

# Online Only Bison Auction

**ANTELOPE ISLAND STATE PARK • SYRACUSE, UT**

**Monday, November 16 • First Lots Close at 10 A.M. MDT**



Jud Seaman - Auctioneer  
(605) 390-1419

OFFERING  
APPROXIMATELY:

**80 - Bull Calves**  
**80 - Heifer Calves**  
**7 - Yearling Bulls**  
**29 - 2YO Bulls**  
**29 - Yearling Heifers**  
**13 - Open Cows**



Photos, video, description  
and registration coming soon to

[www.qas.hibid.com](http://www.qas.hibid.com)



## Weekly Update



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

303-292-2833

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

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### *NBA Weekly Update for November 6, 2020*

*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.*

### **National Bison Assn. Moves Winter Events to Rapid City**

*Bison Show and Sale, Membership Meeting Set for Feb. 18-20*

WESTMINSTER, CO (November 10, 2020) – With the National Western Stock Show in Denver postponed for a year, the National Bison Association has teamed up with the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association (DTBA) to plan its annual live bison show and sale, along with its winter membership meeting for February 18-20, 2021 in Rapid City, SD. “The Gold Trophy Show and Sale, and our Winter Conference, are vital business activities for our association,” said Jim Matheson, assistant director of the National Bison Association. “Working with the leadership of the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association, we’ve been able to plan an event that will provide a safe way for members to gather and to conduct our show and sale, while also providing an opportunity for people to participate in both the conference and the sale virtually as well.”

The annual Gold Trophy Show and Sale conducted by the bison association is recognized as the leading showcase for quality bison breeding stock in the U.S. Similarly, the DTBA’s performance tested “Girlz Going Wild” yearling heifer competition provides ranchers with the opportunity to purchase young animals with proven quality. The two events will be combined into one simulcast auction on February 20th. Judging for the two events will take place the day before.

The national association and its regional counterpart have also collaborated to organize a

joint conference with individual association membership meetings. That event is scheduled at the Ramkota Inn in Rapid City for February 19-20. Matheson noted, "We are planning the meeting in a manner that will allow everyone to participate safely in person, or to log on and participate on-line." He said that details for the Show and Sale, and the Winter Conference are being posted on the bison association website, <https://bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/>, for the conference and <https://bisoncentral.com/gold-trophy-show-and-sale/> for the sale, as they are finalized.

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## Nominate the 2020 NBA Member of the Year by December 1<sup>st</sup>

Please complete this online [nomination form](#) by December 1st to nominate the 2020 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 NBA Winter Conference on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> in Rapid City, SD. The member of the year 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 quickly online at <https://bisoncentral.com/documents-record/member-of-the-year-nomination-form/> by December 1st.

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## Update Membership Listing for 2021 Membership Directory

This is your chance to update any contact information you'd like included in the 2020 NBA Membership Directory, which is published as a supplement to our Winter edition of Bison World magazine. Please have your updates to the NBA no later than this Monday, November 30, 2020.

If you have had a change of address, phone or email, or have updated any of your information in the last 12 months, please be sure to notify the NBA by emailing [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com), so we can update our internal records accordingly. If you'd like to check on your listing, please email [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com), or give us a call at 303-292-2833 to check.

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## Fall Bison World Magazine Now Available Online

One of the perks of NBA membership is access to the Bison World magazine before the printed copies arrive in the mail! Production on the Fall issue has wrapped up and it is now available on the website at: <https://bisoncentral.com/publication/bison-world-magazine/>. You will need to log in to the member area to access the magazine.



The flipbook version of the magazine can be viewed right on your computer. Handy links allow you to open it into a new window, make it larger, magnify certain features and even print pages if desired. The realistic page turning sounds make it feel like you are reading the printed version of the magazine.

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

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## **Advertising Opportunities in the Winter Issue of Bison World**

Production is underway on the Winter issue of the Bison World magazine. This issue will feature our printed Membership Directory, which also offers several high-visibility advertising options.

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

The advertising deadline is December 4. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time but will also be subjected to the December 4 deadline for the Winter issue.

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

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## **NBA Updates USDA on Market Conditions as a Part of Section 32 Push**

NBA Executive Director Dave Carter provided key USDA Officials with an update on bison live animal market conditions as a part of the association's efforts to secure a \$17 million purchase of ground bison under the agency's Section 32 surplus removal program.

