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### ***NBA Weekly Update for May 20, 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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### **Registration Now Open for June 18th NBA Regenerative Field Day - North Dakota**

[Registration is open](#) now for the June 18th NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day in North Dakota! Please [register here](#) by June 15th. Just \$30/person to attend which includes lunch, ranch tour and more!



Photo Credit: Justin Roemer

## National Bison Regenerative Ranching Field Days

The National Bison Association is pleased to announce its *National Bison North Central Regenerative Ranching Workshop Series*, which will span the summers of 2022 and 2023 featuring six one-day workshops on bison farms and ranches in the states of IL, MN, ND, OH, SD, and WI. The field days will also include expert speakers offering first-hand knowledge on how to properly manage bison grazing and handling to maximize their regenerative potential as a livestock species.

Bison have evolved in concert with North American grasslands for over 200,000 years. As a keystone species in the region, and when managed properly, bison have the potential to maintain soil health and fertility, and improve carbon sequestration through the expansion of grasslands, all the while providing a valuable livestock component to working farms and ranches across the upper Midwest.

The bison operations hosting the events encompass everything from cow-calf operations, gate-to-plate and direct marketing, to agritourism-focused farms and ranches. These operations exhibit a wide range of successful bison businesses across the North Central region. See confirmed 2022 workshops to the right. 2023 will include field days at the following farms and ranches, final days to be determined:

June 2023 - Cherokee Valley Bison – Thornville, Ohio  
 September 2023 - Double J Bison Ranch – Baldwin, Wisconsin  
 October 2023 - Sleepy Bison Acres – Sleepy Eye, Minnesota

Registration will open soon at [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com).



## 2022 Field Days

June 18<sup>th</sup>

Heartland Bison Ranch

Rugby, ND

September 10<sup>th</sup>

Antelope Creek Bison

Mission, SD

October 15<sup>th</sup>

Ruhter Bison

Woodstock, IL

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## Bison App Webinars Planned for Summer 2022

The NBA Bison App is a powerful tool that producers can use to track, measure and analyze your bison operation and is available at no charge for Apple and Android devices. Learn more and download at - <https://bisoncentral.com/conservation-item/nba-producers-app/>.

The only bison-specific field app in the marketplace today, the app's extensive features result in a very powerful herd management tool that literally fits in the palm of your hand. .

App features include animal photo ID, birth date, herd and tag ID, weight, gender, vaccination/dewormer schedule, North American Bison Registry animal history, notes for things like body condition, health, transfer history, animal test results, genetic/parentage

information, calving rates, and more.

Mark your calendars to learn everything you need to know to take advantage of this innovative bison tool. Each webinar will have a different theme, and will take you through all the steps from downloading and registering, to entering animals and data, analysis and more.

- June 16th
- July 21st
- August 18th
- September 15th

Webinar dates are below, all to begin at 5 p.m. MT. All webinars will be recorded and available to members in the video archive section of [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com).

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## NBA Board Meets Virtually to Cover Range of Topics

The National Bison Association's board of directors met virtually on Thursday evening to discuss a range of topics pertinent to the bison business and the NBA.

The big news is that the board voted unanimously to host the NBA Winter Conference at the Westin Hotel in Westminster, Colorado. The NBA held its annual conference at the Westin for years and is thrilled to return. Prices are comparable to those of the Renaissance, and the property is only six minutes farther away from the National Western Stock Show than the previous host.

Other topics of discussion included the newly published modern bison genetics paper from Texas A&M, the newly announced USDA FSIS listening sessions planned for next month regarding the potential for bison to be designated as an amenable species, NBA consumer outreach efforts, and more.

Regarding the amenable species topic, the NBA is working with the Commercial Marketers Committee chair to draft a resolution for the board to consider leading up to the FSIS listening session planned for next month in Colorado. The Colorado listening session will be preceded by a similar meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota for tribal interests.

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*Photos by Karen Conley*

## Custer State Park Bison Center Grand Opening

The ribbon is cut and the doors are now open at the Custer State Park Bison Center. The new facility is located across from the bison corrals off the Wildlife Loop in the park.

Within the walls of the center visitors will find wealth of information about bison and historical information about the bison herd in the park. Interactive and static displays tell the story of bison and their role in conservation and keeping our lands healthy. Adults and children alike will find plenty to do when visiting the center.

