

# OFFERING CANADIAN LIVESTOCK TO THE WORLD!

VIDEO BISON AUCTIONS

May 25 • June 21 • August 9 • September 13  
October 11 • November 8 • December 6



Let's Have A Sale!

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

1-306-641-9285



## Weekly Update



[bisoncentral.com](http://bisoncentral.com)

303-292-2833

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 5, 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.*



### NBA Kicks Off USDA Climate Smart Grant

"The Grass is Greener on the Other Side: Developing Climate-Smart Beef and Bison Commodities" grant partners including South Dakota State University, Millborn Seeds, Buffalo Ridge Cattle Company, AgSpire, Tanka Fund, Cold Creek

Buffalo Company, SDSU Extension, the SDSU Center of Excellence for Bison Studies, Texas A&M University, Yard Stick, C-Lock and SmartScore.ai, and the National Bison Association have been engaged in planning meetings all week long.

They are doing what no other collaborative has done before: creating market opportunities for beef and bison producers who utilize climate-smart agriculture grazing and land-management practices.

The project will guide and educate producers on climate-smart practices most suited for their operations, collect climate-smart data that will be analyzed to improve decision-making, and create consumer-demand for climate-smart beef/bison commodity markets.

Spanning 5 years, this project will:

- Provide technical and financial assistance to producers to implement climate-smart production practices on a voluntary basis on working land;
- Facilitate innovative and cost-effective methods for quantification, monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon sequestration; and
- Develop premium markets and promote the resulting climate-smart commodities.
- Utilize the NBA's existing [Conservation Management Plan](#) to enroll and manage participating producer data, and quantify bison producers' conservation efforts.

"We are in the planning and development stages right now, establishing the framework so we can connect bison ranchers with this amazing opportunity," said Jim Matheson, Executive Director for the National Bison Association. "We know bison benefit the environment, and now we have an opportunity to really substantiate our claims through a voluntary incentive program."

---

## South Dakota State University Seeks Bison Specialist

South Dakota State University's (SDSU) College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) is offering an exciting career opportunity as an Assistant Professor in bison research and teaching.

This is a 9-month, tenure-track position with a 60% research and 40% teaching appointment. The home department within the College will be dependent upon the successful candidate's area of expertise and could include: Animal Science, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, or Natural Resource Management. SDSU is home to the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies ("Bison COE"), which was founded in 2020 in partnership with the National Bison Association and the National Buffalo Foundation.

The mission of the Bison COE is to facilitate the health, production and sustainability of bison herds and the grasslands they inhabit. Researchers contributing to the Bison COE enjoy partnerships with several bison producers to conduct research across the region. Furthermore, this position is supported in part by the Turner Institute of Eco-agriculture ("Turner Institute").

SDSU and the Turner Institute have an established collaborative research partnership. As part of this appointment, the successful candidate will work within this collaboration to develop and implement research and education programs that support the collective missions of the Turner Institute and the SDSU Bison COE.

South Dakota State University promotes access to and opportunities for all to receive the benefit of and participate in education, research, and service and is especially interested in candidates that can contribute to this land-grant mission of access.

[Read more.](#)

---

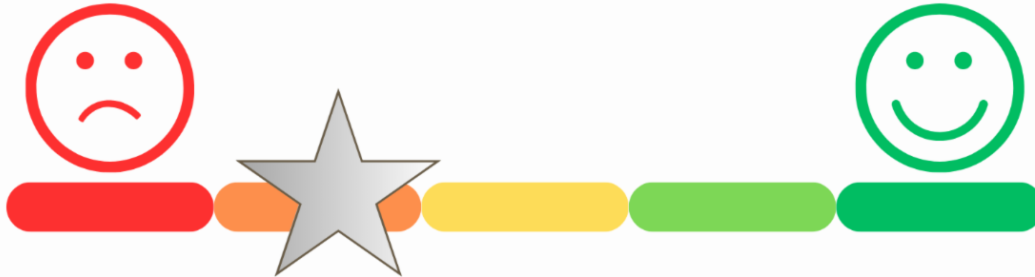
## Sunday, May 14th, Last Day to Reserve South Dakota Lodging!

Mark your calendars and plan to join the NBA, in cooperation with Dakota Territory Buffalo Association, on June 17th at the 777 Bison Ranch in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The 777 team is graciously opening up their bison operation to NBA and DTBA members for the first of the NBA's 2023 regional summer/ fall conferences. This is a great opportunity to tour one of the premier bison operations in the US today, tour their well-managed herd and see first-hand the results of over 30 years of holistic management.

We've got deadlines coming up for the conference room block at the [Best Western Ramkota](#) in Rapid City, SD. Take advantage of the great group discount by calling 605-343-8550, and specify "National Bison Association 2023 Meeting" when making your reservation. The hotel registration deadline for the group rate is May 14th, 2023.

