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## Weekly Update



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

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### *NBA Weekly Update for November 11, 2022*

*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.*

## 2022 National Bison Day an Enormous Success

Last Saturday, November 5th, bison stakeholders from across the United States celebrated the tenth annual National Bison Day.

From bison farms and ranches to zoos, public parks, tribes and more celebrated the National Mammal of the United States in an array of activities and celebrations.

Said NBA Executive Director, Jim Matheson, "This year's National Bison Day was by far the most prominent and participated in so far in the ten years we've been celebrating the bison species. I had neighbors asking me about it, which has never happened before, and my social media feeds were filled with bison all day long. This is the direct result of the NBA and its membership beating the bison drum and promoting this annual event along with our partners in conservation and tribal herds, and really showcased this unique collaboration of ours that continues to restore the species to its native landscape".

The NBA, in partnership with Rocky Mountain Natural Meats, was able to have bison included in the Dallas Q Fest BBQ competition and festival which took place at the Cowboys stadium on National Bison Day, thereby making bison a competitor in the event and further raising awareness.

## Fall Bison Management Webinar Just 10 Days Away!

Join members from across the country to keep your business and animals thriving. This webinar free to all NBA members!

Monday, November 21st from 1-4 pm MT we will focus on healthy business. We've got Andrew Larson, Farm Outreach Specialist from the Food Finance Institute to present on financing a bison operation. Erich Ehrlich, insurance agent with Renaissance will explore protecting your bison operation. And we'll wrap up the afternoon with Chris Williams, certified public accountant with WSM, discussing agricultural tax exemptions.

Tuesday, November 22nd from 1-4 pm MT the focus will be on animal health. Bob Wesley, ranch manager with Standing Butte Ranch, will present on managing drought. Kaylee Kipp, MS and PhD Student at Texas A&M University, is covering parasite control. Jud Seaman, auctioneer from Quality Auction Services will round out the day updating us on live markets.

To join any part of these events, just use the zoom links. No pre-registration is required.

Day 1- Healthy Business: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81718998072>

Day 2- Healthy Animals: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82904775105>



**Day 1 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81718998072>**  
**Day 2 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82904775105>**

**Monday, Nov. 21st: Healthy Business**  
1.00pm - 4.00pm Mountain Time  
Andrew Larson: Financing Your Bison Operation  
- Farm Outreach Specialist  
- Food Finance Institute-Wisconsin  
Erich Ehrlich: Protecting Your Bison Operation  
- Insurance Agent  
- Renaissance Insurance - Colorado  
Chris Williams: Agricultural Tax Exemptions  
- Certified Public Accountant  
- WSM Texas

**Tuesday, Nov. 22nd: Healthy Animals**  
1.00pm - 4.00pm Mountain Time  
Bob Wesley: Managing Through Drought  
- Ranch Manager  
- Standing Butte Ranch - South Dakota  
Kaylee Kipp: Parasite Control  
- MS, PhD Student  
- Texas A&M University  
Jud Seaman: Fall Live Market Update  
- Auctioneer  
- Quality Auction Services - South Dakota

Please contact Lydia Whitman at [lydia@bisoncentral.com](mailto:lydia@bisoncentral.com) with any questions.



## Bison on the Menu at the World Food Championships This Week

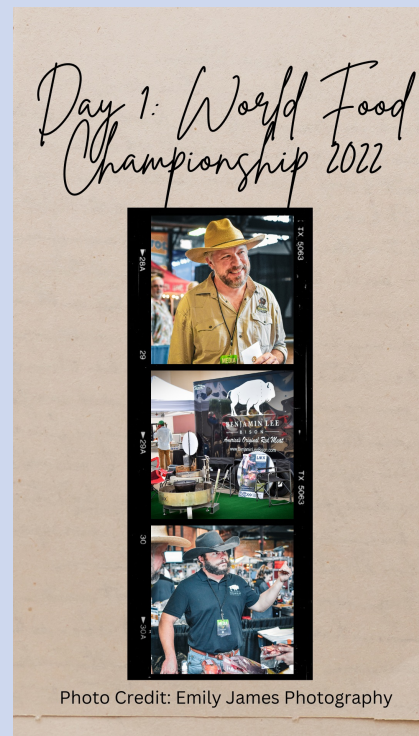
The National Bison Association, in conjunction with Benjamin Lee Bison, is in Dallas, TX this week at the 2022 World Food Championships (WFC). There they are hosting a booth at this enormous food festival and competition known as the "World's biggest food fight"!

The NBA and Benjamin Lee Bison are jointly sponsoring the sandwich category of the WFC, making bison the main ingredient in this competition, which members of both groups will help judge. Chefs are up-and-coming food celebrities and influencers in today's gourmet food scene, for which bison is a perfect fit.

