the road, marveling at newborns a couple hundred yards away. One tourist, Kathie King, is from Butte.

"Oh, the babies," she laughs. "That's why we like this time of year. To see the babies." Tens of millions of bison roamed throughout North America historically. Tribal peoples depended on the animal spiritually and for nutrition, and those connections continue to this

day. But by the early 1900s, fewer than two dozen of the animals remained in the wild in Yellowstone National Park. Today, this is the largest bison herd on public land in the U.S.

As these babies are born and the population grows, the National Park Service keeps the population down through culling, hunting, and a quarantine program that sends bison to tribal herds.

The calves' bright fur earns them the nickname "red dogs." They walk clumsily next to their mothers in a wide expanse of sage.

"They're hopping around and having fun and they are just cute," King says.

Read [more](#).

---

## **Watch Now: North Platte's Buffalo Bill Ranch Welcomes Newborn Bison**

*(From the York News Times)*

There is a new addition at the Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park.

A bison calf was born about 9 a.m. Monday, was walking within 15 to 20 minutes and joins its mother P.B., father Taco and 2-year-old sister in their home pen on the ranch.

"I checked on her last night and she was out running around (in the pen)," park superintendent Adam Jones said. "She's getting along real well; it's kind of nice. (She's) feeding OK."

The calf spent Tuesday morning hiding in a hay pile, resting between its parents and walking closely by the protective P.B., who emitted a series of warning snorts directed at onlookers outside the pen's fencing.

P.B. has even kept the park employees at a distance.

"She's always kind of snarly," Jones said. "Even though (the adults) know us and we feed them and do all that stuff, they are still wild. They are not pets."

The calf is nameless, but Jones said the park will host a naming event on its [Facebook page](#).

He said a veterinarian will give the newborn a checkup within the next week. Jones said no one has been able to get close enough to the calf to verify its sex, but the general consensus is that it's a female.

Read [more](#).

---

## **Biden's Climate Corps Could Help Preserve Soil and Water, Say Advocates**

*(From Agri-Pulse)*

Nearly 80 years after President Franklin Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps put millions of young men to work restoring public lands during the Great Depression, President Joe Biden wants to employ the nation's youth in a new CCC that could help private landowners fight climate change and combat soil erosion.

Lawmakers are debating the shape of the new Civilian Climate Corps as committees draft a massive climate and infrastructure bill.

Some conservation and environmental groups say the new CCC should create private landowner partnerships with the Agriculture Department to protect soil, both to reduce greenhouse emissions and protect water quality.

Biden signed an [executive order in January requiring the Interior Department and USDA to collaborate on a strategy to create the Civilian Climate Corps](#). The goal is to “mobilize the next generation of conservation and resilience workers and maximize the creation of accessible training opportunities and good jobs.”

Then, in April, he included [\\$10 billion in funding for the CCC as part of his \\$2.7 trillion American Jobs Plan](#). An Interior Department spokesperson told Agri-Pulse in an email the department is on track to deliver a report to the National Climate Task Force and looks forward to sharing information with the public in the coming weeks.

Several lawmakers have introduced bills in the last two months offering ways to structure the CCC.

Read [more](#).

---

## **Midwestern Farmers, Ranchers Can Find Tools to Thrive with New Resource Center**

*(From Iowa State University)*

AMES, Iowa – Farm life can be stressful. Most pressures, such as weather, illness, injuries, loans and regulations, are constant and uncontrollable. Now, Midwestern farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers have direct access to a new tool to help manage stress, anxiety, depression or substance use issues.

The newly launched website, [farmstress.org](#), is aimed at providing the agricultural community with resources and support through the [North Central Farm and Ranch Assistance Center](#).

Depression, anxiety and suicide are more prevalent among agricultural populations than the general public. In the past year, COVID-19 has added to stressors faced by farming communities through disrupted supply chains, difficulties getting needed supplies, keeping workers safe and getting products to market.

“May is Mental Health Awareness Month so it’s an opportune time to unveil this website that will serve as a clearinghouse for stress and mental health resources for anyone experiencing stress related to the many challenges of farming,” said David Brown, behavioral health specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and state project lead.

Read [more](#).