Don't miss out on this unique bison opportunity! The registration cost for the event is only \$150 for NBA members. [Registration](#) for this, and all regional NBA events, is open. Visit our [website](#) for the complete agenda and to learn more!

## NBA Northern Regional Conference South Dakota- June 16-17



### REGISTRATION UPDATE

DEADLINE FOR HOTEL ROOM BLOCK: MAY 14

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: JUNE 2

[MORE INFO: WWW.BISONCENTRAL.COM/NBA-CONFERENCES/](http://WWW.BISONCENTRAL.COM/NBA-CONFERENCES/)

---

### NBA Growth Fund Working for You!

What is the NBA Growth Fund? It is a collection of voluntary donations, mostly folks active in meat processing and selling of bison meat products, that is devoted to supporting bison consumer outreach. The concept is for producers to donate \$1/ head of bison processed, matched by the processor.

The dollars donated are committed to consumer outreach and education. The fund has supported NBA consumer-facing promotional efforts that range from food sport competitions to National Bison Day celebrations, as well as virtual promotion campaigns.

So far in 2023 the Growth Fund has 5x the donations received in 2022! We are so excited at this growth because the more we collectively contribute, the more consumers we can educate!

So what are we looking to do in 2023? We are running a virtual campaign with the "Eat Bison to Restore Bison" message. We are sizing up several food festivals AND farm shows to get the meat and the animal out in front of some pretty big audiences. We are also digging into updating and expanding marketing materials so big and small bison growers have what they need to share the awesome benefits of bison with their customers!

THANK YOU to the donors! If you haven't had a chance to donate- it's really simple. contribute [online](#) or email [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com).

---

**NBA GROWTH FUND**



# NBA GROWTH FUND

*Support Bison  
Consumer  
Outreach!*



## 1. How the Growth Fund Works

The NBA Growth Fund raises important funds that support the efforts of the NBA's outreach to consumers and the general promotion of bison to the public. The concept is for producers to donate \$1/head of bison processed annually, matched by the processor.

## 2. How are the funds used?

Growth Fund dollars are used in a variety of ways to maximize consumer outreach and education. The fund has supported NBA consumer-facing promotional efforts that range from food sport competitions to National Bison Day celebrations, as well as virtual promotional campaigns.



## 3. Why should you contribute?

The Growth Fund brought in \$57,000 in 2022 despite having processed over 80,000 head of bison in the U.S. last year. That amount represents just over 70% of processed bison, and does not include bison sold in the live market. The more we collectively contribute, the more consumers we can educate.

## 4. What else has it supported?

In 2022 the Growth Fund supported our *Eat Bison to Restore Bison* Google Ads campaign, it made bison the sponsored main ingredient at the World Food Championships and Q BBQ Fest Series, as well as our presence at the FFA National Convention and much more!



## 5. Is this a Check-Off program?





No! Unlike commodity "Check-Off" programs, the NBA Growth Fund is a voluntary fund that, in turn, is not regulated like those federally mandated programs. As such, we can spend those dollars how we, as bison stakeholders, see best.

## Two Easy Ways to Contribute!

1. Contribute online at <https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-growth-fund-program/>
2. The NBA can invoice you on an annual, bi-annual or quarterly basis, based on head processed. Simply email [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com) to setup.

---

***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.***

---

### Release of Episode 31 of The Bison Insider Podcast

Calving season brings fresh optimism to the bison industry. On this episode, Jud Seaman breaks down the USDA meat report, John Halstead of Turner Ranchers talks low-stress handling and Jim Matheson of the NBA gives an update on political efforts.

Thank you, [Minnesota Bison Association](https://mnbison.org) for featuring the NBA's executive director, Jim Matheson, on this month's podcast to discuss our legislative efforts of late! Always great to participate. Hear it at <https://mnbison.org/the-bison-insider>

---

### "Bryson the Bison" Cedarville Alumnus Writes New Children's Book

From Maggie Fipps-Cedarville Off Campus News (IN)

"I just became the bison guy."

How did Luke Freshwater, Cedarville graduate, military veteran, businessman, and father, become known as the bison guy?

Freshwater became fascinated with the fluffy beasts after he heard about their fearless tendencies. When a storm rolls in, instead of fleeing, a bison gallops into it, facing all its fervor. Prominent people such as Crossfit star Rich Froning co-opted this analogy as a galvanizing statement of courage. As the bison embrace the storm head-on, they spend less time in the midst of it and get to green pastures quicker.

"I would talk to my kids a lot about when things are hard, to be like the bison," Freshwater said. "Be brave. Face the storm. I lead a sales team and it's called the Fighting Bison. I just started loving bison and everything about them."

