



MnBA'S 25th Annual Auction

Saturday, November 27th - Albany, MN
Bid in-person or online



178 head will be sold featuring:

- 75 Heifer calves
- 51 Bull calves
- 27 Yearling heifers
- 17 Yearling bulls
- 4 Two-year-old heifers
- 2 Mature cows
- 2 Two-year-old bulls



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

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NBA Weekly Update for November 19, 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.

Matheson and Baggett Participate in NAFB Trade Talk

This week, NBA Assistant Director Jim Matheson and NBA President Donnis Baggett attended the North American Farm Broadcaster's (NAFB) "Trade Talk" in Kansas City, MO. The two conducted approximately 25 interviews in the course of six hours at the annual event this past Thursday.



The two hosted a booth at the annual event, which draws over 100 farm broadcasters from across the country who gather for their annual conference and conduct hundreds of interviews that they use for the coming year. Said Matheson, "There was a genuine interest in bison among the broadcasters at Trade Talk this year, which Donnis and I both appreciated. While we didn't have the flashiest or biggest booth at the show, loads of broadcasters specifically sought us out to get the latest on the bison business. Of course, a lot of that credit goes to Executive Director, Dave Carter and Past President, Dick Gehring, who have built a solid rapport with these radio personalities and paved the way for follow-up interviews over the years. However, this

kind of attention also indicates that their listeners have a genuine interest in the bison industry and are keeping an eye on our business, which is encouraging.”

Trade Talk, which is a part of the NAFB’s annual conference, connects the ag industry with member broadcasters to discuss issues and topics important to their organizations, associations and companies. The NBA utilizes Growth Fund dollars to attend this event. Consider donation to the NBA Growth Fund at <https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-growth-fund-program/>.

Beyond the Buffalo Burger

(From The NBA Blog)

Written By Jim Matheson

Want to know a true bison taste-challenge? Try serving bison brisket in Texas. At the World Food Championships (WFC) no less. Talk about some discerning customers...

That’s exactly what the National Bison Association did for three sunny November days in Dallas, TX.

Working in collaboration with NBA member Benjamin Lee Bison (OK) and NBA President, Donnis Baggett, (TX), the group hosted a booth at the WFC, handing out incredibly delicious bison brisket samples to thousands of Texans, chefs, judges and foodies from across the country and beyond.



The result? The brisket was a huge hit, with a majority of samplers coming back for seconds. A shocking number of attendees, including WFC competitors and judges, claimed it was the best thing they ate all weekend. This was in no small part thanks to the Benjamin Lee Bison crew, who, along with Southwest Bison, donated brisket and brought in a professional chef to prepare it in a rented Airbnb. Chef Coty kept things simple, using minimal seasoning, and brining and slow roasting the brisket, thereby allowing the bison to truly shine. WFC attendees were fascinated by the bison’s story, our Regenerative by Nature message and, of course, the finished product.

While there were plenty of folks who said they’d never tasted bison, a majority reported that they had eaten a bison burger before. We jumped on the chance to explain that there’s a lot more to bison than the burger. Capitalizing on good experiences with burgers and the brisket, we touted the merits of bison roasts, steaks, short ribs, stew, jerky and so many other options. You could almost see the light go on in their heads suggesting they’d just discovered something new and delicious while lending a hand in restoring the bison species.

Fast forward two weeks and I found myself, along with Baggett, hosting a booth at the North American Farm Broadcasters Association’s annual “Trade Talk” event. Trade Talk is essentially speed-dating for farm broadcasters. For over six hours, the two fielded interviews with agricultural journalists from across the country, covering topics that ranged from how today’s supply chain issues are affecting the bison industry, to how to cook bison short-ribs, and everything in between. We shared the message of sustainability and regeneration afforded in bison production while emphasizing the fact that we work very hard to utilize the whole animal, and to look beyond the buffalo burger. We even had bison snack sticks, generously donated by Nebraska Bison, to send home with the broadcasters.

