



MnBA'S 25th Annual Auction

Saturday, November 27th
Albany, MN

Auction weekend will feature:

- Breeding stock & production animals
- Friday evening banquet
- A free Bison Fundamentals class

Visit mnbison.org for full details!



Weekly Update



bisoncentral.com

303-292-2833

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

Reprint is encouraged and permission is granted when the following credit appears:

©National Bison Association; Westminster, CO

NBA Weekly Update for October 8, 2021

The Weekly Update is a service designed to provide National Bison Association members with news and information affecting bison production and marketing. Many items in the Weekly Update are reprinted from outside sources. The content of those articles does not necessarily reflect the policy position of the National Bison Association. The articles are reproduced here only as a means to keep our membership informed as much as possible of all information and opinions relating to bison that is circulating publicly.

Registration Open for NBA Regional Webinars

National Bison Association members throughout the country will have an opportunity receive useful information pertinent to their region in a series of four interactive webinars scheduled from October 19-27.

The four webinars—East, West, North and South will feature speakers with expertise in addressing an array of bison management topics in that region.

Bison producers throughout the country face different challenges in maintaining herd health, managing pastures and marketing the meat,” said Jim Matheson, NBA assistant director. “This is our inaugural effort to offer our members with information that is specifically based on factors in their region.

All webinars are free to NBA members and will be hosted on the Zoom platform. Presentations will be recorded for later viewing in the NBA member's area. Use the links below to view the full agenda, and to register for one of the upcoming webinars.

[East, October 19](#)

[West, October 20](#)

Producer Participants Needed for Bison Health Monitoring Study

USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System is looking for three producers who'd be willing to help pretest the agency's *Bison 2022* questionnaire on health and management practices before the survey is formally issued.

"Pretesting is critical because it helps us ensure the questions flow in a logical and helpful order, address any wording issues or confusing questions, and identify other issues that could make it difficult to complete the questionnaire" said Dr. Margaret Parker, of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Dr. Parker, located in Fort Collins, CO, is coordinating the development of the *Bison 2022*, which is a follow-up epidemiological bison study from the previous report issued in 2014.

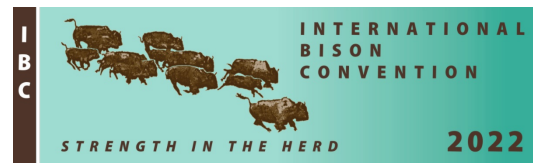
She said that each volunteer would receive the questionnaire via email. After having an opportunity to review the survey, each participant will be contacted by phone to discuss specific topics, and to provide feedback on the content and structure.

"We believe it will take about 30 minutes to read through the questionnaire, and we would try to limit the follow-up phone call to 1 hour. We'd like to complete the pretests by October 14, 2021," she said.

Anyone interested in participating in the pretest is encouraged to contact Dr. Parker at margaret.a.parker@usda.gov.

Registration Open for IBC 2022!

Early Bird Registration officially opened this week for the sixth-ever International Bison Convention, scheduled from July 12-15, 2022, in Saskatoon, Canada.



The organizing committee has been working for more than a year to start developing a schedule that will provide everyone with an opportunity to combine an educational conference with a unique Canadian vacation," said Dave Carter, NBA executive director.

The convention theme, Strength in the Herd, underscores the importance of bringing the bison community together to discuss the history of the bison, new research, and conservation strategies as well as bison care and the business of bison

The event will welcome close to 800 delegates who are stakeholders in the bison community including producers, chefs, consumers, researchers, conservationists, marketers, and policymakers.

Organizers are planning a series of side tours during the conference, including Wanuskewin Heritage Park near Saskatoon, Black Box Farm and Distillery, and Prairie Lily River Cruise. The committee has also identified several points of interest enroute to Saskatoon for American attendees planning to participate.

The Early Bird registration for individuals is \$350 through March 31, 2022. Early Bird family registration is \$850 through March 31, 2022 (and includes ticket admissions for three people ages 16 and over in the same family)

More information on the 2022 IBC is available [here](#).
Registration and lodging information are available [here](#).

