



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; Westminister, CO

NBA Weekly Update for September 3, 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.

Happy Labor Day from the NBA

We wish our hardworking U.S. members a safe and enjoyable Labor Day holiday this Monday and hope you'll join us in honoring our American workers. As such, the NBA office will be closed on Monday in observance of the holiday.

Have a great weekend!



Wyoming State Vet Lab Seeks Mycoplasma Research Participants

As *Mycoplasma bovis* continues to flare up in bison herds across the country, the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory is reaching out to producers to assist in determining the best methods for early detection of the disease in bison herds.

According to Dr. Jennifer Malmberg, DVM, of the State Veterinarian's office, the project is seeking to determine whether deep nasal swabs or superficial nasal swabs will provide the best method for early detection.

"We are seeking samples from bison that are symptomatic for *Mycoplasma bovis*, as well as bison that are apparently healthy.

"From each animal that is live sampled, we would like one superficial nasal swab and one deep nasal swab (aka nasopharyngeal). Both swabs will be analyzed for *Mycoplasma bovis* using PCR. If PCR positive, the samples will be grown in culture to obtain an isolate for mass spectrometry (fingerprint) and whole genome sequencing to be incorporated into a larger bison study we are proposing. In cases of lethal removal, lung samples would be highly useful to pair with the 2 nasal swabs. This will help confirm that the nasal swabs are an accurate representative of the lower respiratory tract.," she wrote.

Producers interested in participating in this project may contact Dr. Malmberg at jennifer.malmberg@uwyo.edu, or may call the State Veterinary laboratory at 307 766-9925.

Board Nominations Due Next Friday

September 7th is the deadline for NBA members interested in running for election in Regions II, IV, VI and VIII to submit nominations to the NBA office. The elections will be conducted from September 17 – 30 with the 2-year terms starting in January 2022.

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.

The directors elected in September will begin serving in January 2022.

In this election cycle, directors will be elected for two-year terms from Regions II, IV, VI and VIII.

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

Nominations for candidates to serve as regional director can be submitted to the NBA at david@bisoncentral.com.

National Western Provides Tour of New Bison Facilities

Representatives of the National Bison Association's Gold Trophy Show and Sale got an insiders' peek into the new bison facilities under construction at the National Western Stock Show complex in Denver earlier this week.

Leon Vick, NWSS Vice President for Rodeo, Horse and Livestock operations, conducted the tour for NBA Executive Director Dave Carter, Assistant Director Jim Matheson, NWSS Bison Superintendent Bob Dineen, GTSS Committee Chair Boyd Meyer, and Laurie Dineen.

The tour included the news stockyards sale arena, events center, and the grounds where the permanent bison pens are being installed. The sale arena and pens are scheduled to be completed in time for the 2022 GTSS, January 18th - 22nd.

"These facilities will provide us with a great opportunity to showcase bison for visitors to the National Western Stock Show and will improve the experience for buyers and consignors alike." Matheson said after the tour.

The upgraded complex will be accessible by Denver's light rail system, and the NWSS station will be located adjacent to the bison facilities offering great visibility to the public.

Stay tuned to <https://bisoncentral.com/gold-trophy-show-and-sale/> to learn about the 2022 Gold Trophy Show and Sale classes, rules, deadlines and more soon.

NBA Files Comments on EPA's Request for WOTUS Input

The National Bison Association today filed formal comments stressing that any new initiative to amend the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) regulations must not infringe on the property rights of agricultural landowners.

EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers issued a notice in August announcing that the agencies would initiate two new rule-making procedures:

1. The agencies intend to propose restoring the longstanding Clean Water Act regulations that were in place for decades prior to 2015, as amended to be consistent with relevant Supreme Court decisions.
2. The agencies then intend to propose a second rule that builds on that regulatory foundation. During the development of both rules, the agencies will listen to and engage with states, tribes, and interested stakeholders about their experiences implementing the NWPR, the 2015 Clean Water Rule, and the pre-2015 regulatory regime.

The NBA today submitted a resolution that was unanimously adopted by its board of directors in 2015, which firmly opposes any regulatory action “that would expand control over private property and property owners who invest their money, their labor and their lives into protecting the lands and waters under their stewardship.”

