

# 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



Photos, video, description and registration at

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## NBA Weekly Update for May 7, 2021

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### Summer Conference Agenda Close to Final – Drought Presentation Added

The NBA Summer Conference planning committee met on Thursday to continue to finalize the agenda for the NBA's 2021 Summer Conference, hosted by the Rocky Mountain Bison Association. We hope to have a final agenda available by the end of next week.



The group added a drought presentation to the agenda as precipitation conditions in much of buffalo-country worsen. The NBA has invited the South Dakota state climatologist to present on an update on the drought and tips on mitigating its impacts who has tentatively agreed to participate, depending on travel restrictions.

Day one of the conference will feature a day of ranch tours, including a live-demonstration of bison being worked through the facilities of Cold Creek Buffalo at the Terry Ranch outside of Cheyenne, WY. We'll also pay a visit to a grassroots start-up bison operation just over the border in Colorado at Memphis Ranch. We'll then spend the afternoon at the

famed Terry Ranch - <https://terrybisonranch.com/> - which will include lunch, the aforementioned drought presentation, and the general membership meetings for the two hosting associations.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the conference will feature a slew of top-notch speakers addressing an array of topics pertinent to bison management for both the new-comer and the seasoned expert. These presentations will include a fencing presentation which will feature a panel discussion of bison producers who will explain how they fence in very rural areas, more populated areas, and for rotational grazing. We'll also include a presentation on bison emergencies, and how to respond in the absence of a veterinarian, as well as an overview of the emerging carbon-sequestration market and how bison fit in. In short, loads of great bison education wrapped up in just a couple of days at a very family-friendly bison event. Please plan to join us!

Registration is open now, please take a moment to register for what's looking to be an excellent NBA conference, and a great reunion for the bison community. Get all the details and register online at <https://bisoncentral.com/nba-summer-conference/>.

[Register Here](#)

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## Bob Dineen Inducted in the CO Ag. Hall of Fame

Bob Dineen, founder and owner of Rocky Mountain Natural Meat, was formally inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame Wednesday evening at a banquet at the Denver Renaissance Hotel, along with a satellite banquet in Western Colorado and virtual participation. The Ag Hall of Fame banquet is hosted annually by the Colorado FFA Foundation and Farm Credit.



The formal induction read, in part, “In 1986, Bob founded Rocky Mountain Natural Meats, offering high-quality, USDA-inspected bison to grocers and food service customers. A 50,000 square foot fabrication/processing facility was built in 2007 to accommodate the growing business, and in 2013, Bob built a slaughter plant in Brush, CO to improve food safety and quality control, establishing regulations alongside the FDA and USDA.”

In his acceptance speech, Dineen thanked his “team’ that had been critical to his success, including his employees, the bison community, and his wife Laurie.

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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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## 45,000 Apply For 12 Spots to Shoot Grand Canyon Bison

*(From the Hill)*

More than 45,000 people applied for the chance to shoot bison at the Grand Canyon, as part of an initiative by the National Park Service (NPS) to limit the population of the animal, whose growing numbers are negatively impacting resources in the area.

The agency invited skilled shooters to enter a lottery to win one of a dozen spots to kill bison at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

The NPS authorized the removal of bison at the Grand Canyon because [according to the agency](#), the fast growing population has been grazing and trampling on water, vegetation, soils and archaeological sites. Additionally, the animals are harming visitor experience and wilderness character, the agency says.

Potential volunteers had 48 hours to enter the lottery, from Monday to Tuesday. [According to The Associated Press](#), the NPS received 45,040 applications.

About 15 percent of the applicants were Arizona residents, and one-third were from Texas, California, Colorado and Utah, the AP reported, citing Larry Phoenix, a regional supervisor for the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Read [more](#).

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## Climate Change A Threat to Great Plains Bison Sustainability

*(From the Brookings Register)*

BROOKINGS – Accelerating climate change throughout the Great Plains may present the next major challenge to bison sustainability.