Bison Direct Marketers Can Access FSA Farm Storage Facility

Loans for Freezers

While meeting with a small delegation of National Bison Association leaders in Washington, D.C. last week USDA's Farmer Service Agency Administrator Zack Ducheneaux noted that bison producers are often unaware of their ability to access several of the agency's programs, including the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program.

He noted that bison ranchers engaged in direct-to-consumer marketing can access that program to help finance the cost of installing on-farm freezers and refrigeration units.

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFLs) provide low-interest financing for producers to store, handle and/or transport eligible commodities they produce. The program is designed for small and mid-sized farms, and for new farmers. Producers may borrow up to \$500,000 for storage facilities with a minimum down payment of 15 percent. Loan terms are up to 12 years, depending on the amount of the loan.

More information on the program is available [here](#).

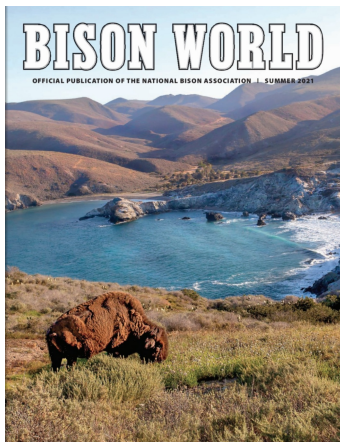
Headway Being Made on MCF Vaccine

Vaccine for Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) in bison is moving closer to formal development following the positive results in a recent model study conducted on rabbits, according to Dr. Christina Cunha, a Veterinary Medical Officer with USDA's Agricultural Research Service Animal Disease Research Unit in Pullman, WA

"The project was peer-reviewed and received a high score with minor revisions, which was excellent! We should have it formally approved in a couple weeks. That means that our next steps are to test the safety and efficacy of some potential vaccines in bison and cattle," Dr. Cunha reported this week.

"We will start initial safety studies in cattle, which can be done right away in our facilities in Pullman. For the bison experiments, we need to do some renovations in the facilities in the University of Wyoming to be able to accommodate the number of animals we need for the vaccine trials. Hopefully we will have it done in the next couple months, so we can start the studies by the summer," she said.

She will be reaching out to the NBA and individual bison producers to provide animals for that phase of the project.



Summer Bison World Magazine 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 Summer 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.

Hard copies of the magazine have been mailed from the printer and should arrive soon!

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.

OFFERING CANADIAN LIVESTOCK TO THE WORLD!

**October 13 - October Video Bison Auction
600 Head on Offer - Featuring Yearlings**



Let's Have A Sale!

www.jackauctiongroup.com

1-306-641-9285

'Bison And Brides' Farm Owner Buys Freeway Famous Chateau: \$5 Million Spent in Ashland in 9 Months

(From the Oregonian)

In less than a year, chiropractor Thaddeus Gala has moved into tiny Ashland in a big way. He took over the fabled, 139-acre Billings Farm in November, agreeing to pay \$2,490,000, and in August, he acquired the 27-acre vineyard estate with a chateau alongside Interstate 5 for \$2.5 million.

Both southern Oregon properties are famous in different ways and their new owner is dedicated to making them even more publicly known.

He uses contests, Facebook live videos and crowded Zoom conferences to promote his money-making ideas, from raising a herd of bison to hosting weddings, prompting one neighbor to ask incredulously, "Bison and brides?"

Gala, who says he grew up off-the-grid in rural Trail, a remote unincorporated community in Jackson County, Oregon, is the founder of Complete Care Health Centers in Medford and Eagle Point. He also established Puerto Rico-based The Guardians, which offers business consulting and financial capital strategies "built on the essential interconnectivity of wealth, health, and philanthropy."

His wife, Rebecca Blust, is a former schoolteacher and founder of Positive Thinking Revolution consulting.

In February, Gala told The Oregonian/OregonLive, "I have no illusions that someday in the future, maybe after I'm long gone, that there will be houses" built on Billings Farm.

Read more [here](#).

USDA To Launch Loan Guarantee Initiative to Strengthen Food Supply Chain

(From USDA)

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack this week announced that USDA plans for another \$100 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. The funding would leverage hundreds of millions more in lending through

community and private sector lenders to expand meat and poultry processing capacity and finance other food supply chain infrastructure. These investments will help deliver more opportunities and fairer prices for farmers and address bottlenecks in the food supply chain revealed and exacerbated by the pandemic.

