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NBA Weekly Update for September 17, 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.

Ballots Out for Regional Directors

National Bison Association members in Regions II, IV, VI and VII will be receiving ballots next week to elect the directors to represent them on the NBA board of directors for the next two years.

The regions up for election for, and the states included are:

- Region II, representing CO, WY. Boyd Meyer of Wyoming is the current director and is a candidate for re-election.
- Region IV, representing KS, IA, MO and NE. Ken Klemm of Kansas is the current director and is a candidate for re-election.
- Region VI, representing AR, LA, NM, OK, TX. Campbell Burgess of Texas is the current director and is a candidate for re-election.
- Region VIII, AL, DC, FL, GA, KY, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV. Liz Riffle of West Virginia has filed as a candidate to replace Kristopher Kelley of Kentucky, the current director, who is prohibited from seeking re-election because of term limits.

Voting will be conducted from September 17 – 30 with the two-year terms starting in January 2022. Ballots are being emailed to members in each of the respective regions,

with mail ballots sent to those members without an email address.

According to the NBA bylaws, regional directors "shall be elected by a mail-in, or electronic ballot during September of each year prior to the expiration of the regions' directors' terms. If after the initial ballot, no one person in any region has more than 50% of the ballots cast, then a run-off election will occur during November, involving the two persons having the most votes cast in the September balloting. In case of a tie, a coin will be tossed to determine the winner. Only active and lifetime members residing within a region may vote in each region's election." Regional directors are eligible to serve two two-year terms.

NBA Files Comments Objecting to Holiday and Overtime Relief Exclusion

The National Bison Association filed formal comments with USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service on September 8 requesting that the agency remove language from a recent notice that excludes voluntary inspection from being eligible for relief from holiday and overtime inspection fees.

FSIS in August issued Notice 27-21, which provides relief from overtime and holiday inspection fees incurred because of disruption created by COVID-19. However, that notice specifically excludes voluntary holiday and overtime inspection fees.

"Because bison represent the largest meat sector processed under voluntary inspection, this exclusion exacerbates the competitive disadvantage that the bison sector faces in the retail and foodservice marketplace," NBA Executive Director Dave Carter wrote in the comments.

Carter noted that two bison processors alone have incurred more than \$100,000 in overtime and holiday inspection fees since March 2020.

"It is ironic that—at a time when USDA is dedicating \$500 million to strengthen and expand the meat and poultry processing infrastructure in the United States—FSIS would implement a new policy that will negatively impact every USDA facility that processes bison under voluntary inspection," he wrote.

The NBA will also address this issue with FSIS officials during a meeting scheduled in Washinton, D.C. on September 27.

We Are All Part of the Conservation Community

(Blog by Dave Carter)

Conservation.

Years ago, terms like "conservation groups" and "conservation community" seemed to describe only organizations and individuals committed to protecting wildlife, plants and other resources on our public lands. In fact, policy debates often brought the conservation community into direct conflict with commercial bison producers.

Some of those conflicts began to ease over the past two decades as the National Bison Association began to work with groups like the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and other organizations. Now, the National Bison Association is included when the American Bison Society meets every three years and is at the table at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) bison working group. We teamed with the WCS and the InterTribal Buffalo Council to get bison designated as our National Mammal. And, TNC has regularly scheduled recent gatherings to coincide with the NBA Winter Conference.

These relationships have developed because leaders within all of these organizations recognize that—even though we may have different approaches to bison management—

we are all committed to being responsible stewards of the animals and the ecosystems they inhabit.

Yet, much of the public remains oblivious to those shared values. Too often, news coverage and consumer conversations exclude private ranchers from any conservation discussions. Some of the more strident voices still paint private bison producers as a group committed to domesticating our herds and transforming our animals into a commodity.

That's not only unfortunate, it also misdirects rational discussion regarding conservation at a time when our ecosystems are under threat from climate change. With two-thirds of America's rangeland under the stewardship of private landowners, it's vital that ranchers' role in conservation be recognized and elevated.

And that's where the NBA's Conservation Management Plan (CMP) offers a strong tool for us to redirect that conversation.

The CMP has been carefully and thoughtfully developed by the NBA's Conservation Committee over a five-year period. It isn't a typical certification program, with a checklist of boxes designed to determine who's in and who's out. Rather, it is a program that rewards producers for continuous improvement in the management of the land, animals and people in their operation.

Participation in the CMP begins with a self-assessment of current practices, and then allows participants to establish specific goals for improvement. Through regular monitoring, and periodic audits by the Conservation Committee, participants can transition toward the goal of becoming designated as a Master Steward.

For individual ranchers, the CMP provides a valuable tool for enhancing the health of their animals, land, water resources and families.

