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Conservancy



Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve
Pawhuska, OK

ONLINE ONLY BISON AUCTION

November 9, 2020 • 10 am CST

**(120) Yearling Bulls • (61) Two Year Old Bulls • (43) 6 to 8 YO Mature Bulls
(31) Two Year Old Open Heifers • (51) 11 to 14 YO Mature Cows**

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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 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.

Celebrate National Bison Day This Saturday, November 7th

(From the National Bison Association)

WESTMINSTER, CO (November 4, 2020) – This Saturday 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, according to Dave Carter, executive Director of the National Bison Association.

The U.S. Senate this year once again designated the first Saturday in November as National Bison Day and encouraged citizens everywhere to engage in bison-centered activities throughout the weekend.

“Bison represent the greatest market-based conservation success story in the history of North America,” Carter explained. “Little more than a century ago, herds that once numbered tens of millions were reduced to an estimated 700 bison left alive. Dedicated efforts by ranchers, conservationists and tribal leaders have successfully restored nearly half a million bison to the rangelands and prairies of the United States and Canada. National Bison Day helps us celebrate that success, and to continue to grow the herds on private, public and tribal lands.”

He noted that many public herds and private ranches are hosting special tours and activities this weekend to help inform the public of the vital role that bison are playing in restoring healthy grassland ecosystems. People can utilize the free BuySome Bison app to find nearby ranches that may be offering activities this weekend.

Carter noted that celebrating Bison Day can be as simple as enjoying a deliciously healthy bison burger.

“Demand for bison meat in the marketplace is providing the economic incentives for ranchers to build their herds,” Carter said. “That’s why we’ve launched Partner in Bison Restoration,® a new program to educate the public on how eating bison helps restore bison.”

He added that National Bison Day comes at a particularly appropriate time.

“We’ve been through a bruising political season. The Democrats may have the donkey, and the Republicans may have the elephant, but we all have the bison. This magnificent animal belongs to every American as our National Mammal.”

Nominate the 2020 NBA Member of the Year by December 1st

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 19th 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.

2021 Gold Trophy Show and Sale Details Emerge

Due to the cancellation of Denver's 2021 National Western Stock Show, the annual GTSS will be held at the Central States Fairgrounds in Rapid City, SD, in conjunction with Dakota Territory Buffalo Association's (DTBA) performance-tested Girlz Going Wild yearling heifer auction. Under the agreement developed by the NBA and DTBA, GTSS animals would be transported to the fairgrounds on February 18, judged on February 19, and sold on February 20th via simulcast auction at the Ramkota Inn, Rapid City. The NBA event will not include any yearling female entries in order not to conflict with DTBA's heifer sale.

Animals from the NBA and DTBA will be housed at the Central States Fairgrounds, but will be sold through a virtual, live-streamed video auction event. We hope to have health regulations and consignments open soon.

2021 GTSS Classes:

Two-Year-Old Bulls
Yearling Bulls
Bull Calves
Two-Year-Old Bred Heifers
Pen of 2 – Two-Year-Old Bred Heifers
Heifer Calves
Pen of 5 - Heifer Calves

Entry Fees:

All fees, in US funds, must be paid with the entry. Fees are not refundable, unless the animal is not allowed in the show due to space limitations or class cancellations. Consign soon at bisoncentral.com/gold-trophy-show-and-sale/:

- Single Animal Entries, per head \$110
- Pen of 2 Two-Year-Old Bred Heifers \$200
- Pen of Five Heifer Calves \$300

Commission: A 10% commission is taken off of the live animal sale price, with 9% going to the NBA's general account and 1% contributed to the NBA's Growth Fund program to support promotional efforts in the bison industry.

Ear Tags: GTSS ear tags will be mailed as soon as possible after consignments are received. They are to be placed in the animal's left ear. All other ear tags must be removed, except permanent metal ID tags, EID or RFID tags, NABR (North American Bison Registry) tags, Source Verification (SVP) tags and trichomoniasis tags. One show tag plus any government issued tags.