In the comments filed today, NBA noted, “We welcome the commitments made by Administrator Regan and other EPA and Army leadership to ensure that this new regulatory effort will be guided by, among other things, a consideration of the experience and input the agencies receive from landowners, the agricultural community, governmental entities, community organizations, environmental groups, and disadvantage communities. “While we stand committed to the protection of clean water in streams, rivers and lakes throughout the United States, we also stress that any new initiatives must not infringe upon the private property rights of the ranchers and farmers who are stewards of those waterways on private land.”

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.



REACH THE WHOLE HERD!

WITH A WEEKLY UPDATE BANNER AD
JUST \$65/WEEK FOR THIS SPOT
CONTACT [KAREN@BISONCENTRAL.COM](mailto:karen@bisoncentral.com) TO RESERVE



Bison Tosses Woman Who Got Too Close At South Dakota State Park, Officials Say

(From the Durham Herald Sun)

A woman at a South Dakota state park got too close to a bison.

An aggravated bison tossed the woman at Custer State Park on Saturday, park officials said. A couple had been walking back from a wedding reception at a pavilion in the state park when they encountered a small herd of bison near the trail, Kobee Stalder, the visitor services program manager, told McClatchy News.

When the woman got too close to a bison, she was knocked to the ground, Stalder said. "Other than some bumps and bruises she was OK," Stalder said in an email. "We're very fortunate in that aspect that no more severe injuries were sustained during that incident." Last year, a [bison charged a woman](#) and flung her out of her pants at the same state park. Her jeans got caught on the bison's horn, McClatchy News reported. "The bison were everywhere we went, herds and herds of them," Jo Reed, who filmed the incident, wrote at the time. "We came around a curve just behind a group of motorcyclists and there was a herd standing in the middle of the road, most noticeably a cow (female) and her calf which was nursing."

The state park features one of the world's [largest bison herds](#), according to the South Dakota Department of Tourism. More than 1,400 bison roam the park. Custer State Park encompasses 71,000 acres in the state's Black Hills. It's home to an abundance of wildlife. Read more [here](#).

Bison Roam at Riffle Farms in West Virginia

(From Lancaster Farming)

In a picturesque scene that features [bison grazing](#) on grassy pastures with low-slung mountains in the distance, it would be easy to assume that you are looking at a tableau from out West. Instead, it's happening in West Virginia.

Riffle Farms is a [small bison farm](#) tucked away in the hills of Preston County, West Virginia, where the summer grasses are cool and the winter snow is heavy, just like the bison prefer it.

The farm has the distinction of being the first commercial bison operation in the state. It is also the first farm to field-harvest its livestock through state inspection for commercial sale.

Additionally, farm owner and operator Liz Riffle is a veteran of the U.S Navy Nurse Corps. Her husband, Jimmie Riffle, is also working as a U.S. Navy Nurse Corps nurse practitioner. They are both active in Homegrown By Heroes, a farmer veteran branding program administered by the Farmer Veteran Coalition.

"My husband Jimmie and I are both U.S. Navy Nurse Corps veterans, and he is still on active duty. We met while working with Wounded Warriors at the National Naval Medical Center, and never looked back," said Liz. "Jimmie has two more years until he retires, and then we will all be living and working at the farm full-time."

The farm is a family venture for the Riffles, and other family members help out.

"Jimmie's roots are here, and the Riffles want generations of Riffle boots to walk and work this ground, right alongside generations of thundering hooves," Liz said. "Jimmie's brother is our 24/7 'buffalero,' as they say in the business. And my mother helps me out with special events."

Liz said her mother also helps out with her 18-month-old baby boy, who "loves to run around at the farm with all the dogs and ride tractors. It's pretty wild," she said.

When asked how and why they decided that going into the bison business was the right fit for their farm, Liz said that with their background being in health care, bison meat "fit the healthy profile." According to Liz, bison has less fat than chicken, more protein than salmon, and more omega-3 fatty acids than grassfed beef.

"And everyone else does beef," she said. "We knew we had the market cornered from the get-go, but that was a good and a bad thing (we came) to find out. The good thing is that

there is very little competition. The bad thing is that most people have never tasted bison and are concerned about paying a premium price for something they are not familiar with.”

Read more [here](#).

Ralphie VI Set to Make Debut Tonight

(From the Denver Post)

The University of Colorado’s newest live buffalo mascot was unveiled Wednesday, and she will be making her long-awaited debut Friday when CU football opens its season again Ed McCaffrey and the Northern Colorado Bears at Folsom Field.

The school presented the reveal in [a video on Twitter](#) narrated by CU alumnus and ESPN broadcaster Chris Fowler.

