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

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NBA Weekly Update for September 24, 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.

Bison Delegation Headed to D.C.

A small, targeted delegation of bison leaders are headed to Washington, D.C. this weekend for a series of face-to-face and virtual meetings with key agency heads from the U.S. Department of agriculture.

The annual Washington Policy Roundup each September generally includes about 20 producers, processors and marketers from across the United States. With COVID-19 restrictions limiting the number of participants allowed in in-person meetings, this year's contingent includes:

- Dave Carter, NBA Executive Director, Colorado
- Donnis Baggett, NBA President, Texas
- Dr. Kristi Cammack, Director, Center of Excellence for Bison Studies, South Dakota
- Kristopher Kelley, bison producer and small processor, and NBA representative on the National Sustainable Ag Coalition Small Meat Processors' Roundtable, Kentucky; and
- A representative of the InterTribal Buffalo Council.

In-Person meetings have been scheduled with agency leaders for:

- National Institute for Food and Agriculture
- Food Safety and Inspection Service
- Farm Service Agency
- Agricultural Marketing Service; and
- Foreign Agriculture Service

Additional virtual meetings are scheduled with:

- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; and
- Agricultural Research Service.

Carter noted, "Even though COVID-19 has created significant challenges, our annual in-person meetings with top leaders at USDA have enabled us to develop personal relationships that have benefited our business through the years. We look forward to some great discussions with these key leaders next week."

NBA, Center of Excellence Present at the Custer State Park Roundup

The National Bison Association is co-hosting an exhibitor booth at the Custer State Park annual Governor's Buffalo Roundup and Arts Festival in South Dakota. The annual buffalo roundup, which is open to the public to attend and view from the hillsides, and the concurrent arts festival, is expected to draw over 25,000 bison enthusiasts.



NBA Assistant Director, Jim Matheson, also provided a presentation in the festival's education tent on the bison industry, with a focus on bison byproducts. Said Matheson, "This is a great opportunity for us to directly connect with new bison consumers and educate them on the bison advantage in an absolutely beautiful setting."

Dr. Kristi Cammack, director of the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies, also provided a presentation on the work of the COE. COE research director Dr. Jeff Martin and NBA Communications Director Karen Conley also assisted in hosting the booth. The festival also features cowboy poets, live bluegrass music, and much more.

The NBA and COE handed out literature on the benefits of eating bison and handed out Bison - Hump Day sunglasses and bison snack sticks generously donated by Nebraska Bison and Pearson Ranch Jerky.

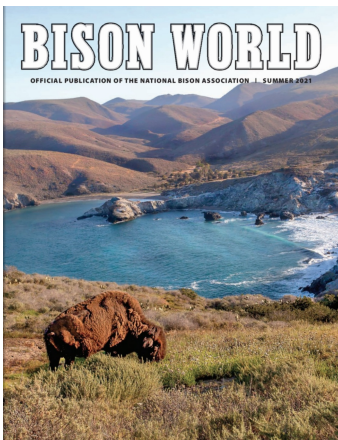
The event runs through Saturday, entrance to the festival is free.

Carter at Expo East

While headed to Washington, D.C. for meetings with USDA next week, NBA Executive Director Dave Carter is stopping by Natural Products Expo East in Philadelphia, PA. Expo West and Expo East are the two largest trade shows for natural products in the United States. Expo East this week is the first in-person event to be held since Expo West was canceled on short notice in March 2020.

"Expo is a great opportunity to look for emerging trends, check in with any bison-related vendors, and to scout out some potential competitive threats," Carter said. He was able to meet with Susan Taylor, pictured, with Vital Pet Provisions, showcasing their bison jerky treats.





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.

The hard copy magazine is currently being printed and will mail shortly.

Fall Issue Bison World Advertising Now Available

Production is now underway on the Fall issue of the Bison World magazine. This issue is one of our larger ones and typically features production-oriented content.

There are a variety of advertising options available, from 1/8 page to full page. Lifetime and Active NBA members will enjoy discounted rates as part of their membership perks. Karen can work with you to tailor an advertising campaign that fits your budget and targets your message!

The advertising space deadline is October 1 with final materials due by October 6. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time.

For more information about editorial submissions or advertising your ranch, business or events, contact Karen@bisoncentral.com or call (605) 381-3738.

Boulder Valley School Students Get a Taste of Bison

Boulder Valley School District's School Food Project will showcase its commitment to being "Colorado Proud" on September 21 with additional local offerings at schools across the district. Colorado Proud School Meal Day is a day to celebrate Colorado agriculture and to educate school children about healthy eating.



"We love partnering with local farms whenever we can," says Stephen Menyhart, Food Services Director. "We see today as an opportunity to highlight that work and to add something extra special for students -- this year it's sustainably-raised bison burgers from Colorado, watermelon from Kilt Farm, cherry tomatoes from Hoffman Farms, falafel from Falafel King, milk from Royal Crest Dairy and apples from Rogers Mesa Fruit."