In it's August 28<sup>th</sup> request, the NBA had listed recent price trends at three bellwether auctions—Custer State Park, Minnesota Bison Association and Kansas Buffalo Association—to document the downward pressure on calf prices as an unexpected supply of finished bison came to market last year.

It the update sent this week, Carter wrote, "On Saturday, the first of those three benchmark sales was conducted at Custer State Park in South Dakota. The results from that sale clearly document that COVID-19 has compounded the impact of slaughter-ready bison supplies already depressing market prices.

Prices paid for heifer calves on Saturday were nearly half of the price paid in 2015, and 25% lower than prices paid last November. Bull calf prices have dropped more than 50% since 2015 and are 14% lower than last November," Carter wrote.

Jennifer Porter, Deputy Administrator fo the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Livestock and Grain Program, responded with a note saying, ". I will make sure to share this updated information, and realize you all have some key sales decisions coming up very soon with respect to the fall calf crop. We will be back in touch soon with an update on the status of your Section 32 request."

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## **Canadian Bison Association Invites U.S. Attendees in Virtual Convention**

U.S. bison producers will have an opportunity to join their Canadian counterparts at the Canadian Bison Association's virtual 2020 Convention, scheduled for 3 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. CST, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

"A virtual convention has many limitations, but also provides an opportunity for wider participation," said Terry Kremeniuk, executive director of the Canadian Bison Association

(CBA). “This year, we would love to have our American friends join us for an abbreviated, informative meeting.”

Speakers scheduled to present at the conference are:

- **Dr. Sylvain Charlebois**, Professor of Food Distribution and Policy at Calhoun University. Known as “The Food Professor”, his current research interest lies in the broad area of food distribution, security and safety. He is one of the world's most cited scholars in food supply chain management, food value chains and traceability.
- **Dave Carter**, executive director, National Bison Association. Mr. Carter will provide the Canadian association members with an update and outlook on the bison marketplace in the United States.
- **Denise Filipchuck**, CEO of Filipchuck Management, Inc. As a Farm Management Consultant and Coach, a Certified Financial Planner (CFP), a Certified Agriculture Farm Advisor (CAFA), and a Farm Debt Mediation Service Financial Expert, Ms. Filipchuck provides financial planning and management consulting services, tools and coaching to farm families; helping them become more successful in their businesses, relationships and lives.

Read more about each of these speakers here. <https://www.canadianbison.ca/news-events/cba-convention-and-canadian-national-show-sale/speakers>

The entire meeting agenda can be seen here. <https://www.canadianbison.ca/news-events/cba-convention-and-canadian-national-show-sale/convention>

Register in advance for the CBA annual meeting here.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZwtd-ivqzsvG9eFmaA1wmq8jzQEx4rxO7SY>

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## Debut Art Installation Opens on Thanksgiving Weekend at the National Buffalo Museum

Thanksgiving weekend will bring something new to Jamestown, ND! A debut art installation by Virginia-based artist Patty Swygert opens at the National Buffalo Museum on Friday, November 27, with a virtual opening reception and artist talk on December 4.

Swygert is a conceptual and visual sculptor and fiber artist. Her installation, *I AM BISON*, uses paint, ink, earth pigments, soil, dyes, thread and yarn on paper, fabric, and found objects, to offer glimpses of the iconic National Mammal, from prehistory through present day. The installation features nearly 30 two- and three-dimensional works created by Swygert specifically for the National Buffalo Museum’s space.

“When Patty contacted us after she participated in our juried art show, *Bison in Art 2019*, to propose creating this immersive exhibit, we were thrilled. It is exciting to have an artist of this caliber creating work for the museum and bringing attention to the story of the bison’s ongoing restoration,” said Rachel Johnson, the museum’s Curator of Collections.

Asked what inspired her about this project, Swygert said, “I love stories, especially those which feature an underdog and involve numbers. The story of the bison has both of those characteristics. From the first animals which crossed into North America from Asia, bison flourished until millions roamed the continent for perhaps millions of years before being reduced to fewer than 1,000 animals in just a few decades and then brought back from the brink of extinction.”

Swygert’s work has been exhibited locally, nationally, and internationally. Individual pieces range in size from micro sculptures less than 2 inches to room-sized installations. She works in various media including concrete, led lights, paper, fabric, fiber, metal, wood, stone, glass, and repurposed and found objects. Often experiential and interactive, tactile and touchable, some of her pieces capture light, texture, and color while others address more controversial social issues, global crises, and the fate of humans and animals as they navigate a changing world.