Anyone attending the five-day event, stop by the bison booth and try some smoked bison chili, as well as bison steak, which the group will grill every hour to hand out lucky attendees to promote bison "beyond the buffalo burger".

NBA Communication Director, Karen Conley is on site this weekend to help in the booth and to post and livestream on NBA's social media channels to provide real-time updates and stories on Saturday. Thanks, too, to North American Bison's Al Samuelson, who volunteered his time and helped host the booth talking bison and slinging chili!

According to its website, "the World Food Championships is the largest competition in Food Sport, where culinary competitors of previous events convene for a chance at



winning the ultimate food crown and a share of hundreds of thousands of dollars in prize money. The World Food Championships is also the springboard for many up-and-coming culinary stars and home cooks as they seek TV fame through many well-known food shows and acting opportunities." Learn more at <https://worldfoodchampionships.com/>.

Our participation in the World Food Championships is thanks to the NBA Growth Fund, in which we ask that members contribute \$1/head of bison sold or slaughtered to fund our outreach and promotion of bison to both consumers and producers. You can contribute to the Growth Fund, and continue our expansive outreach efforts, at <https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-growth-fund-program/>

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## Nicole Masters Keynote for Winter Conference

We are excited to have Nicole Masters as the Keynote for the National Bison Association Winter Conference. Nicole Masters is an independent agroecologist, pattern thinker, author and educator. For over 2 decades Nicole has been recognized as a knowledgeable and dynamic speaker on the topic of soil health.



Her experience has spanned diverse sectors from community gardens and horticulture, to vermiculture, compost tea production and diverse multi-species systems. Her company, Integrity Soils delivers coaching and educational programs to producers and organizations spanning over 24 million acres. In 2021 Integrity Soils shifted away from in-person consultancy, to focus on training the next generation of coaches.

Her book titled *For the Love of Soil; Strategies to Regenerate our Food Production Systems* showcases examples of the tools and principles producers are using to regenerate their soils.

When the roads are good, you'll find her traveling in her Ford 350, horse trailer in tow, working alongside producers to build soil and sink her carbon emissions.

The National Bison Association Winter Conference will be January 18 – 21, 2023 in Westminster, Colorado

[Registration is open](#) for the 2023 NBA Winter Conference. Join the biggest bison gathering of the year where we'll gather, network, learn and celebrate the American bison! Two days of top-notch educational programming, market updates, and amazing bison-themed meals, all concluding with our annual Gold Trophy Show and Sale (GTSS) bison auction at the National Western Stock Show on Saturday, January 21st. You won't want to miss out on this great opportunity!

Also, please be sure to book your deeply discounted Winter Conference lodging at the beautiful Westin Westminster hotel, details and links below:

[Click here to book your room without breakfast option – \\$139/night](#)

[Click here to book your room with hot buffet breakfast included – \\$159/night \(\\$20/room – double occupancy\)](#)

Or call the Westin hotel directly at 303.410.5021, or Marriott reservations at 888.236.2427 and request the National Bison Association room block to reserve over the phone.

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## NBA to Attend InterTribal Buffalo Council Annual Membership Meeting



The InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC) will host its annual membership meeting in Quapaw, OK next week celebrating 30 years of buffalo restoration and support to tribes across the country.

The get-together on November 16 and 17 will feature two days of programming at the Downstream Casino that will include keynote speakers each day, showcasing young tribal members pursuing bison, field tours, bison meals and more.



NBA Executive Director, Jim Matheson, has been invited to attend the event. The NBA and the ITBC collaborate on many projects and the two organizations have had a memorandum of understanding in place since 2014.

**2022 Bid For Bison**  
**Get those bids in!**

**BID FOR BISON 2022**

**One week to place your bids.**

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**[bidpal.net/2022BidForBison](https://bidpal.net/2022BidForBison)**

The graphic features a cartoon bison holding a sign that says 'BID FOR BISON 2022'. To the right is a QR code with a blue frame. The background is a sunset over a grassy field with a fence.

***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



## FALL PRODUCTION SALE

Thursday, December 8, 2022 - 11:00 A.M.

Lolli Bros. Livestock, Macon, MO

Buyers Reception: December 7 at 6 p.m.

Raspberry's BBQ Restaurant

**To Consign, Call:**

Carol Morris: 660-998-0990 or

Peter Kohl: 816-585-4779



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## On National Bison Day, Custer State Park holds annual bison auction

*From The Rapid City Journal*

CUSTER — It doesn't get the fanfare, the crowd nor nearly the attention as its predecessor, the annual roundup, but Custer State Park's annual bison auction may be the most important event in ensuring a healthy population at the park.

On Saturday, the park held its 57th annual Fall Classic Bison Auction at the Helmsley Theatre inside the Custer State Park Visitors Center.

The auction, which was run by Bradeen Auctions out of Custer, is the culmination of all the events since the roundup to the health checks, sorting and herd management planning in November to get the herd size ready for the winter season.