According to a press release from Custer State Park, the Center was made possible thanks to a \$4 million grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust,



\$500,000 allocated from the South Dakota Legislature and an additional \$500,000 in private donations raised by the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation.

Representing the National Bison Association at today's ceremony were NBA President and Custer State Park Herd Manager, Chad Kremer; Region 3 Director, Moritz Espy; NBA Communications Director, Karen Conley, and National Buffalo Museum Executive Director, Ilana Xinos. The group was very impressed with the facility and the caliber of the displays and information.

Plans are for the Center to be open seasonally during the day from May through October. There is no admission charge to the Center, but a park entrance license is required to enter the park.

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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

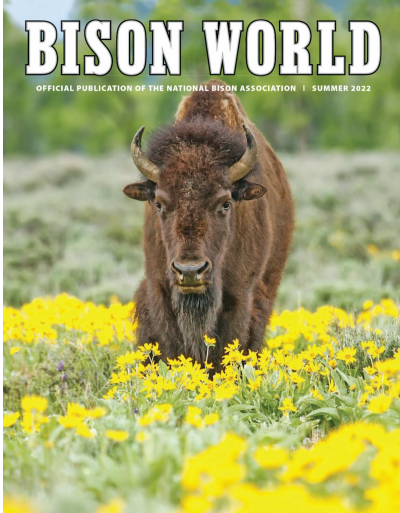
12 PM - 2 PM | Farewell Luncheon

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

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**Summer Bison World Magazine Now Available Online**

One of the perks of NBA membership is access to the



Bison World magazine before the printed copies arrive in the mail! Production on the Summer issue has wrapped up and it is now available on the website: [Bison World](#). You will need to log in to the member area to access the magazine.

The flipbook version of the magazine can be viewed right on your computer. Handy links allow you to open it into a new window, make it larger, and even magnify certain features. The realistic page-turning sounds make it feel like you are reading the printed version of the magazine. We are also incorporating links that will take you directly to websites and other areas of interest. Hover and click over links or ads to enable this feature.

The hard copy magazine is currently being printed and will mail shortly.

## Advertising Opportunities in the Fall Issue of Bison World

Production will soon be underway on the Fall issue of the Bison World magazine.

Within the pages of the Fall magazine, there are a variety of advertising options available, from 1/8 page to full page. Lifetime and Active NBA members will enjoy discounted rates as part of their membership perks and contract holders will receive a 5% discount for pre-paid advertising. Karen can work with you to tailor an advertising campaign that fits your budget and targets your message!

The advertising space reservation deadline is July 10 with final materials being due by August 1. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time but will also be subjected to the same deadline for the Fall issue.

For more information about editorial submissions or advertising your ranch, business or events, contact [Karen@bisoncentral.com](mailto:Karen@bisoncentral.com) or call (605) 381-3738.

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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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**Sustainable ranching  
practices that benefit both  
the land and the animal.**

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## Former ag lender now runs thriving bison operation in eastern Colorado

*From The Fence Post*

LIMON, Colorado: Ray Thieman worked as an ag lender with the Farm Service Agency

while doing some cattle business on the side. He got discouraged with the difficulty making money on cattle.

“In 1997, I made a loan on buffalo,” Thieman said. “To service the loan, I would go out to the ranch to better understand the buffalo. I soon became sold on the bison business. In 1999, my wife, Debbie, and I decided to start a hobby herd. We bought 29, a mixed herd with 10 or 12 cows, a few bulls and some yearlings. In 2001, we leased the 12,000-acre Denver Buffalo Ranch from a friend.

“Back then, buffalo was just a breeder market. It was like a pyramid scheme. In 2002, we had a big drought and people wanted to get rid of their buffalo at low prices. I ended up with 450 buffalo cows. It was never by plan. It was just one of those things that happened.”

The Thieman’s Prairie Ridge Buffalo Ranch now sells bison in quarters, halves and wholes direct to individual customers, as well as to grocery stores and hotels. They hold buffalo hunts, and offer popular ranch tours that end with bison for dinner around a campfire.