The National Buffalo Museum will be open from 10 am to 5 pm Friday through Sunday of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. *I AM BISON* will be on view from November 27, 2020

to September 11, 2021.

For more information, contact Rachel Johnson at 701-252-8648 or [collections@buffalomuseum.com](mailto:collections@buffalomuseum.com).

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## **Shop Local for Unique Gifts at the National Buffalo Museum on November 29 to Celebrate Museum Store Sunday**

On Sunday, November 29, 2020, for the fourth consecutive year, more than 1,400 museum stores representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia, 22 countries, and five continents will offer inspired shopping at museums and cultural institutions during Museum Store Sunday.

The Museum Store at the National Buffalo Museum is thrilled to participate in this signature annual initiative and join museum stores worldwide by offering quality gifts filled with inspiration and educational value to consumers, with all purchases supporting its parent institution and the artisans and craftspeople who create many of the gifts found in museum stores. The Museum Store will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“We have been participating in Museum Store Sunday since 2018,” said Executive Director, Ilana Xinos. “It is a great event and we will be offering some amazing one-day-only discounts in our Museum and Online Stores. This is a great opportunity for Jamestown residents to find unique, quality items while shopping locally. If you can’t make it into the store, we have an online store that provides local pickup or shipping, as well as gift-wrapping options. Proceeds from our store sales are used to help further our mission of advocating for the restoration of the North American bison through education and outreach.”

For more information on events and promotions during *Museum Store Sunday* at the National Buffalo Museum please visit [BuffaloMuseum.com](http://BuffaloMuseum.com) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram at NationalBuffaloMuseum. For more information, contact Megan Hennes at 701-252-8648 or [coordinator@buffalomuseum.com](mailto:coordinator@buffalomuseum.com).

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## **Center of Excellence Board Starts Prioritizing Research Goals**

The Center of Excellence for Bison Studies held its second board meeting today and began to refine its procedures and to determine research grant topics, application process and timelines for submission and approval.

The composition of the board is not finalized, with the appointment of Melissa Berns-Svoboda as the tribal representative. Berns-Svoboda is the bison herd manager on Stikadilak Island, AK, and was nominated by the IntraTribal Buffalo Council.

The Center is off to a strong start with two recent developments.

First, an area foundation has committed to support the Center with \$250,000 in funding per year for the next five years. In addition, the National Buffalo Foundation authorized \$150,000 to support the Center’s activities during its initial year of operation.

The second development is the addition of Dr. Jeff Martin as a postdoctoral researcher for the Center. Dr. Martin has served on the NBA’s Science & Research Committee, and recently completed his doctoral studies and Texas A&M University.

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## **Carter, Baggett, Hillenbrand headed to Farm Broadcasters’ Virtual Confab**

NBA President Donnis Baggett, Executive Director Dave Carter and Director-at-Large Mimi Hillenbrand will be spreading the good news about bison next Thursday as they staff

the booth during the National Association of Farm Broadcasting annual Trade Talk event.

Trade Talk is a highlight of the NAFB annual convention. During the event, the more than 2300 broadcasters at the convention circulate through an exhibit hall capturing interviews with representatives of farm and commodity organizations, agribusiness, USDA and other exhibitors.

Carter noted, "Trade Talk is one of the most valuable events funded by our Growth Fund each year. Not only do we have a chance to interact with roughly three dozen broadcasters during the event, but we are also cultivating important relationships that last throughout the year."

This year's Trade Talk is being held virtually.

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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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**BISON ON THE BEAR & BRIDGER VALLEY BUFFALO**  
**Online Only Bison Auctions!**



**Monday, November 16, 2020**  
**1:00 p.m. MT - Bison on the Bear**  
**(29) 2020 Calves**  
**3:00 p.m. MT - Bridger Valley Buffalo**  
**(20) 2018 Fall Bulls**





**Jud Seaman - Auctioneer**  
(605) 390-1419



Photos, videos and bidding will be available at:  
**[www.qas.hibid.com](http://www.qas.hibid.com)**

## **Bison auction on at Maxwell Wildlife Refuge**

*(From the Pittsburgh Morning Sun)*

ROXBURY — The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism will proceed with its annual auction of surplus bison at the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18.