For the NBA, the CMP provides a strong message that private bison ranchers are at the forefront of the conservation movement. This message is growing more important as consumers' attitudes toward meat continue to evolve. The latest shopper survey conducted by the Food Marketing Institute (an association representing grocery retailers) found that 64% of millennial and Generation Z shoppers are actively seeking products produced in an environmental and ethical manner.

The bogus meat manufacturers have pounced on that trend and are attempting to convince shoppers that eating a laboratory concocted product meets those standards. We know otherwise and need to communicate our message beyond our own community.

Participation in NBA's CMP will arm our association with a dynamic voice to demonstrate that buying bison meat is the best way to make sure that the rangelands across our country are conserved, improved, and equipped to play a vital role in carbon sequestration.

Longtime Ohio Bison Producer Bev Sexten Passes at Age 78

Beverly A. Sexten, age 78 of Grove City, passed away Friday, September 10, 2021.

Born July 20, 1943, to the late John and Lucille McDonald. Beverly was a member of the Grove City Church of the Nazarene. Survivors include her husband of 59 years Robert "Bob" Sexten; sons Greg (Robin), John (Lisa) and Mark (Heidi) Sexten; grandchildren Ryan Sexten, Alexandra (Jason) Hendry; Nathan (Madeline) Sexten, Alan Sexten, Jenna Sexten and Chloe Sexten; great-grandchildren Kayden and Easton.

Friends may visit on Tuesday from 5-8 PM at The Grove City Church of the Nazarene 4770 Hoover Road, Grove City, Ohio 43123, where a private family service will be held on Wednesday with a private interment to follow at Concord Cemetery, with Pastor Dale Benson officiating. Memorial donations may be made to The Grove City Christian School. Arrangements completed with THE SPENCE-MILLER FUNERAL HOME Grove City. Online guest book at www.spencemillerfuneralhome.com.

Hugh Forbes Dies at Age 88

Hugh Edgar Forbes of New Castle, Pennsylvania, passed away at his residence on Monday, Sept. 13, 2021, at the age of 88.

He was born in Scott Township, Lawrence County, on August 19, 1933, to Hugh Edwin Forbes and Charlotte Marie Cummings Forbes.

He graduated from Harlansburg High School in 1951 and married Joan Pherson on July 18, 1953.

Hugh was the founder and owner of Forbes Milk and Water Transport for 47 years. Hugh and Joan owned and operated Forbes Drive-In from 1970 to 1995, and started raising the familiar bison herd at Forbes Buffalo Acres in 1976.

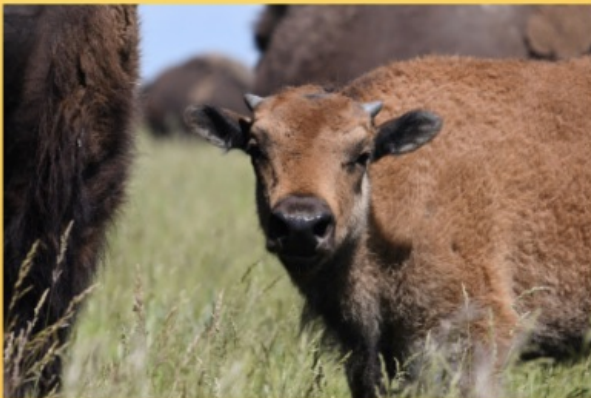
Hugh served for many years as a board member and president of the Lawrence County Fair and was a member of Neshannock Presbyterian Church.

Hugh and Joan enjoyed traveling, including RV trips across the United States and trips to Central and South America, Russia, the UK and many other European countries.

Survivors include his wife, Joan, at home; daughter, Brenda Marie (Jeffrey) McKissick; son, Blaine Edgar (Kimberly) Forbes; son, Gary Wayne (Carrie) Forbes, all of New Castle; daughter, Janet Lee (Gregory) Barnett of Milton, Georgia; sister, Doris Lorraine Pullium of New Castle; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Marylyn Ferguson.

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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Lapping The Pandemic, Retail Meat Sales Up Year Over Year

(From Meatingplace.com)

The multi-month normalization of grocery shopping patterns came to a halt in August. "Since January 2021, we had been seeing the share of meals prepared at home decrease a little each month," said Jonna Parker, Team Lead Fresh with IRI. "However, with the elevation of COVID-19 cases in the past month, IRI's latest survey wave among primary shoppers found that the share of meals prepared at home increased once more to nearly 80% from 76.6% in July."

At the same time, the survey found that people were a little less likely to eat on-premise at restaurants. After reaching a high of 50% of primary shoppers in July, the share dropped to 48% in August. Restaurant takeout remained at its high pandemic levels: 53% of consumers have gotten takeout and 20% had restaurant food delivered in the past few weeks.