“People want to see the bison,” Thieman said. “The bison is now our national mammal. A move into the tours and tourism portion of that has given us a lot of avenues and income streams instead of just taking cattle to market. We are in much more control of our market. Bison has a flavor that is different and richer than beef. We don’t grow bison fast. We can use up to a three-year-old animal and have a good tender steak with great flavor. One of the greatest things is a bison pot roast.”

They eventually grew to have 1,500 buffalo on the 12,000-acre ranch. They no longer lease that property and instead have leases on five separate ranches covering 15,000 acres of native grasslands, as well as their finishing facility at the main ranch headquarters. They lease one 8,000-acre ranch from Allan Savory, the author of *Holistic Management* and other books, and partner with the Savory Institute to help with range land restoration and sustainable bison production.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Bison Pastrami, Anyone? Preschool Assistant Makes Sure Kids Get to Know Indigenous Foods**

*From Physician's Weekly*

MINNEAPOLIS — Bison pastrami is not typical school lunch fare, but it’s a crowd favorite at a preschool in Minneapolis.

Fawn Youngbear-Tibbetts — the seemingly always on-the-go coordinator of Indigenous foods at the Wicoie Nandagikendan Early Childhood Urban Immersion Project — is frequently found tweaking recipes in the kitchen or offering homemade goodies like flourless black-bean brownies.

Youngbear-Tibbetts, a longtime Minneapolis resident and member of the White Earth Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, has made it her mission to bring traditional recipes to the 178 children attending Wicoie, who are taught several hours each day in the Dakota and Ojibwe languages. She said the dishes not only help Native American students and their families connect with their culture, but also bolster their nutrition.

“Part of it is getting their palates [used to] eating traditional foods, so that they want it,” she said. “Our kids are so used to eating all of this processed food — the snacks, the sugar.”

She hopes students develop a taste for healthier food they will carry through their lives. Across the breakfasts, lunches, and snacks Wicoie Nandagikendan serves, Youngbear-Tibbetts incorporates sweet potatoes, fresh fruits, leafy greens, fish, and meat from large game animals like bison, which is extremely low in fat, she said. Recently, she distributed a donation of 300 pounds of bison to students’ families.

[Read more.](#)

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## On Safari in the Transylvanian Alps, Where Bison Roam Once More

*From The New York Times*

It wasn't a situation in which I ever expected to find myself: crouched in a Romanian meadow at the edge of a primeval forest, listening for bison footsteps. "Sit spot" is what our guide called it. You spread out and triangulate the area where you know the bison have recently been, listening over the heathery din of insects, birds and wind-rustled flora for auditory traces of Europe's largest land animal, which, until recently, hadn't been seen in these parts for hundreds of years. I heard something moving behind me, the crunch of fallen foliage, turning just in time to see a flash of what I knew by then was most likely a red deer.

It was my second day tracking bison in Romania's Tarcu Mountains, so far without a glimpse. But I knew by now how to read their movements from a tangle of hoofprints. I knew where to find the abandoned orchards they favor, vacated when local farmers could no longer compete with the low-cost German supermarkets that colonized the market after Romania joined the European Union in 2007. Now the orchards were overgrown and reclaimed — by the bears who come out at night to plunder the fruit trees and the bison who devour their branches, leaving rain-filled prints for yellow-bellied toads, and plowing corridors through thick vegetation for wild boar, badgers and other small herbivores to expand their terrain, be fruitful and multiply.

I was witnessing a process known as rewilding, a progressive approach to conservation that aims to restore ecosystems by stripping away human interventions, like dams and dikes, in places that have been depopulated and economically marginalized. Essential to rewilding is the reintroduction of "keystone species" like wolves, vultures and bison, animals that have an outsize influence on their habitat, significantly reshaping the landscape and promoting biodiversity through grazing, spreading seeds and predatory population control.

[Read more.](#)

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## GF&P could offer trophy bison hunts in Custer State Park

*From The Black Hills Pioneer*

CUSTER STATE PARK — State officials want to offer eight licenses for trophy bison bulls in Custer State Park, and 15 licenses for non-trophy bison bulls.

The trophy bison bull hunt is scheduled to be open for 61 days, beginning the third Monday in November. The license is for bison bulls that are at least 10 years old.