However, this year's event will be open to registered buyers only, concessions will not be provided and face masks will be required.

About 50 bison from KDWPT's Maxwell Wildlife Refuge herd will be available for auction. They are 11 2-year-old bulls, three cows, two cow/calf pairs, eight yearling heifers, seven yearling bulls, eight heifer calves and nine bull calves.

Bison over 1 year old will be brucellosis and tuberculosis tested and accompanied with a health certificate. Heifer calves will be vaccinated for brucellosis and certificates will be issued.

Acceptable forms of payment are cash, or personal checks if accompanied by a notarized authorization letter from the issuing bank.

KDWPT reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Bison become the buyer's responsibility upon settlement on sale day, and buyers must pick up bison the day of the sale or make arrangements with the refuge manager in advance.

Load out assistance will be available until dusk.

Stock racks and trailers should be covered or lined, as bison transport best in darkened conditions.

The bison corrals are located 6 miles north and 1.25 miles west of Canton, or 5 miles south and 1.25 miles west of Roxbury.

For additional details, or to register as a buyer, contact the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge office at 620-628-4592 or the KDWPT Wichita Regional Office at 316-683-8069.

[Source.](#)

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## **Custer State Park holds 55th annual Bison Auction**

*(From NewsService1)*

Over the past few weeks, Custer State Park has been preparing for its 55th annual Bison Auction, held to maintain the herd and land.

This has included rounding up the bison, sorting and having them medically cleared. This year, to narrow the herd to approximately 1,000 bison, the park sold a little over 420 to private herd owners.

“You know, the reason we do sell our bison, is because our rangeland and the park can only support so many wildlife. So, it’s all based around our bison herd. In the wintertime, we can support a little over a thousand animals, plus all the other wildlife we have in the park, the antelope, the deer, the elk. So, it all goes off our range management plan,” said Kobee Stalder, Services Program Manager at Custer State Park.

Organizers say bison from all gender, weight and breeding capacities are shown and sold. For those interested in seeing the bison in person, the auction was only a short drive from the corrals.

Raising some of the best bison in the world has also drawn buyers from all 50 states, including Canada and Mexico. To make it possible for anyone to purchase from the herd, the park has been holding the auction in person and online for several years.

“We’ve been doing that for the past nine years and it’s really worked out really well,” Stalder said. “And over time, we’ve actually seen that as technology has progressed, that our internet buyers account for about half of the purchases during the auction. They go back into our resource management plan. So, whether that’s our fencing needs, our timber thinning, range management, noxious weed control. All those funds generated stay right here in the park.”

Read [more](#).

|    | A                                                          | B                   | C              | D             | E                 | F                      | G                  | H                |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1  |                                                            |                     |                |               |                   |                        |                    |                  |
| 2  | <b>November 7, 2020 - Custer State Park - South Dakota</b> |                     |                |               |                   |                        |                    |                  |
| 3  | <b>Class</b>                                               | <b>Animals Sold</b> | <b>High \$</b> | <b>Low \$</b> | <b>Average \$</b> | <b>2019 Average \$</b> | <b>Avg. Weight</b> | <b>Price/lb.</b> |
| 4  | Two Year Old Bred Heifers                                  | 10                  | \$2,100        | \$2,100       | \$2,100           | \$1,650                | 920                | \$2.28           |
| 5  | Two Year Old Open Heifers                                  | 10                  | \$1,575        | \$1,150       | \$1,218           | \$1,550                | 840                | \$1.45           |
| 6  | Three & Four Year Old Open Cows                            | 24                  | \$1,050        | \$925         | \$930             | \$2,050                | 930                | \$1.00           |
| 7  | Mature Cows, Bred                                          | 10                  | \$1,600        | \$1,600       | \$1,600           | \$2,200                | 1037               | \$1.54           |
| 8  | Mature Open Cows                                           | 41                  | \$925          | \$900         | \$906             | \$1,360                | 1001               | \$0.91           |
| 9  | Heavy Yearling Heifers                                     | 10                  | \$1,300        | \$1,000       | \$1,195           | \$1,700                | 714                | \$1.67           |
| 10 | Medium Yearling Heifers                                    | 9                   | \$975          | \$975         | \$975             | \$1,400                | 636                | \$1.53           |
| 11 | Light Yearling Heifers                                     | 15                  | \$725          | \$725         | \$725             | \$1,157                | 566                | \$1.28           |
| 12 | Heavy Heifer Calves                                        | 15                  | \$675          | \$675         | \$675             | \$900                  | 378                | \$1.79           |
| 13 | Light Heifer Calves                                        | 51                  | \$625          | \$625         | \$625             | \$812                  | 338                | \$1.85           |
| 14 | Heavy Bull Calves                                          | 59                  | \$1,000        | \$1,000       | \$1,000           | \$1,125                | 389                | \$2.57           |
| 15 | Light Bull Calves                                          | 79                  | \$950          | \$950         | \$950             | \$1,110                | 339                | \$2.80           |
| 16 | Heavy Yearling Bulls                                       | 45                  | \$1,625        | \$1,450       | \$1,501           | \$1,750                | 732                | \$2.05           |
| 17 | Light Yearling Bulls                                       | 28                  | \$1,400        | \$1,400       | \$1,400           | \$1,450                | 617                | \$2.28           |
| 18 | Two Year Old Grade Bulls                                   | 8                   | \$2,050        | \$1,950       | \$1,963           | \$1,928                | 1093               | \$1.80           |
| 19 | Two Year Old Breeding Bulls                                | 6                   | \$2,800        | \$2,300       | \$2,550           | \$2,945                | 1119               | \$2.28           |
| 20 | <b>Total</b>                                               | <b>420</b>          |                |               |                   |                        |                    |                  |