“Additionally, August saw a bit of an uptick in e-commerce orders after several months of trips moving back to in-person visits,” Parker said. “While these are small shifts, online versus in-store trips can mean different items being purchased, with only ground beef and bacon penetrating the top 15 fresh items sold online.”

The survey also found that shoppers continued to spend less time in-store than they did pre-pandemic. IRI and 210 Analytics analyzed the retail meat department performance in the first seven months of the year along with an August performance deep dive. The report is made possible by [Marriner Marketing](#).

Meat prices, along with food inflation across the store, remained a big topic of discussion in August. The IRI-measured retail price paid by the shopper shows that prices continued to rise 4% to 6% over and above their elevated 2020 levels for total food and beverages in recent weeks. Meat prices (dollars divided by volume average at retail) had above-average gains in August amid widespread supply tightness. The most recent (July) numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) showed record increases for restaurant prices and very similar increases for food-at-home.

ND Capital Gallery Pays Homage to Bison with New Exhibit

(From KXNET.com)

One art gallery in downtown Bismarck is taking people straight to the Badlands with its new exhibit.

When people think about North Dakota, one of the first things to come to mind is bison — and it's that animal that's the inspiration for 20 artists who have worked on a display in the Bison Ballet.

“No subject matter has been more popular than bison. I mean, here we are on the Northern Plains. The monarch of the plains. But whether it's realistic, expressive or abstract people love Bison,” said David Borlaug, the Co-Director at the Capital Gallery.

It's the love for bison in the Peace Garden State that has artists like Linda Donlin wanting to take part in the show.

“We could go out to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park and see them and photograph them and appreciate the beauty and understand what they've meant to the people that came before us. And that for the people that will go ahead of us and still have them to appreciate,” explained Donlin.

Donlin's knife painting method is seen in both of the pieces of art she has on display in the Bison Ballet.

In *Spring Storm*, she has a mother and her calf grazing in the Badlands, and in *A Bison Rising*, she chose to focus on the beauty of the animal.

Full story and video [here](#).

Exploring Ohio: Bison in The City

(From Spectrum News 1)

COLUMBUS, Ohio — In the middle of Columbus, it's an unexpected sight. Bison roam the Darby plains much as they did 400 years ago.

This bison herd calls Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park home.

It's a "7,000-acre reserve right on the Big and Darby little creeks," said Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks Executive Director Tim Moloney.

Moloney said bison are the largest mammal in North America, and they're a big part of his passion for the outdoors.

"We've had our herd for well over 10 years now and a week doesn't go by where I don't talk to somebody and they say, 'You have bison?' It's still shocking to some people that there's native bison here in central Ohio," he said.

The free-grazing herd was reintroduced to the area thanks to a partnership with The Wilds in Zanesville. Moloney said they're working to restore the population, study the animals and really "put back in Ohio what was once here."

"This partnership not only is a great way to get people outside but to really introduce them to something they wouldn't expect normally in the state of Ohio," he said.

Visitors are welcome to visit Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park year-round to view the animals. For more information, you can visit metroparks.net.

Read more [here](#).

NASDA names McKinney as new CEO

(From AgriPulse)

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture is getting a well-known figure in the ag policy arena for its next CEO: Former U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Ted McKinney.

"I am honored to be chosen for this position, and I am delighted to continue serving our country through advocating for state departments of agriculture," said McKinney, who was the top trade official at USDA during the Trump administration. "Moving forward, I'm excited to set new horizons for NASDA and ensure agriculture thrives in our states and territories."

McKinney, an Indiana native and renowned for his intense global travel itinerary as he visited nation after nation on trade missions to promote U.S. ag exports as well as strengthen ties with foreign leaders, will start the new job on Sept. 27, replacing Barb Glenn, who has held the role since 2014. Glenn announced her intent to retire earlier this year.

McKinney played a role in negotiating the agricultural aspects of the Economic and Trade Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China, known commonly as the "phase one" agreement. He was also involved in the implementation as the two countries worked out issues, such as China's promise to consider lifting its zero-tolerance policy on ractopamine residues in pork and beef.

"Mr. McKinney's exceptional background reflects the spirit of NASDA's ambition to unite state, federal and industry leaders around the best solutions for farmers, ranchers and the communities they serve," said Ryan Quarles, the group's president and Kentucky's commissioner. "His highly distinguished experience advocating for U.S. agriculture will bring strength to NASDA's federal partnerships."

Prior to USDA, McKinney was director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture. He also spent 19 years at Dow AgroSciences and 14 years at Elanco.

2021 Texas Anthrax Situational Update

(From Texas Animal Health Commission News Release)

AUSTIN, TX - Since August 24, 2021, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) has received new confirmations of anthrax in a white-tailed deer on a Kinney County premise on August 30, a white-tailed deer on a Maverick County premise on September 2, and a kudu on a Real County premise on September 9. All premises have been placed under quarantine and will not be released until TAHC requirements are met.

