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Monday, October 12, 2020

10:00 a.m. MDT

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(20) OCV 2017 Virgin Heifers

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Weekly Update



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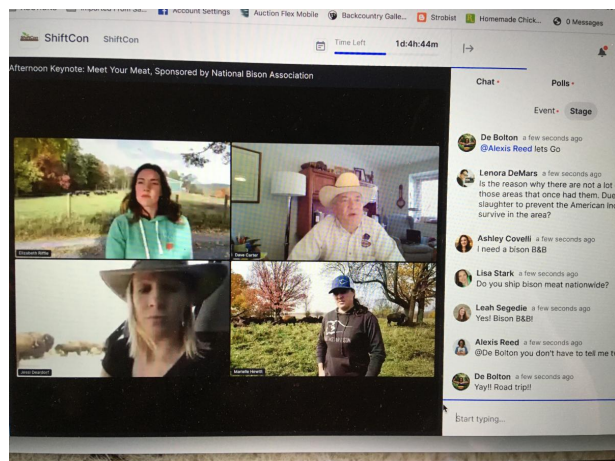
NBA Weekly Update for October 9, 2020

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.

NBA Participates in 2020 Virtual ShiftCon Conference

Three women bison producers, along with NBA executive director Dave Carter, connected with an audience of more than 400 social media influencers today in a keynote presentation at Shiftcon Media's 2020 virtual national conference.

Shiftcon is the largest annual gathering of social media influencers who focus on food, family, health and the environment. The conference attendees are largely young women, who often refer to themselves as mommy bloggers.



Marielle Hewitt of Northstar Bison in Wisconsin, Jessie Deardorf of Benjamin Lee Bison in Oklahoma, and Elizabeth Riffle of Riffle Farms in West Virginia provided the attendees with a glimpse into life on a bison ranch, and the role that bison are playing in ecosystem

restoration.

Hewitt provided a pasture walk during her presentation, focusing on the positive impact her family's animals have on the land. Deardorf shared with the attendees her family's transition back to their ranching roots, and how they are focusing on a field to fork operation that emphasizes regenerative practices. The presentation then shifted to Riffle, who broadcast from her farm, which she and her husband have transformed into an agritourism and educational outreach facility.

NBA Communications Director Karen Conley assisted with the "behind the scenes" coordination of NBA's participation in Shiftcon.

Carter said afterward, "The Shiftcon attendees are helping to shape the perceptions of an entire generation of consumers toward food and the environment. It is valuable for us not only to make a one-time presentation, but also to build long term relationships with these bloggers."

A big thank you to our 2020 ShiftCon Swag Bag sponsors, who provided bison snack sticks, information and promotional discounts to ShiftCon attendees. Kristopher and Roxy Brown, ICON Meats in Cadott, WI and Lee and Mary Graese and family, Northstar Bison, Rice Lake, WI, stepped up and made sure that even though the conference was virtual, attendees will still be receiving product in their swag bags. We thank them for their support!

Please Participate in USDA NAHMS Survey

The National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), a nonregulatory unit of USDA-APHIS-VS, is developing its second national study of the U.S. bison industry, which will be conducted in 2022. In its studies, NAHMS strives to obtain information that will be most beneficial to stakeholders. Your input is essential if we are to identify key issues and try to fill information gaps facing the U.S. bison industry.

To help develop the information objectives for the study, NAHMS is now conducting a brief online survey to accomplish the following goals:

- Find out what you consider to be the most important health issues facing the bison industry.
- Help identify the critical information needs regarding health management practices used in the U.S. bison industry.
- Ask your opinion on how we can encourage bison producers to participate in the Bison 2022 study.

NAHMS will use these survey results to develop the objectives that will shape the NAHMS Bison 2022 study.

How You Can Help

Please help us by completing a brief (10 to 15 minutes) needs assessment survey to identify the critical information gaps regarding health issues and health-management practices used in the Bison industry. We welcome input from people involved in or interested in the bison industry.

You can access the survey directly at the following link or through the QR code.

Survey URL:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/maps/animal-health/bison-needsassessment>

A direct link to the survey, as well as information on the previous NAHMS bison study, is available at the [NAHMS Bison Studies webpage](#).