## This Stuffed Acorn Squash Is the Perfect High-Protein, Nutrient-Dense Fall Dinner

*(From Well and Good)*

Acorn squash is one of those foods that's so eye-catching when it's prepped and plated that it's born to be the center of attention—or at least your dinner table. The only thing holding it back from main-course status is its natural lack of protein (meaning that it doesn't quite have the staying power to sustain you solo once the meal is over).

Thankfully, [Indigikitchen](#) founder Mariah Gladstone has a solution for that in the form of stuffed acorn squash, which she demonstrates how to make in the latest episode of Well+Good's show Cook With Us. She stuffs the acorn squash with bison, wild rice, onion, garlic, and spinach for a dish that's so balanced in nutrients that you honestly don't need to pair it with anything else.

"This recipe is great for the autumn because we're using a delicious, sweet winter squash and we're filling it with wild rice and bison, both wonderful Indigenous ingredients," Gladstone says.

Bison is particularly important to many Native American communities as a [source of food and spiritual connection](#); the animal was [hunted into near-extinction by the U.S. army and settlers](#) during the 1800s to subjugate Indigenous peoples. "By utilizing bison in our recipe today, we're sending the message that we want bison returned to the ecosystems that they have been taken from," she notes.

The wild rice—another Indigenous ingredient Gladstone [used in last week's episode](#)—in the dish brings healthy carbs to the table. Registered dietitian [Patricia Bannan, RDN](#), [previously told Well+Good](#) that it's one of the most nutritious rice options there is. "It's high in protein, low in fat and sodium, a good source of fiber, and provides vitamins and minerals," she said.

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Read [more](#).

## Buttercup the bison survives Cameron Peak Fire

*(From 9News – NBC)*

BELLVUE, Colo. — As the Cameron Peak Fire directed its flames towards their home in



Bellvue, Dr. Amy MacNeill and her partner loaded up all they could, but had to leave their 22-year-old rescue bison, Buttercup, behind.

Six days or so passed before they knew that Buttercup survived the fire, said MacNeill. Along with packing her bag to evacuate, she scooped up her three cats, three dogs and three horses — but Buttercup was not so easy to pack.

"She's [Buttercup] not very tame, I mean she's pretty much a wild bison," MacNeill said. To give Buttercup a chance to escape, MacNeill turned off the electric fence before leaving.

"Finding out Buttercup survived the fire was probably the best news of our last two weeks," MacNeill [said to Colorado State University](#) (CSU).

Unfortunately, their home burned in the fire after evacuation.

After receiving information about the house, MacNeill said she got the news that a firefighter had been taking care of a bison.

Buttercup came with the now-burned property MacNeill bought in 2013 when she moved to Colorado.

Since the lifted evacuation, the MacNeill family said they will be able to keep her water from freezing using electrical service from a nearby neighbor.