"I'm very excited to participate in the school lunch programs, especially on Colorado Proud Day featuring Colorado-raised bison," says Rex Moore, Owner and Rancher of Rock River Ranches. "This gives us a chance to give a whole variety of kids the experience of trying a bison burger, maybe for the first time. I bet they'll think it tastes great."

The bison burgers and other local items will be available at no cost for every student in the district's 56 schools on Wednesday, September 22. Each cafeteria will have maps for students to see where in the state each item was grown as well as information about how eating local foods can benefit the community, the environment and their health.

"We want to reach students and help them appreciate that bison is not just a great tasting product, but it is helping the environment by restoring our native grasslands," says Dave Carter, Executive Director of the National Bison Association. "We're excited that BVSD is introducing to students the great taste and nutrition benefits of bison meat."

BVSD gives preference in its food purchasing to growers, producers and processors in Boulder and Broomfield counties; then to the surrounding counties (Gilpin, Grand, Larimer, Clear Creek, Arapahoe, Douglas, Weld); then to other areas of Colorado. BVSD's local purchasing is generally accomplished through direct relationships with farms, dairies, and producers. Food Services works with growers and producers many months in advance to time menu offerings with local harvests.

Start Planning Now for 2022 International Bison Conference

Circle July 12-15, 2022 on your calendar to make sure that you'll be heading north to join roughly 800 fellow bison producers, marketers and enthusiasts for the 6th-ever International Bison Conference, scheduled in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Conference organizers have been busy planning an exciting schedule of speakers, workshops, tours, and entertainment; all under the theme: *"Strength in the Herd"*

The Canadian Bison Association, in partnership with the Saskatchewan and the U.S. National Bison Associations is excited to host the International Bison Convention to celebrate the rich history and promising future of the bison industry.

Listen to inspirational speakers on bison history, conservation, research, marketing, and the business of bison. Also, you will have the opportunity to visit local landmarks including Wanuskewin Heritage Park before, during, or after the convention.

Check regularly on the planning for the 2022 IBC here. <https://bisonconvention2022.com/>

Wholesale Prices Modestly Higher in August

Prices received for dressed bison young bull and heifer carcasses were modestly higher in August, although still below previous year averages, according to the latest monthly wholesale bison market report released by USDA's Livestock and Grain Market News Service.

Dressed young bull carcasses averaged \$390.52/cwt. in August, which was \$8.91/cwt. higher than the previous month, but still \$9.64/cwt. lower than in August 2020. Dressed Heifer carcasses averaged \$358.82/cwt. in August, which was \$0.47/cwt higher than the previous month but will \$14.58 lower than the previous August. Older bull carcasses were higher, but older cows lower in the latest report.

Year-to-date, 43,496 bison have been processed under USDA inspection, which is three percent higher than YTD 2020, and the highest YTD level on record.

USDA's Monthly bison Market report is available here. https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_2827.pdf.

NBA's Five-year tracking report is available in the members' section of www.bisoncentral.com.

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.



OKLAHOMA FALL BISON SALE

Saturday, November 13

Perkins Livestock Auction
2405 W 116th St, Perkins, OK 74059

*Friday, November 12 will be a fun auction and banquet dinner at the same location.

Contact: (580) 775-0914 or (580) 618-1571

Bison Charges and Hurls Another Bison in Yellowstone Showdown

(From Huffington Post)

Well, [blow me down](#). That's a mighty buffalo.

The [National Park](#) Service celebrated [Talk Like A Pirate Day](#) on Sunday by sharing video of a male [bison](#) charging and flinging another male bison. (Watch the video below.)

The aggressor heaves up to 2,000 pounds of rival beast, earning the buccaneer tough talk.

"Arrrrhhh! Prepare fer Rammin' speed, matey!" the service wrote of the Yellowstone encounter, which took place last year.

"Durin' matin' season, male bison can be mighty aggressive, though all bison 'n other wildlife can be dangerous and give you a heave!" it continued. "Remember to always keep yer distance — 25 yards from bison 'n elk; 100 yards from all other wildlife. Be smart! Avoid mishaps 'n protect yer booty."

Mating season is late July through August, [Yellowstone notes](#). In general, though, bison can run up [to 35 miles an hour](#) and are "extremely agile," the park service writes. So say your ahoy's from a distance at any time of year.

Read more and watch video at <https://news.yahoo.com/bison-charges-hurls-another-bison-180015933.html>

Polis, Neguse Call for Bison Administration to Reverse Sectioned Bison Hunt

(From Colorado Politics.com)

A pair of Colorado's most prominent Democrats stand opposed to a National Park Service plan to lethally remove a dozen bison from Grand Canyon National Park, with Gov. Jared

Polis backing a last-ditch effort to relocate them to southeast Colorado.

[The NPS plan](#), scheduled to kick off this week, is to recruit volunteers to hunt 12 bison in the park, where hunting is usually banned. The plan is part of an effort to reduce the “rapid growth” of the bison population from the current levels of around 600 down to under 200. Aside from the 12 bison that will be killed, the NPS plan hopes to reach the reduced level by capturing and relocating some of the bison.