These outreach efforts were a huge success and indicated to me that while we still have plenty of folks out there who’ve never tasted bison, we have also collectively introduced a huge number of consumers to at least a bison burger, particularly in the last two years. What a great opportunity to take our consumer outreach to the next level and start introducing folks to all the other wonderful cuts the bison provides us while maybe even increasing the value of our middle meats and primal cuts through direct sales to customers.

Not to state the obvious, but we truly have an amazing product and story that both

consumers and chefs have embraced. Slowly but surely, we are getting our message out there that bison are Regenerative by Nature and eating bison is restoring the species. Perhaps it's time that we start encouraging our customers to look beyond the bison burger and explore the many other wonderful products, and byproducts, of the bison. But the NBA can't do this alone. We need every member out there who is interacting with customers, buyers and chefs to push our message that bison are Regenerative by Nature, and to look beyond the buffalo burger.

A Note from the Oklahoma Bison Association

To whom it may concern,

The Oklahoma Bison Association was preparing to hold our annual sale on November 13th, and we had advertised it to the National Bison Association community. On November 11th, we became aware of an immediate animal health concern at the sale facility. We were left with no choice but to cancel the sale to protect the bison. We apologize for the inconvenience this cancellation caused for the people who planned to participate in the sale. The animal health concern has been taken care of, and we have begun planning for the 2022 Oklahoma Bison Association sale.

Respectfully,
Ian Thompson,
OBA President

Nominate the 2021 NBA Member of the Year!

Please complete this [online nomination form](#) by December 1st to nominate the 2021 National Bison Association Member of the Year! Nominations are welcome from current NBA members only, one nomination per membership please.

The National Bison Association's Past President's Council will announce the Member of the Year at the 2022 NBA Winter Conference. The award recognizes one NBA member each year who has gone above and beyond to promote our collective business and the American bison.

- The nominee should be a rancher, farmer, or citizen whose efforts enhance the bison industry for all.
- The nominee should support and promote the NBA and state and regional organizations.
- The nominee should be a role model to persons in the bison industry. Role model status will be weighed heavily in the decision process.
- State and regional involvement is encouraged
- The Council is now accepting nominations from the NBA membership through December 1st.

To nominate an outstanding NBA member who has gone above and beyond to promote bison and move our industry forward, please take a moment to complete a nomination form online at <https://bisoncentral.com/documents-record/member-of-the-year-nomination-form/> by the December 1st deadline.

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.

MISSOURI BISON ASSOCIATION



PRODUCTION SALE

Thursday, **December 9, 2021**

Lolli Brothers Livestock Market, Macon, MO

Buyer's Reception/Dinner: December 8 - Location TBA

SHOW & SALE

Saturday, **March 19, 2022**

Mo-Kan Livestock Market, Butler, MO

Buyer's Reception/Dinner: March 18

Meal provided by MBA at the Sale Barn Cafe

To Consign, Call:

Carol Morris: 660-998-0990 or

Peter Kohl: 816-585-4779



State of the Category: Bison

(From Grocery Insights Magazine)

Bison suppliers have watched demand for bison experience greater interest as other protein supply chains have tightened. At the grocery level, bison demands have remained at a constant high volume which suppliers are committed to filling. While some retailers have observed bison is a niche category for their stores, the consumers who shop for bison tend to be more health conscious and have a loyal following for the category.

"The whole category is only about 1 percent of my total sales," said Arthur Villarreal of Crest Foods. "I only sell the pre-packed grind, strips and ribeyes. Bison has a niche consumer that wants a leaner, heart-healthier beef!"

As suppliers are eager to move forward and adopt a sense of a normal routine, those in the bison category are carrying on with expansion plans and strengthening ties to their communities and with retail and restaurant partners.

"The worldwide pandemic seems to bring new challenges for us to react to almost daily," said Bob Dineen, Managing Partner for Rocky Mountain Natural Meats .