Licensees may only hunt for three consecutive days, and must be accompanied by authorized Custer State Park officials while hunting. Of the eight licenses available, two will be offered to South Dakota residents in the first draw. Members of the S.D. Game, Fish and Parks Department said this is a way for Custer State Park to handle overly mature bison that are no longer breeding, and have started dying of natural causes.

"Custer State Park's trophy bison harvest is the tool used to remove over mature bison bulls, but is a sought-after trophy opportunity," the proposal states. "These bulls are eligible for Boone and Crockett awards and most qualify above the 115-inch minimum score."

The non-trophy bison hunt, officials said, is for 2-year old bulls that do not pass a fertility test. The department proposes 15 non-trophy licenses, with seven allocated for South Dakota residents in the first draw. The season will be open for 40 days, starting the first Monday in October, but license holders will be restricted to just one day of hunting with an authorized park official.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Officials want escaped 1,300-pound bison roaming Wauconda area captured by end of month**

*From The Lake and McHenry County Scanner*

Forest preserve officials say they are working to have a 1,300-pound bison, which escaped from a farm in September, humanely captured in Wauconda by the end of this month.

"Tyson the Bison," also called "Billy the Bison," has been on the loose in the western Lake County and eastern McHenry County area.

The female bison was being corralled into an enclosure from a trailer when she managed to escape from a farm in Wauconda in mid-September.

The animal has been spotted dozens of times by Wauconda and Island Lakes residents, who have taken videos and photos and posted them on social media.

It was most recently spotted in the Lakewood Forest Preserve in Wauconda.

"The goal is to have the farm animal removed by Memorial Day weekend when preserve attendance traditionally increases," said John Tannahill, director of public safety at the Lake County Forest Preserves.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Bringing back the bison**

*From Taos News*

Picuris Pueblo welcomed U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich for a tour last Friday (May 13) of the tribe's buffalo program, which Picuris is working to expand by adding to its current herd of 50 bison in order to produce more products, as well as add more genetic diversity to its stock.

The visit served as an opportunity for both parties to bring attention to federal legislation that seeks to create a permanent buffalo program within the U.S. Department of the Interior and help promote and develop tribal capacities to manage buffalo.

Danny Sam, Picuris Bison Program manager, said the Pueblo is among 76 member tribes represented on the Intertribal Buffalo Council (ITBC), a cohort that's grown significantly in recent years as more and more tribes seek to reestablish bison herds for cultural, nutritional and economic development reasons.

Historically a diet staple of Native American tribes, American bison were hunted to near-extinction between the colonial era and the beginning of the 20th century .

"It was an indigenous food source," Danny Sam said, explaining the significance of reintroducing bison. "Pueblo hunting parties went out there on the plains east of here, and whole families stayed out there, hunted, monitored game movement and processed the animals."

[Read more.](#)

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## **As snow melts, Interior Alaska biologists tally number of winter-killed wildlife**

*From Alaska Public Radio*



A few weeks ago, Katie Behrens noticed the cow moose that had been hanging around her house near Delta Junction since early last winter was getting weaker as it scrounged around her yard every day for something to eat. Its usual forage was buried under several feet of snow and ice.

“She was trying to eat shrubs and stuff that she could reach. It was very thin,” said Behrens. “She couldn’t walk. She was so weak the last week before she died, she couldn’t get up.”

The moose died and Behrens covered the carcass with a tarp and a couple of feet of snow. But last week, she got the first whiff of the decaying animal. So she got a friend with a front-end loader to scoop up the carcass and bury it out in the woods.

“Luckily, he moved it before it started to smell too bad,” she said. “It was just starting to get ripe.”

It’s a problem that several locals in the eastern Interior have had to deal with this spring, as the winter’s heavy snowpack finally melts away, revealing how many moose and bison starved to death because of the lack of forage.

“Around town here, we had a lot of cases of dead moose earlier in the wintertime. And some of those moose now are showing up as the snow melts,” said Delta-area state Fish and Game wildlife biologist Clint Cooper.

[Read more.](#)

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## **USDA monitoring drought with eye on potential assistance**

*From Agri-Pulse*

The Department of Agriculture is preparing to utilize a suite of programs to assist producers struggling with drought.

Gloria Montaña Greene, USDA’s deputy undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation, tells Agri-Pulse Newsmakers future flexibilities within the department’s programs and potential changes in the 2023 Farm Bill will be important for drought-stricken producers.