The auction was once again held in a dual in-person/virtual format for people to bid, which it's done for nearly 15 years to reach a national audience.

"We will get online buyers and bidders from all across the country," said Chad Kremer, Custer State Park's bison herd manager. "I know today, in person, we have some folks from Alabama and Tennessee that I know of and then I think the rest that I've seen are kind of from the region here."

[Read more.](#)

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## Bison on state land: Montana waiting on appeal

*From Tri-State Livestock News*

The state of Montana is waiting to make a decision on whether or not it will allow the American Prairie to graze bison on state parcels that lie within the Flat Creek BLM Allotment and the Whiterock BLM Allotment. In an October 27, 2022 letter to the American Prairie, the state of Montana reported its intent to hold off on the decision.

Each of those allotments include one gridlocked state section, said Montana Department of Natural Resources Communications Director Cassie Wandersee.

"We are holding off on making the decision of whether or not we are going to permit bison to graze on state parcels until the BLM environmental assessment is deemed sufficient," she said.

The state of Montana, the Montana Stockgrowers and two grazing districts challenged the American Prairie's environmental assessment, and the appeal is still active.

When the challenges to American Prairie's request to graze bison on BLM allotments are completed, the state will make a determination on whether or not to allow bison to graze

on those particular state sections.

[Read more.](#)

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## **It's National Bison Day today**

*From DRG News*

The first Saturday in November offers everyone an opportunity to rally around a symbol of national unity, as National Bison Day celebrates the cultural, historical and economic significance of our National Mammal. The American bison is at home in a wide variety of climates across the continent, with herds today found in American parks, refuges, national forests and grasslands, Tribal lands, private conservancies, ranches and farms.

Since 2013, the United States Senate annually has designated the first Saturday in November as National Bison Day. This resolution has the full support of a community bound by the heritage of the American Bison and includes the National Bison Association, the Wildlife Conservation Society and the InterTribal Buffalo Council. These three organizations championed the enactment of legislation in 2016 designating bison as the National Mammal of the United States.

Today's bison herds continue to grow despite a three-year cycle of pandemic, drought, and economic uncertainty. There are exciting advances in understanding bison through the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies, established in 2020 within the South Dakota State University system. Researchers and academics from across the country are bringing together projects to improve the ability of bison caretakers to manage healthy herds and produce healthy meat.

[Read more.](#)

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## **"Guided Bison Saunter" in honor of National Bison Day**

*From KSN*

MINDENMINES, Mo. — To celebrate National Bison Day, dozens of people gathered at Prairie State Park for a tour and a chance to see bison in their natural habitat. About four years ago bison were designated the "National Mammal".

Currently, it's estimated there are roughly 500,000 bison in North America.

"So since it's our national mammal now, we honor it. Since we do have bison here at the park, we do 'Bison Saunter' every month except for October. And National Bison Day we do two of them because we've had quite a bit of demand over the past two years to do so," said Dana Hoisington, Naturalist.

Over the years the number of bison has decreased from nearly 30,000,000 to less than 1,000,000.

[Read more.](#)

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## **The return of the American bison is an environmental boon — and a logistical mess**

*From Grist*

Five miles doesn't seem far on the vast, windblown plains of the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana. There's a high point on the dirt road leading to Danny Barcus' ranch on the east side of the reservation, tucked within the Two Medicine River valley. When Barcus drives up there, as he did one morning in May, he can see about that far in any direction, the peaks of Glacier National Park rising in the distance.

That's how Barcus, a member of the Blackfeet tribe himself, spotted the buffalo — nearly 200 by his estimate — where they weren't supposed to be that spring day, their chocolate-brown humps peppering one of his grass-green wheat fields. He called his dogs, hopped in his off-road vehicle, and sped over. The buffalo had crashed through his barbed wire fence and were nibbling on the winter wheat he was growing for his cattle. Over the last year, a punishing drought had settled over the plains, and Barcus had begun to feel helpless, worrying over bills he wasn't sure he could pay. "My savings account is the grass I saved last year," he said. "I can't afford to feed it to the neighbor's buffalo."

In this case, Barcus' neighbor is the Blackfeet tribe, which keeps buffalo on the pasture it owns next to his property for part of the year. The Blackfeet herd is one of many across the continent, part of a growing movement to return buffalo, once nearly extinct, to tribal lands. For many Plains tribes like the Blackfeet, buffalo used to be the foundation of diet, commerce, and spiritual life. Bringing them back represents an effort to reconnect with that heritage and, in doing so, restore endangered grasslands. But managing the wild, ever-roaming animals is complicated by the fact that the land is now criss-crossed with contemporary borders between states, national parks, and reservations.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Throlson American Bison Foundation scholarship winners selected**

*From Morning Ag Clips*

WESTMINSTER, Colo. — Three emerging livestock industry leaders received welcomed financial support this month as they were named recipients of the 2023 Throlson American Bison Foundation scholarship.