Load In/Out: The loading facilities are located at 800 San Francisco St, Rapid City, SD 57701. Visit <https://www.centralstatesfair.com/p/fair-facts/event-map> for directions and other details. Unloading times are Thursday, February 18 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please be in line by 4:00 p.m. Load out times are Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 PM.

Stay tuned to <https://bisoncentral.com/gold-trophy-show-and-sale/> for updates.

Bison Stakeholders: NAHMS seeks your help in selecting the focus of its Bison 2022 study

The USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) is developing its second national study of the U.S. bison industry, which is planned for 2022. USDA invites stakeholders now to take a brief online survey to help NAHMS focus the research and build a study that is the most beneficial to industry. As a bison stakeholder, your input is crucial to this process, so please participate. Click here to access the survey, and please complete by the new **November 15th** deadline.

In addition to helping USDA identify key bison health and management issues, stakeholder participation will bridge existing information gaps by exploring stakeholders' new and ongoing concerns. Stakeholder inputs will ensure that the NAHMS Bison 2022 study will be focused on primary matters affecting the bison industry. This brief survey also offers stakeholders a chance to provide information that will benefit the newly established Center of Excellence for Bison Studies. NAHMS welcomes responses from people representing all facets of the bison industry.

Please click here to access the survey, which might take 10 or 15 minutes to complete. The survey is available through November 15, 2020.

As Dr. Dusty Oedekoven, state veterinarian for South Dakota stated to the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association membership:

"A few years ago at the DTBA meeting, I reviewed some of the findings in the USDA's "Bison 2014" study. USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) conducts various studies of different livestock sectors to document benchmark information on animal health, nutrition, and research. I wanted to be sure you were aware that USDA

is planning to conduct an update to the Bison 2014 study in 2022. They are now calling for input from industry stakeholders to guide their data collection. I would strongly encourage DTBA members to respond to the survey by November 15th. The more participation in the survey, the better USDA can respond to the needs of the industry".

Important note: Depending on your internet connection, the survey might take several minutes to load, so please be patient. Also, please click on the "Submit" button on the last page to ensure that your responses are recorded! Thanks very much for your help! To see former NAHMS Bison Study results, click [here](#). Feel free to send any questions or comments regarding the survey to NAHMS@usda.gov.

Please share this announcement with others who might be interested in completing the survey.

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.

HELP US BUILD A STRONGER BISON MARKETPLACE



Your voluntary contributions help support the ongoing mission of the National Bison Association. Marketing, outreach, promotion and teaching are just a few of the projects supported by donations to the Growth Fund. Any amount is welcome!

DONATE NOW!

Learn more at <https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-growth-fund-program/>

Blockchain And Bison Mix On The Western Plains Of Wyoming

(From Forbes)

In just a few years, the State of Wyoming has become synonymous with blockchain innovation, due in large part to its groundbreaking regulatory infrastructure for blockchain technology and digital assets. This extraordinary trajectory continues with the creation of the UW Center for Blockchain and Digital Innovation which was announced today.

The Center sits astride four UW colleges—including the College of Business, College of Engineering and Applied Science, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the College of Law—as well as the state's community colleges. According to UW President Ed Seidel, the Center is interdisciplinary "because that's how the world works."

Steven Lupien, who was recently named director, suggests that the Center "aligns well with the four pillars undergirding the University's growth: to be more entrepreneurial, digital, inclusive and interdisciplinary." He explains that the Center's interdisciplinary approach enables proactive collaboration across different constituencies at the University, in the State's business community, and the world at large. The Center will be housed in the University's College of Business.

The Center was launched with a \$500,000 gift in Ada cryptocurrency from IOHK (Input Output, iohk.io), a leading international technology company, and a matching grant from the State. The donation, among the largest cryptocurrency gifts to a public university, helped to establish the Center's blockchain lab in the College of Engineering and Applied Science.

Read [more](#).

100 Bison Are Released to Their Native Lands In South Dakota

(From the Daily Mail)

Bison once roamed free across much of North America but are now 'ecologically extinct' as a wild species due to a loss of habitat and hunting – but this is set to change.