That is the main point the director of research for the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies at South Dakota State University, Dr. Jeff Martin, made in his article recently published in the *People and Nature* journal, titled “Vulnerability assessment of the multi-sector North American bison (Bison bison) management system to climate change.” The article was a collaboration with researchers from Texas A&M University and Colorado State University. It can be found at: <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/pan3.10209>.

“Climate change directly affects bison by increasing thermal stress and decreasing forage and water availability, issues that also challenge range beef cattle,” Martin says. “Indirect consequences of climate change include increasing distribution and intensity of parasites and several diseases that are known to reduce reproductive success. These stresses have been estimated to collectively reduce bison body size by 50% if global temperature warms by 4°C near the end of the 21st century.”

Furthermore, warming and drought may also result in declining productivity of the remaining grasslands of the Great Plains, which are the preferred habitat for both bison

and cattle.

“Currently, 90% of grasslands and 85% of bison are privately owned, which justifies the need for robust private land conservation strategies to maintain this iconic species and its grassland habitats,” Martin says.

Read [more](#).

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## **Newborn Bison Calves at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie**

*(From WJOL 1340)*

A sure sign of spring: Three newborn bison calves at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie were spotted Thursday – just in time for Mother’s Day! Chris Lundgren took the attached photo of three new calves, which are each close to their mothers and stand out in the photo with their orange coats that inspired the popular “red dog” nickname.

More new calves might be born in the coming weeks. Bison experience a nine-month gestation period similar to humans. A newborn bison can stand on its own after birth and can run the same day.

A small herd of bison was introduced at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie as a prairie restoration experiment through a partnership agreement with the USDA Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation in 2015.

In 2016, bison were named America’s first-ever National Mammal.

These fast facts and more information about bison is available on the [Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie website](#).

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## **Bison Range set to open this weekend**

*(From The Polson Lake Courier)*

Less than six months after former President Donald Trump signed Bison Range Restoration legislation, there are big changes at the 19,000-acre facility in Northwest Montana as it opens this weekend.

The facility is now called the Bison Range and is in federal trust ownership for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Congress passed the act and Trump signed it Dec. 27, 2020.

The Tribes are working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to transition from federal to tribal management of the property located in Lake and Sanders counties.

Entrance fees have increased as part of an effort to make the site self-sufficient, and hours of operation have changed slightly.

Beginning, Saturday, May 8, a daily or annual pass per vehicle will be required to enter the Bison Range. The entire facility is a fee use area, including the day-use area. The new rate is \$10 per car daily, up from the previous \$5 day pass. The Bison Range annual pass is \$20 per year, up from the previous \$15 fee.

Because the Bison Range is no longer a Fish and Wildlife Service or National Park Service facility, federal-use passes no longer will be accepted for entrance fees or sold at the Bison Range.

Read [more](#).

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## **Shawnee Mission North Changes Mascot to Bison**

*(From Fox4kc.com)*

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — Shawnee Mission North High School announced their new mascot will be the Bison.

For 98 years, the school's mascot was the Indians. Earlier this year, the Shawnee Mission Board of Education voted to retire the mascot and search for a new one.

Under the new policy, SM North was joined by Shawanoe Elementary, Rushton Elementary and Belinder Elementary in retiring and replacing their culturally insensitive mascots.

[Source.](#)

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## **Wyoming Ranch Lets You Feed Bison & Ride Horses in The Wide Open**

*(From New Country 99.1)*

This past weekend, we had a wide-open Sunday, so I thought I'd take the boy into the great wide open and explore a new state (at least for him)...Wyoming. He actually spent about 5 hours driving through it on our move down here to Colorado from Washington but we're not going to count being cooped up in a car as truly EXPLORING a state.