Fully ingrained in the bison mentality, Freshwater reconnected with an old baseball teammate, Nate Davenport. They met as Yellow Jackets in 2007 and today, both fathers and husbands, they encourage each other from afar. Davenport introduced the idea of writing a children's book to Freshwater to leave a legacy for their kids.

"We could say 'Daddy and Nate wrote this book!' and be able to share it with them and be proud of it," Freshwater said.

[Read more.](#)

---

## **First Bison Babies Arrive at Minneopa State Park**

Tim Krohn | The Mankato Free Press (MN)

The first two bison babies of the year were born at Minneopa State Park in Mankato. They were born Tuesday night, said Park Manager Ashlee Steevens.

She said there are 15 cows eligible to calf this spring.

"We've had some (give birth) in mid April in the past, but this is the typical time. They often wait until May."

There are 31 bison, not counting the newborns, in the herd. Several bison will be sent elsewhere this summer and fall, including several of the 15 yearlings, which include eight males.

"We're at our maximum herd size so we will rehome some. We don't want to overgraze the park," said Steevens.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources works with the Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd, which works to expand bison numbers and herds around the state. Steevens said Minneopa sent five bison to Dakota County last year to help in their effort to start a herd in a park there.

[Read more.](#)

---

## **Buffalo Zoo Bison Dies- Wilma**

From WGRZ

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Zoo announced the death of one of their bison.

The [zoo says Wilma](#), their oldest North American Bison passed recently.

They said in a post on twitter, "Our animal and veterinary care teams made the difficult decision to humanely euthanize Wilma, as her health had recently declined."

The normal median life expectancy for bison is 15-20 years. Wilma lived until she was 29 years old, far exceeding life expectancy, and was one of the oldest known bison to live in a North American zoo.

[Read more.](#)

---

## **Jeff Mitton: Natural Selections: Native Americans associated with bison in North America for over 15,000 years**

From Boulder Daily Camera (CO)

Road construction had closed U.S. 285 through South Park, detouring traffic to the eastern edge of the park. While inconvenient, it afforded people a sight they would have missed otherwise. A herd of bison, Bison bison, was grazing next to the road — and in the herd were four white bison.

For more than 2,000 years, Lakota (Sioux) elders have been passing the legend of the White Buffalo Calf Woman to younger generations. The legend tells of a time when the Lakota had lost their ability to pray to the Creator. A young woman in shining white

buckskin appeared to teach the people to pray during seven sacred rites, and she gave them the White Buffalo Calf Chanupa, or pipe, which played an important role in each of the rites.

As she left, she told them that she would return to establish peace, harmony and balance. Then she rolled on the earth four times, and each time she appeared as a buffalo of a different color (red and brown, then yellow, then black), finishing this display as a white buffalo calf.

Today, the Sioux, Cherokee, Commanche and Navaho celebrate the birth of a white buffalo as a sacred omen indicating that their prayers are heard and portending much better times.

White bison were historically rare, because they were probably albino (white hair, pink eyes), which occur at a frequency of about 1 in 10 million. But why are white bison so much more frequent now? The herd in South Park had at least four, and white bison can be seen in three Canadian territories and about a dozen states. The white bison in South Park have white hair but normally brown and black eyes. The gene for white hair was introduced from cows.

[Read more.](#)

---

## **USDA urged to ban low-carbon beef claims**

From Meatingplace

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is being urged to prohibit meat producers from touting their beef as "low carbon" by the Environmental Working Group (EWG).

"There is no such thing as low-carbon beef," Scott Faber, EWG's senior vice president for government affairs, stated in a news release.

The nonprofit organization's petition also calls on the agency to require independent verification of other climate claims made on food labels, calling them confusing and misleading.

Claims like "net zero" and "carbon neutral" on food products can have consumers believe they result in reduced greenhouse gas emissions, rather than difficult-to-measure farmland practices, the document states.

Filed with the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the petition was referred to the Office of Policy and Program Development for review, according to media reports.

The USDA-approved certification for low-carbon beef is a voluntary program launched in 2021 that requires participating producers reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 10% below an industry baseline.

[Read more.](#)

---

## **Midwestern Pet Foods Launches Bison Based Dog Food**

From Nicole Kerwin-Pet Food Processing

EVANSVILLE, IND. — Midwestern Pet Foods announced the launch of a new dog food recipe for its Ultimates brand. The new Bison Meal & Rice recipe joins the Ultimates Whole Grain line of products, offering a new protein option.

The complete-and-balanced diet is formulated with bison meal, rice, peas, brown rice, beef meal, pea starch, chicken fat, pea protein and other ingredients, including vitamins and minerals, like Omega fatty acids. The new formula is free from corn, wheat and soy. According to Midwestern Pet Foods, the new formula can help support skin and coat and healthy digestion.

Made specifically for active adult dogs, the new Ultimates Bison Meal & Rice recipe is available in 5- and 28-lb bags.