The Throlson Foundation scholarship review committee reviewed numerous applications and narrowed it down to three stand-out students. This year's recipients includes funding from the Rich Zahringer Memorial Scholarship Fund, which supports those students who focus on agricultural business and accounting in recognition of the fund's namesake, who was a longtime bison industry accountant and is among the pioneers of the modern bison-business. The scholarship is made possible by Rocky Mountain Natural Meats.

[Read more.](#)

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## **First Birth of Wild Bison in U.K in 6,000 Years: The International Fight for Species Restoration**

*From The Scarlett*

For the first time in six millennia, a wild bison was born in the United Kingdom on Sept. 9 of this year. The Wilder Blean project, an organization working in Kent's West Blean and Thornden Woods to restore wildlife to the area, is hopeful not only for the growing bison herd's survival but for their positive impact on the climate crisis.

Tom Gibbs, the ranger who first discovered the baby bison, described the birth as a "magical moment" and "so iconic [in] what it represents for conservation and wilding in this country."

Paul Hadway, Director of Conservation of the Kent Wildlife Trust, said that this is "an exciting development within a pioneering project." Calling European bison an "incredible" species, Hadway said that "to think that their numbers now swell beyond 9,000 is a true testament to the commitment and dedication of international breeding efforts."

The birth was a complete surprise for the rangers because, as prey animals, bison conceal their pregnancies as a protective mechanism against predators. Gibbs did not even realize that Female 2, the mother of the new bison, was pregnant until she left the herd for several days to give birth.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Biden-Harris Administration Joins National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Private Partners to Announce \$91 Million in America the Beautiful Challenge Grants**

*From U.S. Department of the Interior*

WASHINGTON — The Biden-Harris administration and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) joined public- and private-sector partners today to announce nearly \$91 million in grants through the [America the Beautiful Challenge \(ATBC\)](#)(link is external).

The 55 new grants announced today will support landscape-scale conservation projects in 42 states, three U.S. territories and for 14 Tribal Nations, leveraging \$50.7 million in matching contributions to generate a total conservation impact of about \$141.7 million. ATBC grants support projects that conserve, restore and connect habitats for wildlife while improving community resilience and access to nature. The competitive grant awards were made possible with funding from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, other federal conservation programs and private sources. The Challenge is a partnership between NFWF and the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Defense, and Native Americans in Philanthropy. Additional support this year was provided by the Bezos Earth Fund.

"Nature is essential to the health, well-being and prosperity of every family and every community in America," said Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. "Through the America the Beautiful Challenge, we are investing in projects that advance collaborative conservation utilizing the best available science, innovative practices, and Indigenous Knowledge to help conserve and protect our lands and waters. This work will create jobs, strengthen our economy, address equitable access to the outdoors, and help tackle the climate crisis."

[Read more.](#)

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# 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)**



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## ***Save the Date!***

- 11/14/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - Online
- 11/15/2022 - HMI Mother Cabrini Field Day - CO
- 11/16/2022 - 22nd Annual Brownotter Buffalo Auction - Online
- 11/17/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 11/19/2022 - Coyote Trail Buffalo Ranch Simulcast Production Auction - SD
- 11/21/2022 - NBA Member's Fall Webinar 1-4 pm MT
- 11/22/2022 - NBA Member's Fall Webinar 1-4 pm MT
- 11/25/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Bison Fundamentals - MN
- 11/26/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Legends of the Fall Sale - MN
- 11/27/2022 - Rocking P Ranch Simulcast Production Auction - SD
- 11/28/2022 - BSS Land Management, LLC Complete Dispersal Auction - Online
- 12/01/2022 - Western Bison Association Conference - UT
- 12/03/2022 - Western Bison Assn. Wild West Buffalo Stampede Auction - UT
- 12/03/2022 - Kansas Buffalo Association Sale - KS
- 12/06/2022 - Northern Range Buffalo Consignment Simulcast Auction - SD

- 12/08/2022 - Missouri Bison Assn. Fall Production Auction - MO
- 12/15/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 1/02/2023 - Prairie Legends Bison Webcast Auction - Online
- 1/07/2023 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Simulcast Auction - SD
- 1/17/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 1/18/2023 - NBA Winter Conference - Westminster, CO
- 1/21/2023 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - Denver, CO
- 2/02/2023 - Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Winter Conference - SD
- 2/04/2023 - Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Simulcast Auction - SD
- 2/24/2023 - Beltway Bison Consignment Auction - PA
- 3/09/2023 - Eastern Bison Association Winter Conference and Auction - PA
- 3/11/2023 - Missouri Bison Assn. & Oklahoma Bison Assn. Show & Sale - MO

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

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