I've been to Wyoming several times and absolutely love the state and everything it has to offer. So many of my friends and family are like "WHY?" or "Isn't it just a bunch of nothing there?" I usually follow with yeah, there IS kind of a lot of nothing there but THAT is the draw for me. Sometimes getting away to enjoy some peace and quiet and exploring the great wide open and learning about a state's impressive history is just what the doctor ordered.

I also like to point out to those same people that question my love for Wyoming that while there is a lot of "nothing" up there, there's also a LOT of fun stuff to do and see for kids of ALL ages and I'm happy to say I discovered a gem that I hadn't checked out before in the Terry Bison Ranch just across the Colorado border off I-25.

This place had it all when it comes to enjoying some quality time with my son while allowing him to see some impressive animals up close and personal like bison, horses (which he was able to ride for the first time in his life) camels, llamas, chickens and cats...so many kitties in and outside of the sweet gift shop...you can also ride ATVS on the impressive trails out there and did I mention the steakhouse?

Read [more](#).

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## **Bison Plans Need Their Own Roundup**

*(From the Missoulan)*

Sorting out who's upset with whom over the recent Montana bison management moves is about as easy as herding buffalo.

Gov. Greg Gianforte on Friday warned the U.S. Department of Interior that a future bison transplant to the Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge in northeast Montana should be a state decision. But the federal government hasn't announced any plans for such a reintroduction.

Gianforte previously [announced a settlement](#) on April 20 with United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM) declaring the state wouldn't undertake its own bison relocation process in the refuge for 10 years.

UPOM represents ranchers in the area opposed to a bison reintroduction project by the nonprofit American Prairie Reserve (APR). But APR representatives say they weren't the focus of the previous Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock's effort to allow wild, free-roaming

bison in the region. They are happy to keep their herd of roughly 800 animals considered domestic livestock.

Then on April 27, members of the Montana American Indian Caucus sent a letter to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland proposing a multi-tribal plan to restore large herds of wild bison on the Russell refuge. The letter also mentioned Blackfeet Tribal plans to establish a herd on the Rocky Mountain Front and across the U.S.-Canada boundary. But that's not part of the settlement agreement the Gianforte administration signed with UPOM.

Read [more](#).

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## **Ag, Conservation Alliance Issues Recommendations for USDA Carbon Bank**

*(From AgriPulse)*

A broad coalition of farm and conservation groups says a USDA-run carbon bank should be used to test ways to establish carbon accounting guidelines, expand the use of climate-friendly farming practices and enable small-scale farms and minority producers to benefit from carbon markets.

The concept of a USDA-managed carbon bank remains controversial on Capitol Hill, where many Republicans are strongly opposed to the idea of USDA employing its Commodity Credit Corp. spending authority to trade in carbon credits and set a floor under their price.

[Recommendations](#) released by the Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance on Monday focus on using the carbon bank to run a limited series of pilot projects. That was intentionally in line with how Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has said he would initially use a carbon bank, which is the brainchild of Robert Bonnie, [President Joe Biden's nominee as USDA undersecretary for farm production and conservation programs](#). FACA continues to say that its support for a carbon bank is contingent on Congress increasing the \$30 billion limit on CCC's borrowing authority.

Andrew Walmsley, a congressional director for the American Farm Bureau Federation, said the carbon bank concept has received the most attention of any of the 40 recommendations that the group originally released last November. The new report is intended to address questions that have been raised since then about the concept, he said.

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## **Managing Parasite Resistance**

*(From Drovers)*

Many cattle producers now face the growing threat of parasite resistance. That doesn't mean you should forego attempts to control parasites in your herd, but it does mean you'll have to work smarter to defeat the bugs that can become profit robbers.

"We need to work more in harmony with nature," says veterinarian Ray Kaplan, department of infectious diseases at the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine. "We have to get rid of our drug addiction mentality. The drugs will remain an important component of parasite control, but they can't be viewed as the only solution."