"The support of this community has been overwhelming," MacNeill said to CSU. "A shout out to the firefighters – I can't imagine them taking care of the animals out there while they're trying to do everything else, too. It's amazing."

[Source.](#)

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## **Weekend Events Celebrate Success of American Bison Herd North of Fort Collins**

*(From the Coloradan)*

The 10 American Bison that were reintroduced to Colorado at the Soapstone Prairie Natural Area and Red Mountain Open Space north of Fort Collins have grown to a herd of more than 100 in five years.

"All of us are incredibly happy with how well the herd has grown, how healthy and strong the animals are and how strong the partnership" with the city of Fort Collins and Larimer County, said Jennifer Barfield, an assistant professor of biomedical sciences at Colorado State University who headed up the project.

In honor of that success and in recognition of National Bison Day on Saturday, a variety of talks, tours and activities are taking place this weekend, beginning with a virtual ceremony on [Facebook Live from noon to 1 p.m. Saturday](#) on the [Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd page](#).

The ceremony, hosted jointly by the Laramie Foothills Bison Conservation Herd, city of Fort Collins Natural Areas and Downtown Fort Collins Creative District, will include video footage of the bison herd, songs by Iron Family and a performance from blues musician Cary Morin.

Read [more](#).

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## **Catalina Plans to Import Bison to Boost the Herd. Biologists Aren't Happy**

*(From The LA Times)*

A recent announcement that the nonprofit that owns nine-tenths of Santa Catalina Island plans to boost eco-tourism by adding bison to existing herds has recharged a debate over

the environmental impacts of the shaggy, imported beasts.

Locals cherish the bison as living symbols of the [island's heritage](#). Homes in the island's close-knit community of 4,000 permanent residents are festooned with painted images of bison. Gift shops sell furry bison figurines. Catalina's marathons are advertised under colorful bison logos.

The descendants of 14 bison left here in 1924 by a movie crew are also a powerful attraction for eco-tourists, roaming Catalina's 76 square miles of rugged mountains, sweeping valleys, and grasslands, where the largest predators are island foxes the size of housecats.

"The number one thing that tourists want to see when they come to Catalina is bison," said Tony Budrovich, president and chief executive officer of the nonprofit Catalina Island Conservancy, "and people want to see them running wild rather in a fenced enclosure."

Tourists can buy tickets for tours of the island's interior at The Trailhead, the conservancy's new \$17-million nexus of nature exhibits, gift shop, restaurant and bar overlooking Avalon's cozy harbor and cafe-lined promenade.

The Conservancy runs Naturalist-led Eco Tours from the Trailhead priced at \$79 for a 2-hour tour and \$119 for a 3-hour tour. Separately, the Catalina Island Company offers 2-hour "Bison Expedition" tours priced at \$89.65 for adults and \$85.49 for seniors and children.

The trouble is that catching a glimpse of bison has been increasingly difficult since the conservancy in 2009 launched an experimental \$200,000, five-year program designed to limit the population through [contraception](#). The goal: use inoculation to reduce herd size to a manageable 150 or so, which would be healthier and less environmentally damaging.

Read [more](#).

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## **New at the Zoo: American Bison**

*(From the Smithsonian)*

They're bossy, playful and always in the mood for food—meet Lucy and Gally, the Smithsonian's National Zoo's new American Bison named by students from Howard University and Gallaudet University! Since their arrival in [March](#), keeper Michelle Styles has helped them acclimate to their new surroundings. Get to know their personalities and quirks in this Q+A.

What are Lucy and Gally's personalities like?

Lucy is more dominant than Gally and has a feisty personality. Between the two, she is definitely the boss. When the pair first arrived in March, she was quite unsure about interacting with keepers. Over the past eight months, however, she has become confident in her new environment and around us. She is also very food-motivated and is always on the lookout for her diet items and treats! When I am cleaning behind-the-scenes, I often see her peering down at me from the exhibit, waiting to see if I will bring her a treat.

Like Lucy, Gally is also a fan of food. She is much more submissive than Lucy, though, and lets her go first when it comes to shifting on- and off-exhibit or picking a pile of hay to eat. Although Gally was quite shy at first, she adjusted quickly and was the first to start building a relationship with our keeper team. She has also been brave in many respects. She was the first one to explore their new enclosure when they arrived, and she has been surprisingly willing to try new things, like [enrichment](#) puzzle feeders. It's very endearing to watch her excitedly run around the exhibit and bounce on her front feet to get Lucy to play and run with her!