"Much thought and discussion surrounds this topic and we're not sure we will ever truly see pre-pandemic practices or traditions. The early months of the pandemic brought unprecedented orders for ground bison accompanied by the loss of much of the restaurant volumes. We quickly found ourselves having an abundance of middles to move through and were forced to pivot by working closely with key customers in retail, promoting middle meats and gaining shelf space for bison. This trend continued through the 2020 holiday season and into early spring. Once restaurants began opening up, it was as if a switch had been flipped and with record demand from our foodservice customers, but retail demand for middles never dropped off and continued to hold at record high levels as the price gap between bison and beef had closed significantly. Our typical trends don't seem to hold weight when looking at future business and we are taking each day as it comes."

Read [more](#).

Cull-Program Volunteers Take Four Bison from Grand Canyon National Park

(From Field and Stream)

A pilot program to reduce the bison herd at Grand Canyon National Park ended earlier this month. After shooting proficiency tests, safety training, and miles of hiking in rugged terrain, 10 volunteers managed to harvest four bison. "It was still a learning experience for all of us involved," one of the volunteers, Charles Gorecki, [told the Associated Press](#). "We got an appreciation that [bison] are very quiet and cunning. These animals, if they catch wind of us...you'll never ever see them. These are not big, fluffy forest cows."

The cull was part of the National Park Service's (NPS) [five-year plan](#) to reduce the size of the bison herd on the canyon's North Rim from about 600 animals to 200 in an attempt to protect vegetation, water, and archeological sites. The primary tool in reducing the population has been to relocate bison to Native American tribal lands in coordination with the [Intertribal Buffalo Council](#). In the last three years, 124 bison from Grand Canyon National Park have been relocated to six tribes in four states.

"Ideally, the more females we can ship out, the better," said Grand Canyon wildlife biologist Greg Holm. "But we also do the dance around not wanting to shift away a bunch of females because they have the knowledge to teach the younger generation." Grand Canyon spokeswoman Kaitlyn Thomas [told The Washington Post](#) that lethal removal is the most efficient method for herd reduction. "With live capture and removal, it's sort of as if you're playing catch up all the time," she said.

More than 45,000 people had entered the lottery for 12 volunteer spots to participate in a cull. Out of the 12 lottery winners, one backed out and another failed the required shooting proficiency test, which left 10 volunteers to participate in the cull. Only four were successful. Each volunteer brought along three people who were on standby to field dress their bison and pack the meat out. The successful volunteers divided the meat from their kills and donated parts of the animals to the Navajo and Zuni tribes in Arizona and New Mexico, according to Holm.

Read [more](#).

Zoo adds bison calf, maned wolf to its animal world

(From The Garden City Telegram)

Lee Richardson Zoo has recently welcomed a seven-year-old male maned wolf and a six-month-old male bison calf to the zoo.

"Mateo" has joined resident female maned wolf "Lelah" in the South American Pampas portion of the zoo. Mateo came to the zoo from the National Zoological Park (Smithsonian Institution) as part of the Maned Wolf Species Survival Plan (SSP) a cooperatively managed program of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). SSP's oversee the population management among participating facilities while working to enhance conservation of the species in the wild through a variety of conservation, research, husbandry, management, and educational initiatives.

"Mateo has been settling into his new home really well. He is confident and curious, and we're all excited to get to know him better." Zookeeper Rachel Stepp said. Guests may catch glimpses of Mateo as he is introduced to Lelah and their shared habitat. Working with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, zoo staff welcomed the new bison calf to the North American Plains area of the zoo. The calf previously resided at the Sandsage Bison Range, south of Garden City.

Read [more](#).

Bison point way to major cultural find that rocks Wanuskewin's history

(From The Global News)

Staff at [Wanuskewin Heritage Park](#) in [Saskatchewan](#) have unearthed a major archaeological find, and they did with the unexpected help of some bison that were reintroduced to the park two years ago.