Manufacturers of parasite control products are now urging cattle producers to implement parasite control strategies that will help slow the spread of resistance. Veterinarians remind producers that viable parasite control programs are needed to minimize economic losses and health problems. Those include: decreased calf weaning weights, sub-standard fertility and reproduction, reduced milk production, compromised immunity, and clinical disease from parasitism.

While economic losses are real, producers are urged to adopt more critical thinking about parasite control.

"We have to deworm less and deworm smarter," Kaplan says. The first step toward that goal is to recognize that "every single cow on pasture is infected with these intestinal and stomach worms, but infection is not the same thing as disease."

Read [more](#).

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## **Routine veterinary care can save costs for livestock producers**

*(From Farm Progress)*

Many rural areas around the Midwest are experiencing a shortage of veterinarians. The USDA lists North and South Dakota among states with a critical shortage in veterinary practices, and both states have positions open for new graduates to participate in USDA's Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program.

Dr. Jennifer Roberts, a dairy professional services veterinarian for Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, shares that the scarcity of veterinarians in certain rural regions is not due graduate schools not turning out enough farm-animal veterinarians. "There isn't necessarily a shortage of total veterinarians, the shortage of veterinarians is in specific geographical areas in the rural U.S.," she says.

One of the reasons farmers or ranchers may recognize a shortage of veterinary services in their area is because they might have a calving problem or other emergency on their farm, and they can't find a veterinarian within a reasonable distance who can attend to the emergency, Roberts says. However, veterinarians in rural areas are unable to sustain a business on providing emergency services alone.

"Veterinarians setting up a new practice in a rural shortage area need farmers to be willing to have them out to the farm for routine preventative health services that would help sustain their practice in-between farm emergencies," she says.

Read [more](#).

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## **Working ag lands figure large in Biden's 30x30 plan**

*(From Agri-Pulse)*

Voluntary conservation efforts by farmers and ranchers play a central role in the Biden administration's strategy to conserving 30% of the nation's land and waters by 2030.

"President Biden has recognized and honored the leadership role that farmers, ranchers, forest owners, and fishers already play in the conservation of the nation's lands, waters, and wildlife, and has made clear that his administration will support voluntary stewardship efforts that are already underway across the country's lands and waters," the [report](#) outlining the "America the Beautiful" initiative says.

The effort will require increased funding of USDA conservation programs. "It will take more resources than we've had in the past," said Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack.

"One of the key areas, obviously, is making sure we have enough capacity to provide technical assistance to allow those local conservation efforts on private working lands to be funded and to be implemented," he told reporters Thursday. "And so we have requested additional capacity at [the Natural Resources Conservation Service] to be able to provide that technical assistance. And we're hopeful that Congress will be supportive of that."

Some lawmakers led by Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., are working to get funding for conservation programs included in an upcoming climate and infrastructure package. Environmental groups and some farm organizations have called for doubling the existing funding levels.

Read [more](#).

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## Funding Opportunities

### Conservation Innovation Grants in Arkansas

(From ATTRA/NCAT)

Natural Resources Conservation Service in Arkansas is accepting applications for [Conservation Innovation Grants](#) to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. All non-federal entities and individuals are invited to apply.

The maximum award amount for a single award in FY 2021 is \$150,000. State priorities include nutrient and sediment reduction in impaired watersheds, irrigation, and soil health. Projects must involve EQIP-eligible producers.

Applications are due May 10, 2021.

Read [more](#).

### Alaska State Conservation Innovation Grants Program

(From ATTRA/NCAT)

NRCS is announcing the availability of [Conservation Innovation Grant funding](#) to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. Applications are accepted from eligible entities for projects carried out in the state of Alaska.

A total of up to \$469,750 is available for the Alaska CIG competition in FY 2021. All non-federal entities and individuals are invited to apply. CIG generally funds pilot projects, field demonstrations, and on-farm conservation research.

Applications are due by May 14, 2021.

Read [more](#).

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## 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.

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

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