How do you tell them apart?

While their personality differences help us determine who's who, they also have several unique physical characteristics that help us tell them apart. Lucy is slightly taller than Gally

at the moment, and her horns point more toward her back. Gally's horns point outward. Both bison still have their ear tags from their time at American Prairie Reserve: Lucy's tag reads 807, and Gally's is 812. Size-wise, they are quite close. Lucy weights about 561 pounds, and Gally tips the scales at 576 pounds. Once they are fully mature, though, they could weigh twice as much as they do now.

Read [more](#).

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## **Mcfeely: ND's Heidi Heitkamp Could Be in Line for Secretary of Agriculture Under Biden**

*(From the Grand Forks Herald)*

Former U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, a Democrat who lost her re-election bid to Kevin Cramer in 2018, is a possibility to be Secretary of Agriculture in president-elect Joe Biden's administration.

It's a natural fit, given Heitkamp's advocacy for rural issues, expertise in agriculture and her tight relationship with Biden and vice president-elect Kamala Harris. Biden came to North Dakota twice in 2018 to campaign for Heitkamp and she was a surrogate for him during the presidential campaign.

Reached late last week by Forum News Service about a possible cabinet post, Heitkamp was evasive.

"I've spent almost 40 years of my life in public service. I have never seen our country more divided. These divisions threaten our very democracy. It is every citizen's responsibility to work to bridge our differences and make America stronger," Heitkamp said via text message. "I am thrilled that the American public voted to elect Joe Biden, who will lead us to healing but also to making opportunities available for all AMERICANS. I will do everything in my power to assist President-Elect Joe Biden in Building Back Better and Restoring the Soul of Our Nation."

Heitkamp is already getting some national attention.

On Saturday, Nov. 7, the same day Biden was named the president-elect over Trump, Politico reported Heitkamp to be "the top pick" for the agriculture job. The political news web site said the 65-year-old "has strong moderate credentials and has in the past broken from her party on controversial policy issues."

Read more [here](#).

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## **Beyond Meat Earning Miss Big on Declining Food Service and Consumer Demand**

*(From Techcrunch.com)*

**Beyond Meat's** partnership with McDonald's to develop the McPlant burger wasn't enough to keep shares from collapsing after the company posted third-quarter earnings that fell far below analysts' expectations.

The big miss sent shares tumbling nearly 29% in after markets closed Monday after reporting it generated \$94.4 million in revenues and a loss of 28 cents per share versus the \$132.8 million in revenue and 5 cents per share loss that analysts had expected.

"Our financial results reflect a quarter where for the first time since the pandemic began, we experienced the full brunt and unpredictability of COVID-19 on our net revenues and accordingly, throughout our P&L," Beyond Meat's president and chief executive, Ethan Brown, said in a statement. "Unlike the second quarter where record retail buying and freezer loading by consumers offset the deterioration of our foodservice business as COVID-19 stay-at-home and related measures set in, the long tail of retail stockpiling by consumers, coupled with continued challenges across the majority of our foodservice

customers, led to Q3 results that were lower than we expected.”

Read more [here](#).

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## **Iowa To Fund Business Expansion for Hundreds of Small Processors**

*(From Meatingplace.com)*

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has [announced](#) Meat Processing and Expansion grants for more than 200 local meat and poultry processors.

The grants, which are possible through \$4 million in CARES Act funding, will allow the processor to purchase or upgrade equipment, develop a direct-to-consumer sales strategy, or participate in food safety certification training.

“The demand at local meat processors skyrocketed after COVID-19 caused disruptions in the food supply chain,” said Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig. “The CARES Act funds will help these processors expand their operations to serve more producers in their communities and give them opportunities to explore new markets for their products.”

Specifically, 109 processors will receive grants to purchase or upgrade equipment; 85 livestock producers will receive direct marketing grants to produce marketing materials, develop services, or purchase equipment to help transition to a direct-to-consumer sales strategy; and owners and/or employees of 10 state-inspected and licensed meat and poultry establishments have been awarded tuition grants to participate in continuing education programs.

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## **Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 for Livestock Producers**

*(From USDA Agricultural Marketing Service)*

What do beef cattle, buffalo and alpaca all have in common? They are all eligible for USDA’s Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2). If you commercially raise animals for food, fur, fiber, or feathers, you may be eligible for assistance. Check to see if you raise eligible livestock through our Eligible Commodities Finder on [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap).