The Department plans to publish specific details on the new program and how to apply as part of USDA's Build Back Better Initiative, a comprehensive plan to invest \$4 billion to strengthen the resiliency of America's food supply chain while promoting competition. This announcement follows the Biden-Harris Administration's announcement earlier this month of steps it is taking to address concentration in the meat-processing industry, adding a new commitment of \$100 million for loan guarantees on top of the previously announced \$500 million investment to expand meat and poultry processing capacity.

Application Period Opens for Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program to Provide Relief to Small Processors

(From USDA)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced a Request for Applications (RFA) for the new Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grant program and encourages eligible entities to apply now for funds. Applications must be submitted electronically through the grant portal at <https://usda-prs.grantsolutions.gov/usda> by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, November 22, 2021. Approximately \$650 million in funding is available for the PRS grants, which are funded by the Pandemic Assistance provided in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

The PRS Grant program will assist small businesses in certain commodity areas, including specialty crop producers, shellfish farming, finfish farming, aquaculture, and apiculture; specialty crop, meat, and other processors; distributors; and farmers markets. Small businesses and nonprofits in these industries can apply for a grant to cover COVID-related expenses such as workplace safety measures (e.g., personal protective equipment (PPE), retrofitting facilities for worker and consumer safety, shifting to online sales platforms, transportation, worker housing, and medical costs. The minimum funding request is \$1,500 and the maximum funding request is \$20,000.

The RFA and the PRS Grant Portal provide more details about eligibility for the grant. Eligible entities are required to obtain a free DUNS Number from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) before applying for this program. USDA has created a custom PRS DUNS number portal at <https://support.dnb.com/?CUST=PandemicResponse>.

Application resources, including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), tip sheets in English and Spanish on applying for a DUNS Number, videos on "How to Apply" and more, are available on the PRS Grant Portal.

Vilsack Sees 2022 For Meatpacking Funding

(From AgriPulse)

USDA expects to start taking applications early next year for its \$500 million program to expand meat processing capacity, says Vilsack. The department is currently in the process of reviewing 500 comments it received on the program. A framework for the program should be ready by the end of this year, Vilsack told reporters.

On Monday, he announced a separate, \$100 million plan to provide loan guarantees for supply chain improvements, including mobile processing facilities or cold storage capacity. Ethan Lane, vice president of government affairs for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, says USDA's offer of loan guarantees is "another step toward returning stability to the markets."

Rod Snyder named ag adviser at EPA

(From AgriPulse)

Rod Snyder, president of Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, is the Environmental Protection Agency's new agriculture adviser, pleasing ag groups that had backed him for the position.

"Snyder will lead outreach and engagement efforts with the agricultural community for EPA, working to advance the Biden-Harris environmental agenda for farmers and rural communities," the agency said.

"I am honored to serve as EPA's Agriculture Adviser as we forge practical, science-based solutions that protect the environment and ensure a vibrant and productive agricultural system," Snyder said in a statement. "America's farmers and ranchers are vital partners in achieving clean air and clear water, all while playing the critical role of delivering a healthy and secure food supply."

EPA Administrator Michael Regan has said frequently he wants to make sure he gets sufficient input from the farming community as EPA crafts regulations such as a new "waters of the U.S." definition.

The agency said Snyder is "nationally recognized for his leadership at the intersection of agricultural and environmental policy," calling Field to Market (FTM) "the largest multi-stakeholder initiative working to advance the sustainability of commodity crop farming in the United States."

The description comes straight from the ag groups' letter supporting Snyder for the adviser position. The agency also relied on the groups' letter in saying Snyder has "forged science-based consensus among stakeholders across the food and agriculture value chain on issues such as climate change, water quality, biodiversity, and pest management."

USDA Introduces Insurance Policy for Farmers Who Sell Locally

(From USDA)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is rolling out a new insurance option specifically for agricultural producers with small farms who sell locally. The new Micro Farm policy simplifies record keeping and covers post-production costs like washing and value-added products.