Approximately 100 bison have returned to their native plains in what is now the Wolakota Buffalo Range in South Dakota's Rosebud Indian Reservation.

The herd is the first of as many as 1,500 bison that will call the 28,000 acres of grassland home, which will be managed by the Rose-bud Sioux Tribe over the next five years.

The tribe is hoping to revitalize their relationship with bison to show the bond creates economic, ecological and cultural resiliency.

Wizipan Little Elk, CEO of Rosebud Economic Development Corporation (REDCO), said: 'The sacred relationship between Native nation communities and the buffalo is part of a shared story of strength, resilience and economic revitalization.'

'The arrival of the buffalo marks a new beginning for the Sicangu Oyate, where cultural, ecological, and economic priorities are equally celebrated and supported and are of great benefit to our community and serve as an example to the entire world.'

Read more [here](#).

Mobile Slaughter Business to Launch in Montana

(From Meatingplace.com)

The Montana Farmers Union (MFU) announced it has secured funds to start a cooperative mobile slaughtering business.

The group said it received a \$150,000 Montana Meat Processing Infrastructure Grant funded by coronavirus relief funds that will be used to purchase a mobile harvest unit. MFU and farmers union partners in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin, along with the Farmers Union Enterprise (FUE), each will invest an additional \$150,000 to help purchase and set up the mobile harvest unit as a cooperative.

In addition, MFU will work with Montana State University-Northern (MSUN) to develop a meat processing curriculum that will utilize the mobile harvest unit, the union said in a press release.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated weaknesses in the meat processing supply chain in Montana, according to a letter of intent signed by representatives of MFU, FUE and MSUN in late October. USDA- and state-inspected facilities are running at full capacity.

Some are using Montana meat processing grants to help increase their capacity but are six to 12 months behind demand and struggling to find skilled workers and inspectors, according to the letter.

"Moreover, most retail meat outlets in Montana are relying on imported meat with the USDA inspected 'for sale' seal to process meats for their counters," the letter states.

MFU said it hopes to have the mobile harvest unit operational by early next spring. MSUN plans to have a curriculum in place by fall semester 2021.

South Dakota Bison Ranch Partners with Patagonia for Limited

Work Boot Line

(From the Argus Leader)

For Jill O'Brien, talk of environmental concerns tend to hug the coasts around the United States. But efforts to curb climate change are leaving out one of the keys to turn it around: The Great Plains.

For O'Brien and her husband, founders of South Dakota's Wild Idea Buffalo Company, their goal is to regenerate the prairie by raising bison on their 34,000-acre ranch, selling meat directly to customers.

A new partnership with Patagonia has become part of the western South Dakota ranch's goal to help the prairie ecosystem, one of the most efficient carbon sinks in the world with the region capturing vast amounts of carbon dioxide.

Both companies have the same mission, O'Brien said: to save the world.

"To do that, you need a pretty big megaphone for people to hear you," O'Brien said.

"Partnering with Patagonia, they've got a pretty big microphone."

Patagonia's new work boot, released in October, is made of bison leather from Wild Idea's Cheyenne River ranch.

The line is limited to 1,000 pairs of shoes—the same number of bison harvested at the ranch in a year.

The new product is an extension from the two company's already established 7-year partnership. The ranch has supplied Patagonia Provisions, an off shoot of the clothing line, with bison jerky for years. In 2020 alone, they provided 8,000 pounds of dried jerky to the company—nearly 20,000 pounds of raw meat.

[Source.](#)

D'Artagnan Asks FSIS To Add Imported Venison Under Voluntary Inspection

(From Meatingplace.com)

Union, N.J.-based charcuterie and cured meats maker D'Artagnan has petitioned USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service requesting that the agency modify its voluntary inspection regulations for exotic animal species to include imported exotic animal products, such as imported venison.

The petition, filed Oct. 13, states that the action is needed to allow the company to expand sales of its ground product made from venison imported from New Zealand to U.S. states that have "at least equal to" inspection programs under federal regulations and in which venison is considered a species amenable to state laws.