USDA’s Farm Service Agency will accept CFAP 2 applications through December 11, 2020.

Learn more at [farmers.gov/cfap](https://farmers.gov/cfap) or call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance.

Read more [here](#).

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## **Disease Ecologist Awarded \$3 Million DTRA Grant To Combat Brucellosis**

*(From Northern Arizona University Press Release)*

Northern Arizona University researcher Jeff Foster is leading an international effort to study and track the spread of one of the most important infectious diseases in humans and livestock worldwide. Brucellosis infects an estimated 500,000 people and millions of animals each year - cattle, pigs, sheep, goats - resulting in long-term illness and significant economic loss, though very little is known about how the disease spreads or how to effectively control it.

Foster, an associate professor in NAU's Pathogen and Microbiome Institute, is the principal investigator on the three-year project, "Biosurveillance of Brucellosis in Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey." The research is supported by a \$3 million grant from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Foster will collaborate with a large team of public health, medical, veterinary and academic researchers, including nine co-principal investigators and seven other collaborators from ten institutions representing four countries - Azerbaijan, France, Georgia and Turkey - to understand how infected livestock transmit the disease to people and how to control the disease in both human and animal populations. The team's aim is to train brucellosis researchers on the latest techniques in microbiological and epidemiological research, biosafety and genomic analyses, and then to track the pathogen.

"The main part of the project is to get isolates, strains of Brucella bacteria that cause brucellosis, and sequence them," Foster said. "Once we have the genome or genomic sequence, we can use this information for molecular epidemiology, to determine which strains of these bacteria, Brucella abortus and B. melitensis, are circulating and how the strains are related to each other."

Full [text](#).

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## **USDA Announces OneUSDA Internship Program for Summer 2021**

*(From USDA Press Release)*

Washington, D.C.- Get the first leg up on your career ladder with a summer 2021 internship at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). As part of the federal Pathways Program, USDA offers paid federal internships at USDA agencies and offices around the country. USDA is hiring interns from high school to graduate level for a broad range of occupational fields, from veterinary science, to engineering, to natural resources management, and finance.

This developmental program gives students experience to enhance their educational goals and shape their career choices. USDA internships involve on-the-job experience, mentorship, and training tailored to the student's education, experience, and interests.

The program is available to students who are currently enrolled in qualifying educational programs or institutions from high school to graduate level.

Full [text](#).

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## **Save the Date!**

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- 11/15/2020 - Oklahoma Bison Association Fall Sale, Payne County Stockyards - OK
- 11/16/2020 - Brownotter Buffalo Ranch Annual Production Sale - SD
- 11/16/2020 - Antelope Island State Park Bison Auction - UT
- 11/17/2020 - Bison on the Bear Annual Production Auction - ID
- 11/17/2020 - Diamond Land & Livestock Online Bison Auction Closing Day - WY
- 11/20/2020 - Wild Winds Buffalo Preserve, 1st Production Auction Closing Day - IN

- 11/21/2020 - Coyote Trail Buffalo Annual Production Auction - SD
- 11/24/2020 - Annual Bison Sale at Sisseton Livestock Auction, SD
- 11/28/2020 - Minnesota Bison Association's Legends of the Fall Show/Sale - MN
- 11/29/2020 - Rocking P Ranch Production Auction - SD
- 11/30/2020 - 3 Suns Bison Ranch – Final Dispersal Bison Auction Closing Day - FL
- 12/05/2020 - Kansas Buffalo Association Annual Production Sale - KS
- 12/8/2020 - Northern Range Buffalo Simulcast Consignment Auction - SD
- 12/10/2020 - Missouri Bison Association Fall Sale - MO
- 12/19/2020 - North Dakota Buffalo Assn. Simulcast Auction - ND
- 1/02/2021 - Prairie Legends Bison Auction - NE
- 1/08/2021 - Montana Bison Assn. Winter Conference - MT
- 1/9/2021 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Auction - SD
- 2/19/2021 - NBA - DTBA Joint Winter Conference - Rapid City, SD/Online
- 2/20/2021 - NBA GTSS & DTBA Girlz Going Wild Auction - Rapid City, SD/Online
- 3/20/2021 - Missouri Bison Association Spring Sale - MO
- 6/27/2021 - 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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