The survey will be available through October 23, 2020. Thank you in advance for your response. If you have any questions about the survey or the Bison 2022 study, please contact NAHMS@usda.gov.

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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Arizona Game And Fish, NPS Agree To Reduce Grand Canyon Bison Population

(From Fronteras)

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission and the National Park Service has entered into an agreement to reduce the number of bison on the Grand Canyon National Park's North Rim.

With concerns that the bison population is growing unsustainably, the commission and the National Park Service have agreed to use several methods such as relocation and lethal removal.

The bison herd was initially about 100 strong when they were first brought to the area in the early 1900s. Biologists predict it will grow to nearly 800 in the next three years and up to 1,500 by 2030.

The groups began a pilot program of live captures and relocation in 2019. Relocation will continue, and lethal removal is likely to be used in the fall of 2021. The number of bison to be removed will be determined annually in the National Park Service's operating plan.

Learn more about Grand Canyon bison management [here](#).

Senators Urge USDA to Approve Bison Meat Purchase

(From AgInfo.net)

Twelve U.S. Senators, led by John Hoeven (R-ND) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) have sent a letter to USDA Under Secretary Greg Ibach urging approval of the National Bison Association's request for a \$17 million purchase of bison meat under the Section 32 surplus removal program.

"More than ever, the bison industry needs support. An unanticipated over-supply of harvest-ready animals, drought across the heart of bison production territory, and the COVID-19 public health emergency have created an uncertain economic outlook," the Senators wrote. "As you know, existing authority under Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1935 (Public Law 74-320) allows the U.S. Department of Agriculture to make purchases of farm products to be used for distribution through the federal food and nutrition programs."

Granting the National Bison Association's \$17 million purchase request would provide much needed stability and market relief for bison producers struggling in the current

environment.” The Senators added.

As Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulation, Ibach oversees the Agricultural Marketing Service, which is considering the Section 32 request.

In addition to Hoeven and Bennet, Senators signing the letter were John Boozman (R-AR), John Barraso (R-WY), Mike Enzi (R-WY), Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Pat Roberts (R-KS), Michael Rounds (R-SD), Tina Smith (D-MN), John Thune (R-SD), Cory Gardner (R-CO), John Tester (D-MT).

Dave Carter, executive director of the National Bison Association, said today, “We deeply appreciate the support from these 12 Senators, and particularly the leadership from Senators Hoeven and Bennet, to support the bison producers across the United States. Their input to USDA is a very positive development for our request.”

[Source.](#)

Photos, video show bison roaming Spokane's South Hill for second time this year

(From KREM2 tv)

SPOKANE, Wash. — Two bison were spotted roaming the South Hill on Thursday. It's the second time these large critters have escaped from their home this year.

Laura Cabe, who lives on the South Hill, [shared a photo and video](#) of the bison wandering past her home on 22nd Avenue and Freya Street.

Spokane police received a call about the bison around 8:45 a.m. on Thursday and officers called the owners to pick them up, Sgt. Terry Preuninger said.

Heather Stokes, a local photographer who [snapped photos of the bison](#), said their owners brought them back home. Spokane police have yet to confirm this information with the owner.

Hazel, weighing in at 1,300 pounds, and 1,700-pound Baxter crossed Freya and Thor Streets in their odyssey to Underhill Park. Police attempted to steer them to the park in order to corral them.

The owner of the bison and a local wrangler responded to the location and set up a trailer to corral the bison, Preuninger said. The low-speed chase lasted for about two hours.

No bison or people were injured, and no damages were reported.

This isn't the first time a strange animal has gotten loose in the Inland Northwest.

In September 2007, a zebra named 'Zeek' got loose from a ranch on the South Hill and drew a crowd at a park on South Regal Street.

A wallaroo named 'Hopkins' went missing in Deer Park in August 2013. His owner said a loud noise scared him away. He was missing for nearly a month. He was later captured in the owner's neighbor's garden.

Full story and video [here](#).

FACT's 2020 Fund-a-Farmer Grants

FACT awards competitive grants of up to \$2,500 to working, independent family farmers located in the U.S. who raise beef cattle, bison, broiler chickens, dairy cows, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep and/or turkeys. Before submitting your [online application](#), please read the complete set of eligibility guidelines below.