---

## **Belk honored with AMSA International Lectureship Award**

*(From Meatingplace.com)*

The American Meat Science Association (AMSA) has selected Dr. Keith Belk as its 2021 AMSA International Lectureship Award winner, the organization said in a news release. The International Lectureship Award is sponsored by PIC and was established to honor an individual for internationally recognized contributions to the field of meat science and technology.

Dr. Keith Belk is professor and head of the Department of Animal Science at Colorado State University as well as an Adjunct Professor in the Colorado School of Public Health. Previously, he held the Ken & Myra Monfort Endowed Chair in Meat Science with the Center for Meat Safety & Quality, Department of Animal Sciences at CSU, and was the center's director.

He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from CSU, and a Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. He has worked in the private sector as a buyer by Safeway Inc., and by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service in Washington, D.C., as an international marketing

specialist. He has authored or co-authored 252 refereed scientific journal articles, provided more than 530 invited presentations, generated more than \$22 million in extramural research funding, and was the primary inventor on two patents during his tenure at CSU since 1995.

He served as the state Meat Extension Specialist between 1995 and 2000, on the Editorial Board for the Journal of Animal Science in 1997-2000, on the Board of Directors for the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) between 2003-2005, and as President of AMSA in 2009-2010.

*Editor's Note: Dr. Belk has assisted for several years in conducting the tenderness test for the NBA's market class competition at the annual Gold Trophy Show and Sale.*

---

## **Texas Pursues Meat Labeling Legislation**

*(From Meatingplace.com)*

Texas is the latest state pursuing legislation that limits how plant-based protein companies can label their products.

[According to a report in the Dallas Morning News](#), HB 316 would ban plant-based proteins from using the words "meat" or "beef" on their packaging (though "burger" would be allowed). Following a final vote of approval in the Texas House of Representatives, the bill would proceed to the state senate.

Brad Buckley, a representative from Killeen who co-authored the bill, told the News that the goal of the bill is for "clear and accurate labeling, so the consumer has no doubt what they're purchasing." Buckley added that the bill is not "anti-plant based" or "anti-cell culture," and that "the most frequent call I've gotten is from vegetarians that are for this bill."

The Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Texas Poultry Federation and Texas Pork Producers Association have voiced support for the bill, while Beyond Meat, Impossible Burger and the Plant Based Foods Association have come out against it.

Gene Wu, a representative from Houston, expressed worry that the legislation would lead to litigation, and indeed, similar laws from other states have inspired lawsuits by [Tofurky](#) and [Upton's Naturals](#).

---

## **Organic meat less likely to harbor illness-inducing bacteria: study**

*(From Meatingplace.com)*

Meat certified organic by USDA is less likely to be contaminated with drug-resistant bacteria than conventionally produced animal protein, a new study says. Organic-certified meats were 56% less likely to be tainted with multi-drug-resistant organisms, according to the findings by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The results stem from nationwide testing of meats from 2012 to 2017 as part of the U.S. National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS), developed in 1996 to track antibiotic resistance in bacteria from retail meats, farmed animals and those sickened with foodborne illness.

The study involved 39,348 meat samples, 1,422 of which were found to contain at least one multi-drug-resistant organism. The rate of contamination was 4% in the conventionally produced meat samples and just under 1% in the organic meat samples.

The researchers analyzed U.S. Food and Drug Administration-NARMS data from randomly sampled chicken breast, ground beef, ground turkey and pork for any



contamination and for contamination by multidrug-resistant organisms. The analysis covered four types of bacteria: Salmonella, Campylobacter, Enterococcus, and Escherichia coli.

Conventional meats processed at plants that only produce conventional animal protein were contaminated with bacteria a third of the time, while those handled at facilities that process conventional and organic meats were contaminated a quarter of the time, the study found.

---



**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!***

- 5/17/2021 - Carllson Bison Online Only Bison Auction - NE
- 5/17/2021 - Blackfeet Nation Buffalo Program Webcast Bison Auction - MT
- 6/11/2021 - Montana/Western Bison Association Summer Conference - MT
- 06/11/2021 - Texas Bison Association Summer Meeting - TX
- 6/27 - 29/2021 - 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](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com) and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

---

**Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events**

---

National Bison Association | [info@bisoncentral.com](mailto:info@bisoncentral.com) | 303-292-2833 | [bisoncentral.com](http://bisoncentral.com)  
[@nationalbison](https://www.instagram.com/nationalbison)