Chief archaeologist Ernie Walker remembers the exact date the discovery happened — Aug. 16, 2020.

Walker and the bison manager were in the paddock located about 800 meters away from

the park building and bison jump, which Walker in 1982 named “NewoAsiniak,” which is Cree for “four stones.”

“I just happened to look down at my feet and there was a boulder protruding, partly protruding, through the ground and it had a kind of strange groove over the top of it,” Walker recalled.

He said at the time he thought the groove may have just been damage but ended up brushing away at the soil to expose the rock more.

Read [more](#).

Agri-Pulse poll: Climate change concerns many farmers, but carbon payments far too low

(From AgriPulse)

A majority of U.S. farmers are at least somewhat concerned about climate change, and nearly half are using or considering practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to a new Agri-Pulse survey of U.S. farmers.

But getting most farmers to participate in carbon markets will require payments of at least \$40 an acre, far more than they currently earn, according to the online poll conducted by Aimpoint Research.

Some 57% of farmers expressed some concern about climate change, and even more farmers worry about soil health and water quality. Both are issues inextricably linked with practices, such as cover crops and conservation tillage, that can also reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as prevent soil loss.

The survey of 589 farmers nationwide, a group that is heavily Republican, also found strong support for former President Donald Trump and dissatisfaction with the current direction of the country under President Joe Biden.

Biden has committed the United States to halving its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and agriculture and forestry are expected to play a significant role in those reductions, and farm and ag groups have been working to shape the administration's approach through a Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance that was announced a year ago.

The massive Build Back Better bill that Biden is pushing Congress to pass includes \$27 billion in new conservation provisions that are aimed at coaxing more farmers to adopt climate-smart practices. The funding includes a program that would pay farmers \$25 an acre for planting cover crops.

The Agri-Pulse poll makes clear that farmers will need significant financial enticements to adopt costly new practices.

Biden pick to lead U.S. Fish and Wildlife vows ‘collaborative conservation’ at agency

(From Colorado Newslines.com)

President Joe Biden’s nominee to lead the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pledged Wednesday to let science guide decision-making at the agency and to collaborate with government and private partners.

Martha Williams, the former director for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, told the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee that wildlife conservation was a shared responsibility.

She said collaborating with state, local and federal partners, along with private citizens and industry, was one of two central beliefs she brought to the agency.

"It is with a strong commitment to collaborative conservation that we can achieve our goals," she said.

Her other central tenet was a commitment to scientific integrity. Two Republican senators raised issues Wednesday with the agency's scientific findings.

U.S. Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) said federal definitions of wetlands sometimes defy common sense and frustrate farmers. He asked Williams to reverse the definition on a specific tract of land in his state. Williams offered to investigate the area's wetlands definitions.

Before the hearing, Williams won the endorsement of Montana Republican Sen. Steve Daines, who wrote [a letter](#) to Environment and Public Works Chairman Thomas E. Carper (D-Del.) and ranking Republican Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia on Tuesday.

FWP working with the Department of Livestock following the detection of bovine tuberculosis in Blaine County [MT]

(Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks News Release)

GLASGOW - To assist in monitoring bovine tuberculosis, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is looking to deer hunters in Blaine and Phillips counties for help.

In September, bovine tuberculosis (bTB) was discovered in a herd of cattle in northern Blaine County and then later in Phillips County. Bovine TB is a contagious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis* and primarily affects cattle. The disease can be transmitted to nearly any mammal, including humans. The Montana Department of Livestock (DOL) is the lead agency for the investigation into this finding and any epidemiologically linked cattle herds. To date, bTB has not been detected in any additional cattle herds or in wildlife in the area.

However, testing harvested deer within the general area can help determine if the disease is in wildlife and, if so, what the distribution might be. FWP is the lead agency for wildlife surveillance and needs the assistance of deer hunters (see map for surveillance area). Wildlife surveillance will be conducted in portions of both Blaine and Phillips counties, due to the use of pasture ground in Phillips County by the affected cattle herd.