“She’s the magic that stirs our soul to greatness, our pride and tradition, connected through one running spirit,” Fowler says in the video. “So run, Ralphie, run.”

Read more and watch debut video [here](#).

USDA Seeks Comments On Cell-Cultured Meat Labeling

(From AgriPulse and NBA)

Can meat made with cultured animal cells be called a steak? The Food Safety and Inspection Service wants answers to that question and more than a dozen others as it tries to determine how to label cell-cultured meat and poultry products now being developed for commercialization in the U.S.

In an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking published in today’s Federal Register, FSIS said it’s seeking comments on a broad range of questions, including whether consumers should be informed that the product was made using “animal cell culture technology” and whether terms such as “fillet,” “patty,” or “steak” can be used to identify the products.

“This ANPR is an important step forward in ensuring the appropriate labeling of meat and poultry products made using animal cell culture technology,” USDA Deputy Undersecretary for Food Safety Sandra Eskin said in a news release. “We want to hear from stakeholders and will consider their comments as we work on a proposed regulation for labeling these products.” The comment period is 60 days.

In the release, FSIS said it wants to hear about “consumer expectations about the labeling of these products, especially in light of [their] nutritional composition and organoleptic qualities (taste, color, odor, or texture); names for these products that would be neither false nor misleading; economic data; and any consumer research related to labeling nomenclature for products made using animal cell culture technology.”

FSIS and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) signed an agreement in March 2019 to jointly oversee the production of human food products composed of or containing cultured cells derived from cell lines.

Comments must be submitted by November 2, 2021.

Comments may be filed electronically at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions at that site for submitting comments.

Alternatively, comments may be submitted by mail to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3758, Washington, DC 20250–3700.

All comments must reference Docket Number FSIS– 2020–0036.

RMA Revises Dates for the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage and Apiculture Insurance Programs

(From USDA RMA)

Agricultural producers now will have until December 1 to make coverage decisions and complete reporting activities for the Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Pilot Insurance Program (PRF) and Apiculture Pilot Insurance Program (API). The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA) is making this change and other updates to these two policies based on feedback from stakeholders.

"We want to offer flexibility to our nation's producers, which is why we are always listening to our customers and looking at ways to improve the process and products we provide to them," said RMA Acting Administrator Richard Flournoy. "The date changes will provide additional time to help producers who are busy preparing their operations for the winter."

PRF and API are both Rainfall Index crop insurance policies designed to aid agricultural producers in case of a lack of precipitation that affects available forage for livestock and honeybees. The plans consider a decline in rainfall by comparing it with the historical average precipitation for the same area during the same period of time. PRF is designed to help protect a producer's livestock operation from the risks of forage loss. In 2020, producers insured almost 160 million acres and nearly 32,000 policies to protect \$2.9 billion in liabilities. API provides a safety net for beekeepers' primary income sources of honey, pollen collection, wax, and breeding stock. In 2020, producers covered about 1.8 million colonies under 3,300 policies to protect \$250 million in liabilities.

RMA is revising the dates for the sales closing, acreage/colony reporting, cancellation, and termination of the PRF and API insurance programs from November 15 to December 1. For PRF, RMA is also increasing reporting flexibility by allowing the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) acreage report (form FSA-578) to be used in conjunction with other documents to verify insurable interest.

Other changes to the plans include:

- Revising the definition of "veteran farmer or rancher" to allow a legal entity, comprised only of the veteran and their spouse, to qualify as a veteran farmer or rancher when a qualifying veteran has a non-veteran spouse; and
- Allowing a producer to report acreage as certified organic, or as acreage in transition to organic, when the producer has requested an organic certification by the acreage reporting date.

APHIS Accepts Online Applications for Animal Welfare Act Licenses and Registration

(From APHIS Stakeholder Registry Notice)

This week, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) began accepting online applications for licenses and registrations under the Animal Welfare Act. Individuals and businesses can now submit applications from the APHIS website.

In response to customer feedback, the online submission option offers the following convenient features:

- No need to login and remember a username or password
- A fillable application with instructions and guidance
- The ability to upload and attach documents to the application
- An easy sign and submit process using electronic signature
- Instant confirmation of receipt via email, including a link to the submitted document(s)
- All application needs; new license/registrations, updates, renewals or relicensing.

This release is part of APHIS' commitment to improve customer experience by reducing regulatory burden and offering intuitive, user-friendly digital experiences.