“I think some of the solutions we have, and some of the solutions are still needed to come,” Montaña Greene said. “Drought is going to be a really intense one this summer.”

She said the department is looking at ways to support producers with short-term relief and offer ways to achieve long-term resilience.

USDA announced the new \$6 billion Emergency Relief Program, which will help crop producers impacted by natural disasters in the 2020 and 2021 growing seasons. Montaña Greene said producers can expect to see program payments in late May and early June.

In addition to the federal government, many in the crop insurance industry are also keeping a close eye on the drought and the impact it will have on producers.

Tara Smith, executive vice president at Michael Torrey Associates, spoke on the Newsmakers panel about ERP and future assistance programs for drought. She said she believes actuarial soundness – making sure there is enough money available to fulfill claims – for federal crop insurance in disaster years will be critical to the core integrity of these programs.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Disease found in two bulls in Summit County cattle herds, state veterinarian says [UT]**

*From The Salt Lake Tribune*

Two bulls in beef cattle herds in Summit County have tested positive for a parasitic disease that can cause problems for cattle, the Utah state veterinarian's office reported.

The bulls tested positive for trichomoniasis, or Trich, a venereal disease caused by a protozoa and spread between cattle during breeding, the veterinarian's office reported Thursday. The bulls were part of a grazing association in Weber Canyon last summer.

"To have multiple cases of Trich in our state in one year is very concerning," Dr. Dean Taylor, the state's veterinarian, said in a statement. Taylor reminded cattle owners that it's "vitally important" to follow testing rules and guidelines, to prevent the disease's spread.

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food is taking steps to quarantine affected animals, a spokesperson for the department said, and will place the herds where positive tests are found on a plan to stop the spread of the disease.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Partnership forges new paleo diet certifications**

*From Meatingplace.com*

The Paleo Diet LLC and Where Food Comes From Inc., a North American third-party food production verification program, announced a new partnership to provide an "industry-leading" food certification for paleolithic nutrition.

Through this partnership, Where Food Comes From has agreed to be the exclusive third-party verifier of The Paleo Diet food certification program, the only certification recognized by Dr. Loren Cordain, founder of the modern paleolithic nutrition movement.

Developed over years to meet Dr. Cordain's stringent, science-based criteria, The Paleo Diet food certification program offers two all-new certifications:

- TRUEPALEO are foods in full compliance with Dr. Cordain's Paleo Diet program, which features vegetables, fruits, natural meats, seafood, nuts, and seeds.
- PaleoFLEX certification standards follow Paleo principles, but the criteria are more flexible. PaleoFLEX certification helps consumers identify and enjoy better-for-you foods that still fit their healthy eating lifestyle.

"Where Food Comes From is in perfect alignment with our mission, which is to help people find better health through better nutrition," said The Paleo Diet CEO Trevor Connor. "By offering third-party verification of our standards, Where Food Comes From will bring trust, transparency, and professionalism to Paleo food certification."

[Read more.](#)

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## **President Biden announces USDA nominations [edited]**

*From Farms.com*

President Joe Biden has put two names forward as nominations to fill positions within the United States Department of Agriculture.

For the first position, under secretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs, which helps U.S. ag access new opportunities with trading partners, the president has nominated Alexis Taylor.

Taylor grew up on her family's farm in Iowa and currently leads the Oregon Department of

Agriculture, a position she's held since 2016.

She previously oversaw the USDA's Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services and is a veteran of the U.S. Army, completing one tour in Iraq with the 389th Combat Engineer Battalion.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack supports the nomination.

President Biden also submitted a name to be the under secretary for food, nutrition and consumer services within the USDA.

For this position, which is responsible for administering the USDA's food security programs and promoting dietary guidelines, President Biden has tapped Stacy Dean.

She's currently the deputy under secretary for food, nutrition and consumer services.

"Stacy has an incredible depth of knowledge and experience in the field of food and nutrition, and I am thrilled at the prospect of her continuing to shape the nation's food and nutrition policy...", Vilsack said in a statement.

Both nominees require Senate confirmation.

[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
- 11/05/2022 - Custer State Park Annual Buffalo Auction - SD
- 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
- 2/11/2023 - 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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