"Sampling results from wildlife species that cross county borders and hunting district boundaries provide important pieces to the ongoing investigation of bTB on the landscape," said Jennifer Ramsey, FWP wildlife veterinarian. "The cooperation of hunters is critical."

Read [more](#).

House advances \$1.7T Build Back Better bill, climate-smart ag funding

(From Agri-Pulse)

The Democratic-controlled House on Friday passed President Joe Biden's \$1.7 trillion Build Back Better bill that includes \$82 billion in agriculture provisions aimed at accelerating an historic shift toward climate-related farming practices.

The [bill](#), which passed on a party-line 220-213 vote, would fund a range of progressive social policy priorities such as universal pre-K as well as climate-related measures totaling \$550 billion. Maine Rep. Jared Golden was the lone Democrat to vote against the bill. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack told reporters the bill would benefit "virtually every family farmer in the country who's interested in cover crops, who's interested in conservation, who's interested in making sure that we continue to fund ... advanced research that will allow them to be more resilient and better protected " against the impact of climate change.

Democratic leaders were forced to delay the final vote until Friday morning after Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., took the floor at 8:38 a.m. Thursday evening and didn't stop talking until 5:10 a.m., variously attacking Democrats over the bill and what he said was their inattention to higher priorities, such as curbing China's geopolitical ambitions. McCarthy's stemwinder broke a record set by now-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif, in 2018.

The Build Back Better bill could be scaled back somewhat in the 50-50 Senate in order to win the pivotal support of Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., but the agriculture provisions are largely noncontroversial.

Read [more](#).

Montana Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program

With \$7.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding, Montana is launching an [Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program](#) to advance the state's agricultural industry through targeted investments in value-added agriculture projects.

Matching grants will assist with the development of innovative agricultural business improvements to keep pace with a transforming agricultural industry, create new jobs, and expand business opportunities.

Awards equal to or less than \$150,000 must be matched \$1 to \$1. Awards from \$150,001 and \$300,000 must be matched at \$2 to \$1, and awards from \$300,001 to \$450,000 must be matched at \$3 to \$1.

Concept papers are due December 15, 2021.

Read [more](#).



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Save the Date!

- 11/20/2021 - Coyote Trail Buffalo Ranch Production Simulcast Auction - SD
- 11/21/2021 - Canadian Bison Association Convention, Show and Sale - SK
- 11/22/2021 - TNC Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Fall Bison Auction - OK
- 11/26/2021 - Minn. Bison Association's Bison Fundamentals Workshop - MN
- 11/27/2021 - Minn. Bison Association's Legends of the Fall Bison Auction - MN
- 11/28/2021 - Rocking P Ranch Annual Production Simulcast Auction - SD
- 12/4/2021 – Kansas Bison Association Sale - KS
- 12/4/2021 - Western Bison Association Wild West Buffalo Stampede Auction - UT
- 12/7/2021 - Northern Range Buffalo Simulcast Auction - SD
- 1/6/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 1/1/2022 - Prairie Legends Bison Webcast Auction - Online

- 1/7/2022 - Montana Bison Association Winter Conference - MT
- 1/8/2022 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Simulcast Auction - SD
- 1/19/2022 – 1/22/2022 – National Bison Association Winter Conference - CO
- 1/22/2022 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - National Western Stock Show - CO
- 2/3/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 2/12/2022 - Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Simulcast Sale - SD
- 2/19/2022 - Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Simulcast Auction - SD
- 2/26/2022 - Beltway Bison Consignment Live Bison Auction - PA
- 2/26/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 3/04/2022 - Rocky Mountain Bison Association's Spring Conference - Location TBD
- 3/10/2022 - Eastern Bison Association Annual Conference - PA
- 3/12/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 4/21/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 5/26/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 7/12/2022 - International Bison Conference - Saskatoon, SK

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 and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

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

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