FSIS currently recognizes only domestically sourced trimmings, yet federal regulations for voluntary inspection do not stipulate that domestic is acceptable but foreign sources are not, the petition said. "The enhancements that D'Artagnan is proposing add clarity to the regulations. Voluntary inspection is in place to ensure the wholesomeness of the products it oversees," according to the petition.

The action would have no additional cost or financial burden to USDA because voluntary inspection is funded by the requesting company, the petition said.

FSIS notified the company in a letter dated Oct. 30 that the request is being considered.

USDA Moves Toward All-RFID System for Officially Identifying Cattle

(From the Wisconsin State Farmer)

The USDA has reopened the debate in the cattle industry on radio-frequency tags with a new proposal that has the stated goal of increasing overall traceability in case of disease outbreaks in cattle. It asked the industry to weigh in with comments on its plan to make low-frequency identification tags, commonly known as RFID tags, the only official tags for use in interstate movement of cattle within a few years.

Under its current timeline, the agency wants to require RFID tags for beef cattle, dairy cattle and bison moving interstate by January 1, 2023. (Feeder cattle or those moving directly to slaughter might be exempt from the RFID requirement.)

Animals affected by this requirement would include cattle that are sexually intact and 18 months of age or older; those used for shows and exhibitions; and all female dairy cattle and all male dairy cattle born after March 11, 2013. If an animal has only a metal ear tag when that deadline passes, it would need to be retagged in order for it to be moved.

Read more [here](#).

Learn About Bison in New Arizona Educator Workshop

(From Copper Country News)

Teachers: Are you looking for unique ways to bring crosscutting concepts and science and engineering practices into your classroom? The Arizona Game and Fish Department is pleased to announce a brand-new virtual workshop designed just for educators. Join us on Saturday, Nov. 7 for “Bison in America: An Educator Virtual Workshop.”

During this four-hour event, you will:

- hear from a Department expert on bison in Arizona.
- learn about their past, present and future in North America.
- explore lesson ideas to use bison to teach science and history concepts.
- find additional resources to expand your knowledge of bison after the workshop.

Upon completion of the workshop, all participants will receive a certificate for four hours of professional development credit that can be applied toward recertification and a hard copy of the Department’s “America’s Wildlife” curriculum which looks at the development of wildlife management in the United States.

This workshop is open to educators of all types (formal and nonformal). However, the content is geared toward secondary teachers.

As indicated, this event is virtual. You can participate from anywhere. All you need is a computer or other device with internet access and audio capability. It will be interactive so you should have the ability to participate in discussions via text and audio within the event platform.

Because of the interactive nature of this workshop, space is limited, and registration is required. Once all spots are filled, a waiting list will be used to fill spots after cancellations.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/162782>.

Read [more](#).

Bison Mummies Help Scientists Ruminates on Ancient Climate

(From Smithsonian Magazine)

Over 28,000 years ago, a steppe bison, *Bison priscus*, died in present-day Alaska. Its body was preserved by permafrost until scientists discovered it in 1951. The bison now rests in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, able to be seen by a virtual tour or in the “David H. Koch Hall of Fossils - Deep Time” when the museum reopens.

"It's one of the few relatively complete bison mummies from Alaska. Most of our better-preserved bison mummies come from Siberia," said Dr. Advait Jukar, a paleontologist at Yale University and the museum's Department of Paleobiology.

But this specimen is more than a fascinating example of a now-extinct species. The bison, and other frozen mummies, hold valuable information for researchers who want to understand how biodiversity evolved and responded to climate change before the Anthropocene— a period defined by humans' impact on the biosphere and climate system — began.

"By studying mummies and fossils from periods prior to the Anthropocene, we can track how populations and ecosystems changed through time in the absence of outsized human impacts," said Dr. Josh Miller, a paleoecologist at the University of Cincinnati who has worked with Jukar. "This allows us to think more critically about how we impact living populations and informs strategies for how we preserve species and ecosystems today."

Read [more](#).