Applications must be submitted online by 11:59pm CT on December 1, 2020 to be

considered for this round of funding.

Grants will be awarded in February 2021.

Read [more](#).

State Board of Animal Health Offering Free RFID Cattle Tags [IN]

(From Indiana Environmental Reporter)

The Indiana State Board of Animal Health is offering a limited number of free radio frequency identification tags for cattle farmers.

The plastic RFID tags are used to track cattle movements and will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

"Electronic identification is a positive step to enhance our ability to trace animal diseases that could impact human or animal health or our state's economy," Indiana State Veterinarian Dr. Bret D. Marsh said in a press release. "In recent years, BOAH has seen a significant increase in the use of RFID tags in cattle, and we encourage producers to continue making the shift away from metal tags towards RFIDs."

Livestock owners can request the tags for their breeding cattle at the BOAH website. The tags are free, but cattle farmers will be required to maintain records of all cattle movements for five years, including official ID tag numbers.

Read [more](#).

Illinois Offers \$5M In Grants For Meat And Poultry Producers

(From Effingham Daily News)

The Illinois Department of Agriculture announced Thursday that \$5 million in business recovery grants is available for the state's livestock industry.

Livestock producers and small meat and poultry plants impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic are eligible to receive the grants, and the application period is open through Oct. 31.

The funding is a part of the state's coronavirus relief initiative, the Business Interruption Grants program, which uses federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES, Act money in targeted disbursements for Illinois industries.

Livestock-involved firms can access the funds through three IDOA programs.

Read [more](#).

NMPF Supports USDA Efforts to Modernize Animal ID and Disease Traceability Requirements

(From MarketScreener.com)

The National Milk Producers Federation submitted comments supporting the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) proposal on the Use of Radio Frequency Identification Tags as Official Identification in Cattle and Bison. APHIS has proposed to require the use of official 840-RFID tags for all dairy cattle involved in interstate commerce starting Jan. 1, 2023.

'We commend USDA-APHIS for taking this next step in moving animal identification forward, with the use of RFID tags for official animal identification for dairy cattle,' said Jim Mulhern, president and CEO of NMPF. 'A national animal identification system can provide

immediate access to relevant information in an animal disease or food safety crisis that could endanger the entire dairy chain, while protecting farmers' privacy.'

The U.S. dairy industry has long advocated modernizing animal ID and disease traceability systems. Farmer organizations including NMPF, the American Jersey Cattle Association, Holstein Association USA, Inc., National Association of Animal Breeders, National Dairy Herd Information Association and Dairy Calf and Heifer Association formed a group called IDairy to collectively advance official mandatory animal identification to aid disease traceability.

Full text:

NRCS Hiring On 'Positive Trajectory,' Acting Chief Says

(From Agri-Pulse)

The [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) is on its way to filling positions needed to deliver technical assistance and other services to farmers across the country, but still has a ways to go, NRCS Acting Chief Kevin Norton told a House Agriculture subcommittee Thursday.

"We are very close to 9,400 people, and that is at least 700 more than any number that we've had in the past two years, so we are on a positive trajectory, we are making inroads," Norton said at a hearing before the panel's subcommittee on conservation and forestry.

Specifically, he said despite some disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, NRCS was able to bring on board about 2,900 new employees in fiscal year 2020, about 1,300 more than joined the agency in fiscal 2019. In the fourth quarter of fiscal 2020 alone, NRCS was able to bring on 639 employees, he said.

But the total is still far short of NRCS' goal of 10,445 employees, Norton said.

"We are beginning to see the staffing improve," he said, adding that "the focus of all of these efforts are the field servicing points — those state offices down to the field office where we interact and connect with our customers"

Read [more](#).

Despite COVID, This USDA Agency Is Having A Near-Record Year Helping Rural Areas

(From Agri-Pulse)

For farmers and ranchers, Rural Development is one of the most little-known USDA agencies – even though its multibillion-dollar portfolio spans all states and territories, providing a broad range of crucial grant and loan programs to rural areas. These programs include grant funding and loan financing for water/wastewater infrastructure, community facilities, broadband, electric, telephone, housing, renewable energy and business development.