[Read More.](#)

---

## **Don't Miss Your Opportunity to be Represented in Ag Census Data**

From USDA Farmers Gov Delivery

Time is running out to respond to the 2022 Census of Agriculture! Thank you to the producers who have already completed the ag census. If you have not responded, there is still time. By federal law, the ag census questionnaire needs to be completed by everyone who received it, including landowners who lease land to producers, those involved in conservation programs, even those who may have received the ag census and did not farm in 2022.

Strong response means strong data; these data will inform decisions that will help shape the future of American agriculture for the next five or six years. By not responding, you risk being unrepresented and therefore underserved in farm programs and funding, crop insurance rates, rural development, disaster assistance, and more. Return your ag census by mail or fill it out online at [accounts.usda.gov](https://accounts.usda.gov). Learn more at [nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](https://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus) and respond today.

---

## **USDA is Providing \$130 Million in Assistance to Help Farmers Facing Financial Risk**

From USDA Gov Delivery

To date, over \$1 billion in immediate assistance is providing relief to more than 20,000 distressed borrowers thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act

WASHINGTON, May 1, 2023 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that nearly \$130 million in additional, automatic financial assistance has been obligated for qualifying farm loan program borrowers who are facing financial risk. The announcement is part of the \$3.1 billion to help distressed farm loan borrowers that was provided through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

[Read More.](#)

---

## **Northeast SARE Grant Slates Announced**

From Northeast SARE Grant Programs

Multiple Grant Slates Announced

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Administrative Council has approved more than \$7.1m in funding for 69 grant projects taking place across the Northeast.

The funded projects include:

35 Farmer Grants - \$785K

13 Research and Education Grants - \$2.9M

11 Novel Approaches for Research Grants - \$2.1M

10 Professional Development Grants - \$1.4M

[Read more.](#)

---



# USDA Announces Modifications to the Annual Forage and Rainfall Index Program

From USDA

WASHINGTON, May 1, 2023 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is modifying the Annual Forage Insurance Program to make it more sustainable and to allow producers more flexibility. This includes allowing producers to choose the areas which they insure, rather than being required to insure all eligible acres. The changes will take effect for the 2024 crop year.

"Our goal is to make sure that the policies we offer are sustainable and meet the needs of producers" said Marcia Bunger, Administrator for USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA). "RMA's modifications will ensure the program is available in the future and at the same time new flexibilities will allow the policy to be more tailored to the producers own operation."

The Annual Forage insurance program is a rainfall index area-based plan that provides coverage to acreage planted each year and used as feed and fodder by livestock. The rainfall index does not directly measure an individual producer's annual forage production or loss. Rather, it measures the normal precipitation deviation that occurs in and around the insured area, which is correlated with forage production. The Annual Forage insurance program include all counties in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Texas.

The modifications to the Annual Forage pilot program include:

Allowing producers to insure the acres they choose - no longer requiring all eligible acres to be insured.

Modifying the program design from four growing seasons to 12 growing seasons.

Moving the Acreage Reporting Date to the fifth day of the month after the month of planting, which creates 12 acreage reporting dates.

Adding planting dates to designate the planting month and corresponding acreage reporting date.

Allowing producers in Kansas and Nebraska to have coverage in growing season 10 through 12 and a corresponding growing season at the start of the next crop year, which is consistent with other states where the insurance is offered.

Updating the Rainfall Index Basic Provisions to incorporate existing guidance on the record requirements in double cropping situations when one of the crops follow a different plan of insurance.

The Annual Forage Insurance Program began in 2014. Producers have enrolled for coverage on more than 6.2 million acres.

[Read more.](#)

---

## Protect the Integrity of "Product of the USA" Labeling

From American Grassfed Press Release

The USDA has proposed a rule to ensure that only animals born, raised, and processed in the United States can be labeled as "Product of USA". This rule will enable us to easily identify products that are truly made in America, and support our local farmers and communities by making informed purchasing decisions.

Truthful labeling plays a vital role in supporting local agriculture and rural economies, and ensuring consumers have power in knowing where their food comes from. Through supporting this rule together, we can make a difference in uplifting responsible American

agriculture, and enabling accurate, informed choices about the food we consume. Help us keep a level playing field for American farmers and ranchers!

Submit a comment to the USDA before the May 12th deadline. You can do this easily online at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FSIS-2022-0015-0001> . We encourage you to personalize your comment, and share your own story about why accurate labeling is important to you.

---

## 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.](#)

---

# farm crisis center

Even in the best of times, farming can be an incredibly high-stress 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)**

---



With more than 30 years of experience, Jud has the knowledge and resources to effectively and professionally market your animals at auction.

Call today to discuss your options!

Jud Seaman, Auctioneer

605-390-1419

qasbuy.com



### 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 - 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 [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 | [@nationalbison](https://bisoncentral.com)





Notice

Sent by info@bisoncentral.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!