The Big Squeeze

(From the Kankakee Daily Journal)

The last month or so I have been doing a crash course on livestock corral design and low stress animal handling while prepping for the upcoming Kankakee Sands bison roundup. Two themes have emerged for me 1. Temple Grandin is a genius (more next week), and 2. Tinkering with your corral is never truly done.

What you see before you in the picture is the most expensive but also most important part of any bison corral system — the hydraulic squeeze. This is the end point in the river of gates and rusted over alleyways that a single bison can get processed during roundup.

This is the area where data is collected and hands on veterinarian care takes place. This is also one of the most stressful points in the operation for each bison passing through and the design takes that into account.

The bison enter from the right side as they exit our 2:1 alleyway system. As the animal enters and they proceed to the front near the head gate where they will generally try to ram through. The front part of the of the squeeze, called the crash gate, is a still box painted white on the inside and has a window looking straight ahead.

Bison tend to prefer to put their head in the direction of lighter colors. The hydraulic operator must carefully pull levers to close the walls around the animal's head and body (where the name squeeze comes in) which holds the bison in place for safe management. The sides of the squeeze have a lot of paneling and access doors.

Read [more](#).

National Park Bison Released on Rosebud Sioux Reservation In South Dakota

(From National Parks Travel)

Prospects for prairie grasslands, Lakota culture, and reservation economics and health have been boosted with the arrival of 100 bison from Badlands and Theodore Roosevelt national parks at the Wolakota Buffalo Range on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation.

The bison marked the first of an estimated 1,500 that the tribe hopes to manage on 28,000 acres of South Dakota grasslands that once were grazed by livestock.

"The sacred relationship between Native nation communities and the buffalo is part of a shared story of strength, resilience and economic revitalization," Wizipan Little Elk, CEO or

REDCO, the Rosebud Economic Development Company, said Friday when the transfer occurred. "The arrival of the buffalo marks a new beginning for the Sicangu Oyate, where cultural, ecological and economic priorities are equally celebrated and supported and are of great benefit to our community."

It was back in May when Interior Secretary David Bernhardt announced a decade-long initiative to support efforts to better understand genetic pools held within the Interior Department's roughly 11,000 bison and to bolster conservation and ecological efforts with states and tribes.

Read [more](#).

Dr. Ryan Scholz named new state veterinarian at ODA [OR]

(From Oregon Department of Agriculture)

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is pleased to announce the promotion of Dr. Ryan Scholz as the new ODA State Veterinarian, effective November 2, 2020. Dr. Scholz brings extensive experience in emergency management and animal disease control.

"Ryan is a smart, talented leader who has the ability to elevate his team in both the day-to-day work at ODA and in emergency situations where strong coordination skills and confidence are crucial," said ODA Director Alexis Taylor. "I look forward to working with him as he continues to turn his ideas into real-world success."

Dr. Scholz joined ODA in 2012 as a district veterinarian serving Western Oregon.

To-date, Dr. Scholz's contributions to the Animal Health Program have made many of the technological advances in the program possible and have helped improve the program's ability to serve customer needs. As state veterinarian, Dr. Scholz will serve as the chief livestock disease control official for the state. He will also provide leadership in addressing Oregon's animal health concerns and will administer ODA's statutorily mandated disease control responsibilities.

Read more [here](#).

Southern SARE Producer Grants

Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SSARE) is accepting applications for Producer Grants. This competitive research grants program is intended to help farmers and ranchers in the Southern Region develop sustainable production and marketing practices.

The goal of the grant program is for farmers/ranchers to conduct projects to solve challenges and problems they face, and develop information on what works and doesn't work so that other farmers and ranchers facing those same problems can benefit from the results of the funded project.

Producer Grants are open to individual full-time or part-time farmers (grants up to \$15,000 for an individual farmer or rancher) and ranchers or farmer organizations such as cooperatives (maximum grant of \$20,000). Proposals are due by November 13, 2020.

Read more [here](#).



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Save the Date!

- 11/07/2020 - 55th Annual Custer State Park Fall Classic Bison Auction - SD
- 11/09/2020 - TNC Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Online Only Auction - OK
- 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
- 11/28/2020 - 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 and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

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

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