But the agency has not been without controversy, including when Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue decided not to give what had traditionally been the top rank and title of undersecretary to the person leading the mission area. In 2017, Perdue named Anne Hazlett to lead rural development with the title of Assistant to the Secretary and explained that he was limited by law on the number of undersecretaries that he could name.

Congress disagreed and recreated the position of undersecretary for rural development in the 2018 farm bill.

here's still no undersecretary at the agency, but since February of this year, it's been led by Deputy Undersecretary Bette Brand. Prior to her appointment, Brand served as the

Administrator of Rural Development's Rural Business Service agency. She came to USDA after 35 years with Farm Credit of the Virginias, where she served as chief advocate for the agriculture industry and rural businesses. Prior to this, Brand served as chief sales officer, overseeing the business development of a \$1.6 billion credit portfolio, managing a team of commercial agriculture and agribusiness lenders, and supervising the association's marketing and branding. She's now managing an even larger portfolio.

In an interview with *Agri-Pulse*, Brand says despite most employees working remotely, her mission area is experiencing a "paramount year," with the highest number of loan and grant obligations since 2010. USDA estimates Rural Development obligated a total of \$39.7 billion in loans and grants this year.

Read [more](#).

Farmer Sentiment Rises On Prices, CFAP-2

(From Agri-Pulse)

This month's survey also included several questions on cover crops. According to Purdue and CME, nearly 4 in 10 producers said they intended to plant some kind of cover crop in 2020.

Two thirds of farmers who intend to plant a cover crop yet this fall have been planting them for more than four years; just 7% of respondents said this would be their first time planting cover crops.

However, most producers who plan to utilize cover crops will only do so on a portion of their acres; just over half of respondents said they plan to plant cover crops on less than one-third of their acreage.

The survey was based on telephone conversations with 400 producers from Sept. 21-25.

[Source](#).

CSU Names Director Of Sustainable Livestock Collaborative

(From Meatingplace.com)

Colorado State University's Sustainable Livestock Systems Collaborative has hired its first director. Kim Stackhouse-Lawson, who has been the director of sustainability for JBS USA, will take the helm of the new collaborative starting Monday.

The center, which was announced in December 2019, is an effort to support profitable, sustainable and healthy livestock production led by the university's College of Agricultural Sciences and College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

Stackhouse-Lawson and the team she will be building will collaborate with industry, government and others, while also providing hands-on experiences for students and other training for future leaders in livestock.

"I am excited to build a world-renowned program that drives scientific progress, empowers students, and provides worthwhile guidance to the industry to enable us to continue to feed the world sustainably," Stackhouse-Lawson said.

Stackhouse-Lawson grew up on a small ranch in rural California and was involved in 4-H as well as Future Farmers of America. She received her undergraduate degree in animal science and management, her master's in animal science, and her doctorate in animal biology, all from the University of California, Davis.

After working as a postdoctoral fellow at the Beef Cattle Institute at Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, she served as the executive director of global sustainability for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, where she led the

development of the largest beef sustainability research program.

In 2016, Stackhouse-Lawson took her most recent position, director of sustainability for JBS USA. In that role, she has led the development and implementation of its sustainability program and served as the chair of U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef.



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Save the Date!

- 10/12/2020 - Bridger Valley Buffalo Online Only Auction - WY
- 10/17/2020 - Texas Bison Association Virtual Fall Meeting - Online
- 11/07/2020 - 55th Annual Custer State Park Fall Classic Bison Auction - SD
- 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
- 11/21/2020 - 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
- 12/05/2020 - Kansas Buffalo Association Annual Production Sale - KS
- 12/05/2020 - Western Bison Association Meeting and Show/Sale - UT
- 12/8/2020 - Northern Range Buffalo Simulcast Consignment Auction - SD
- 12/19/2020 - North Dakota Buffalo Assn. Meeting/Simulcast Auction - ND
- 1/02/2020 - Prairie Legends Bison Auction - NE
- 1/08/2021 - Montana Bison Assn. Winter Conference - MT
- 1/9/2021 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Auction - SD
- 1/20/2021 - National Bison Association Winter Conference - Postponed
- 1/23/2021 - National Bison Association Gold Trophy Show/Sale - Postponed
- 2/6/2021 - DTBA Black Hills Buffalo Classic Simulcast Auction - SD
- 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