The first anthrax case of the year was confirmed in a Val Verde County captive white-tailed deer on July 11, 2021. Since that time, anthrax was confirmed in a Hardeman County cow on August 6, two additional premises in Hardeman County on August 19, an Armstrong County horse on August 23, and an additional Armstrong County premise on August 25.

County Positive Premise(s) Confirmed

Armstrong 2
Hardeman 3
Kinney 1
Maverick 1
Real 1
Val Verde 1
9 total

All of these premises were placed under quarantine and producers were advised on vaccinating exposed animals and the proper disposal of affected carcasses. These premises were not released until TAHC requirements were met.

Read more [here](#).

Second Case of Cattle Anthrax Reported in Kidder County, ND

(From Associated Press)

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) - North Dakota agriculture officials have confirmed the second case of cattle anthrax in Kidder County.

The case was confirmed by the North Dakota State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory on Friday, according to the state Agriculture Department. The first case was reported in August.

Officials say producers in the county and surrounding areas should check with their veterinarians to see if they should start vaccinating their cattle for anthrax.

Read more [here](#).

Antitrust Suit Against Largest Beef Processors Can Proceed

(From Meatingplace)

Litigation accusing JBS, Tyson Foods, Cargill, and National Beef Packing of price-fixing can proceed to the discovery phase, a federal court in Minnesota ruled Tuesday.

Judge John R. Tunheim of the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota found that plaintiffs including R-CALF USA (Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund United Stockgrowers of America) plausibly plead that the defendants conspired to suppress the price of fed cattle and increase the price of beef, R-CALF said in a news release.

Public access to the court documents was restricted.

The antitrust lawsuit, originally filed in April 2019, alleges the four beef processors violated the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 by engaging in a price-fixing conspiracy. It also alleges the processors violated the Packers and Stockyards Act as well as the Commodity Exchange Act.

Read more [here](#).

APHIS to Transition from ePermits to eFile for Live Animal Permit Applications

(From USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Bulletin)

APHIS' Veterinary Services (VS) is excited to announce that the 17-129 Live Animals permit application will be available within APHIS eFile on Sept. 17, 2021. Users need to create an APHIS eFile account to submit 17-129 live animal permit applications.

Please click [here](#) to create an APHIS eFile account. For help creating an account, please refer to our user guides.

APHIS eFile supports regulatory activities for the Agency, such as permitting, registrations and licenses.

Starting Sept. 17, 2021, stakeholders will use the VS Permitting Assistant (VSPA) in APHIS eFile to determine live animal import and transit movement requirements. Additionally, users can access a summary of all required documentation in APHIS eFile, including permit applications, certificates, and information letters.

APHIS eFile will replace APHIS ePermits and in the near future, all permits will be processed only through APHIS eFile.

For questions, please contact 301-851-3300 or VS.Live.Animals.Import.Permits@usda.gov. For more information on APHIS eFile, please visit efile.aphis.usda.gov.

[Source](#)

Tips for Keeping Vaccines Viable on Farm

(From Drovers)

Vaccines are crucial to keeping livestock healthy and productive. While vaccines do not provide absolute protection, the "added insurance" helps stimulate the animal's immune system and increases its ability to fight off an infection or lessen the impact of disease if it should occur.

However, with timing, labor constraints and the necessity for boosters, South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension Veterinarian and State Public Health Veterinarian Russ Daly says there are several factors to consider before implementing a vaccination program.

"Herd history, vaccine type, method of administration and age of animal all come into play, so it is critical for producers to work with their local veterinarian in developing a vaccination program," Daly says. "They have experience with and knowledge of the many different vaccines, as well as the disease issues in area herds."

Most vaccines are either modified-live virus (MLV) or inactivated "killed." MLV vaccines contain whole germs that have been altered such that, while they are able to multiply within the body, their ability to cause disease has been taken away. Inactivated vaccines contain bacteria or viruses that have been inactivated by heat or chemicals.

Whether the producer/veterinarian team chooses an inactivated or MLV vaccination program, Daly says it's important that the vaccines don't go past their prime.

Read more [here](#).



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- 9/23/2021 – Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival - SD
- 9/25/2021 – BisonFest Music Festival - TX
- 10/13/2021 - ITBC Bison Worker Safety/Herd Health Roundtable - SD/online
- 10/15/2021 - Wisconsin Bison Producers Association Fall Meeting - WI
- 10/30/2021 - Texas Bison Association Fall Ranch Tour - TX
- 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
- 11/21/2021 - 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
- 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 Auction - Online
- 1/8/2022 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Bison 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 Sale - SD
- 2/19/2022 – Dakota Territory Buffalo Association Sale - SD
- 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

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