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) created this new policy based on research directed by the 2018 Farm Bill, and it includes feedback from producers who grow for their local communities. The policy will be available beginning with the 2022 crop year.

"We are excited to offer this new coverage for producers who work to provide their communities with fresh and healthy food," said RMA Acting Administrator Richard Flournoy. "USDA is focused on supporting local and regional food systems, and this new crop insurance policy is designed with this important sector of agriculture in mind."

The new policy is offered through Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) and it has distinct provisions that can provide more access to the program, including:

- No expense or individual commodity reporting needed, simplifying the recordkeeping requirements for producers
- Revenue from post-production costs, such as washing and packaging commodities and value-added products, are considered allowable revenue

The Micro Farm policy is available to producers who have a farm operation that earns an average allowable revenue of \$100,000 or less, or for carryover insureds, an average allowable revenue of \$125,000 or less. RMA's research showed that 85% of producers who sell locally reported they made less than \$75,000 in gross sales. [See the full report.](#)

The Micro Farm policy builds on other RMA efforts to better serve specialty and organic crop growers. This includes WFRP, which provides coverage for producers with larger operations that may not be eligible for Micro Farm. RMA recently made [improvements to](#)

WFRP as part of a broader set of new policies and expanded policies to assist specialty crop and organic producers.

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation approved the Micro Farm policy in late September, and additional details will be provided later this fall.



Quality
AUCTION SERVICES, INC.

With more than 30 years of experience, Jud has the knowledge and resources to effectively and professionally market your animals at auction.

Call today to discuss your options!

Jud Seaman, Auctioneer
605-390-1419
qasbuy.com



Save the Date!

- 10/13/2021 - ITBC Bison Worker Safety/Herd Health Roundtable - SD/online
- 10/13/2021 - Jack Auction Group October Bison Simulcast Auction - Sask.
- 10/15/2021 - Wisconsin Bison Producers Association Fall Meeting - WI
- 10/18/2021 - Middle Creek Ranch Annual Production Webcast Auction - CO
- 10/30/2021 - Texas Bison Association Fall Ranch Tour - TX
- 11/03/2021 - Maxwell Wildlife Refuge Annual Bison Auction - KS
- 11/6/2021 - Custer State Park Annual Bison Auction - SD
- 11/8/2021 - Antelope Island State Park Production Auction - UT
- 11/13/2021 - Oklahoma Bison Association Fall Auction - OK
- 11/15/2021 - TNC Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Fall Bison Auction - OK
- 11/20/2021 - Coyote Trail Buffalo Ranch Production Simulcast Auction - SD
- 11/21/2021 - Canadian Bison Association Convention, Show and Sale - SK
- 11/26/2021 - Minn. Bison Association's Bison Fundamentals Workshop - MN
- 11/27/2021 - Minn. Bison Association's Legends of the Fall Bison Auction - MN
- 11/28/2021 - Rocking P Ranch Annual Production Simulcast Auction - SD
- 12/4/2021 – Kansas Bison Association Sale - KS
- 12/4/2021 - Western Bison Association Wild West Buffalo Stampede Auction - UT
- 12/7/2021 - Northern Range Buffalo Simulcast Auction - SD
- 1/1/2022 - Prairie Legends Bison Webcast Auction - Online
- 1/8/2022 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Simulcast Auction - SD
- 1/19/2022 – 1/22/2022 – National Bison Association Winter Conference - CO
- 1/22/2022 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - National Western Stock Show - CO
- 2/12/2022 - Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Simulcast Sale - SD
- 2/19/2022 – Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Simulcast Auction - SD
- 2/26/2022 - Beltway Bison Consignment Live Bison Auction - PA
- 3/04/2022 - Rocky Mountain Bison Association's Spring Conference - Location TBD
- 7/12/2022 - International Bison Conference - Saskatoon, SK

Please visit <https://bisoncentral.com/calendar/> for details and more up-to-date events. If you have a bison event coming up that's not listed, please send the details to jim@bisoncentral.com and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

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

National Bison Association | info@bisoncentral.com | 303-292-2833 | bisoncentral.com
[@nationalbison](https://www.instagram.com/nationalbison)