Meat industry asks for more time to comment on WOTUS

(From meatingplace.com)

The National Pork Producers Council is among the groups calling for more time to comment on how the government should define “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) under the Clean Water Act.

The Biden administration is looking to revive 2015 regulation giving the EPA broad jurisdiction over U.S. waters to include streams such as the kind used by farmers and ranchers for drainage and irrigation.

The NPPC and the American Farm Bureau Federation led a fight against the 2015 WOTUS rule, which was replaced during the Trump administration with the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR) favored by the protein industry.

The NPPC and more than two dozen other agricultural groups asked the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers for a 60-day extension of Friday’s deadline, according to the NPPC.

In early June, EPA and the Department of the Army announced their [intent to revise](#) the definition of WOTUS, reversing a Trump administration policy that the agencies said is reducing clean water protections.

The agencies intend to revise the definition of WOTUS after a process that includes [two rulemaking](#) processes. A foundational rule would restore the regulations defining WOTUS that were in place for decades until 2015, with updates to be consistent with relevant Supreme Court decisions. A separate, second rulemaking process would refine this regulatory foundation and establish an updated and durable definition of waters of the United States.

Read [more](#).

Trump Waters Rule Vacated by Federal Judge

(From AgriPulse)

The Trump administration’s Navigable Waters Protection Rule has been vacated by a federal judge in Arizona who said allowing it to remain in place risks “serious environmental harm,” particularly in the arid Southwest.

Last month, a federal judge in South Carolina granted EPA and the Corps’ request to reconsider the rule without scrapping it. This time around, the plaintiffs, who include the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in Arizona and other tribes from around the country, persuaded a judge to get rid of it.

"This outcome ensures Clean Water Act protections are in effect while the Biden Administration works to develop a new rule," said Earthjustice, an environmental law organization that represents the tribes.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall had a different take. “AFBF is extremely disappointed in the ruling,” he said. “Farmers finally had environmentally responsible regulations that brought clarity to clean water efforts. This ruling casts uncertainty over farmers and ranchers across the country and threatens the progress they’ve made to responsibly manage water and natural resources.”

He noted that three separate courts had so far declined to vacate the rule. "Unfortunately, this Arizona court simply accepted the plaintiffs’ assertions as true and did something that no other court has done. We are reviewing the ruling to determine our next course of action."

Referring in her order to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. District Judge Rosemary Márquez said, “The seriousness of the agencies’ errors in enacting the NWPR, the likelihood that the agencies will alter the NWPR’s definition of ‘waters of the United States,’ and the possibility of serious

environmental harm if the NWPR remains in place upon remand, all weigh in favor of remand with vacatur.”

The Biden administration is currently taking input on a new rule to replace the NWPR but has yet to formally withdraw the rule itself. The government asked the court to remand the rule but allow it to remain in place. Arizona farm groups intervened to defend the NWPR.

U.S. Extends Hours-Of-Service Exemption for Livestock Haulers

(From Meatingplace.com)

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration this week approved an extension of the exemption from hours-of-service (HOS) requirements for livestock haulers through the end of November.

Current HOS rules allow for 11 hours of drive time for livestock haulers and 14 hours of on-duty time, followed by 10 hours of rest. [Congressional leaders](#) and industry organizations like the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) have been calling for adjustments to the HOS rules so that ag haulers will continue to have the flexibility that helped keep beef on grocery store shelves during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The [NCBA applauded the federal agency’s extension](#) and called on more permanent flexibility of HOS rules since livestock haulers cannot simply pull over when their drive time hours expire because of concerns about animal health and welfare, the association said.

[Source.](#)



REACH THE WHOLE HERD!

WITH A WEEKLY UPDATE BANNER AD
JUST \$50/WEEK FOR THIS SPOT
CONTACT [KAREN@BISONCENTRAL.COM](mailto:karen@bisoncentral.com) TO RESERVE



Save the Date!

- 9/11/2021 - RMBA Fall Ranch Tour of Prairie Ridge Buffalo - CO
- 9/16/2021 - Dakota Bison Symposium - ND
- 9/23/2021 – Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup & Arts Festival - SD
- 9/25/2021 – BisonFest Music Festival, TX
- 10/15/2021 - Wisconsin Bison Producers Association Fall Meeting - WI
- 10/23/2021 - Custer State Park Roundup and Arts Festival - SD
- 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](#)

National Bison Association | info@bisoncentral.com | 303-292-2833 | bisoncentral.com
[@nationalbison](#)