But both Polis and U.S. Rep. Joe Neguse, D-Lafayette, stand opposed to the plan.

“Our American Bison are a majestic and iconic species of wildlife. It is rare for the lethal removal of Bison to be allowed on National Park Service land which is owned by all Americans. This decision should be reversed,” Polis said in a Tuesday statement.

Neguse [in a letter sent to Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and NPS Deputy Director Shawn Bengé](#) last week advocated for non-lethal measures to manage the bison herd, saying he understood the need for population management but raised concerns about volunteer hunters entering the park.

“We would encourage you to not move forward with the lethal removal scheduled for next week and revisit alternative methods that can be used to manage the population within the park boundaries,” Neguse said in the letter, sent along with U.S. Reps. Madeleine Dean, D-Penn., Brian Fitzpatrick, R-Penn., Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio, and Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill.

Read more [here](#).

Bison World Will Be a Non-Profit Entity

(From NewsDakota.com)

JAMESTOWN, N.D. (NewsDakota.com) – The proposed Bison World theme park will be developed and operated as a nonprofit corporation organized under North Dakota state law, according to Connie Ova, CEO of the Jamestown/Stutsman Development Corporation (JSDC).

The organization will be incorporated as The Bison World Fund and will request tax exempt status as a 501 (c)(3) corporation subject to IRS approval.

“The Bison World Fund will be formed as a non-profit corporation to exclusively benefit the people of North Dakota and tourists traveling through the state,” Ova said. “It will be a cultural theme park built upon an educational foundation.”

Recent stories have summarized Bison World as an “entertaining and educational” experience that will accomplish a number of goals; from honoring the heritage of the bison and the American West to serving as a “tourism gateway” that promotes all the tourist attractions in the state including the new Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library. The Forum has formally endorsed the project calling it a “visionary proposal.”

Ova stressed the importance of developing Bison World for the public’s benefit and not for the benefit of any private interest or individual. “None of the current donors and supporters want to benefit personally from this project. They only want Bison World to succeed for North Dakota. That says a lot about our community,” Ova said.

Eide Bailly, of the nation’s leading accounting firms, will continue to assist the project with consulting and advising during the process of requesting tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service.

Read more [here](#).

US, UK Discuss Free Trade Agreement

(From AgriPulse)

The Biden administration may not be done yet with its review of the U.S.-UK negotiations for a free trade agreement during the Trump administration, but the prospect of an FTA was the topic of discussion when U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai spoke to British Secretary of State for International Trade Anne-Marie Trevelyan Monday.

Tai and Trevelyan, the Office of the USTR said in a statement, “discussed USTR’s ongoing review of the U.S.-UK free trade agreement negotiations to evaluate how a potential agreement could support the Biden-Harris Administration’s broader Build Back Better agenda.”

[The U.S. ag sector wants to sell a lot more rice, cheese, poultry and other commodities to the British](#), and an FTA is seen as necessary to reduce tariffs and remove restrictions.

BLM Headquarters Moving Back to D.C. From Colorado

(From AgriPulse)

The Bureau of Land Management’s headquarters is moving back to Washington, D.C., from Grand Junction, Colo., the Interior Department announced Friday.

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland told employees about the decision at a meeting today, the department said.

The controversial move, made in August 2020, was not well received by BLM employees, the department noted in a news release. It “failed to deliver promised jobs across the West and drove hundreds of people out of the agency,” Interior said. “Of the 328 positions moved out of Washington, D.C., only 41 of the affected people relocated, with three moving to Grand Junction.”

The result, the department said, was “a significant loss of institutional memory and talent. The headquarters transition will be conducted with a goal of minimizing further disruption to employees and their families.”

DOI plans to locate the BLM director “and other key leadership positions in the national headquarters where they can ensure coordination with Congress, other federal agencies, and stakeholders that visit Washington, D.C.,” Interior said. “Additional senior personnel will operate from the Western headquarters, as part of the more than 95 percent of BLM employees that are already located outside of Washington, D.C.”

Grand Junction will serve as BLM’s “western headquarters,” the department said.

The decision was criticized by the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and Public Lands Council, which represent ranchers.

Kaitlynn Glover, NCBA executive director of natural resources and PLC executive director, acknowledged “BLM’s operations suffered as a result of their move to Grand Junction, Colorado, and the subsequent uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

However, “Implementing another move now, when the time and attention of the BLM staff is more needed than ever, is a step western communities cannot afford. The BLM should be prioritizing time-sensitive land management improvements, not playing political football with their mailing address.”

Regan eyes November for next step in WOTUS process

(From AgriPulse)

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan says a proposal to restore regulations defining “waters of the U.S.” to those that were in place before the Obama administration’s 2015 rule could be issued by November, with another proposal redefining WOTUS to follow a year after that.

Speaking to attendees at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture's annual meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, Monday, Regan offered a fresh timeline and said the Biden administration plans to craft its own regulation, using lessons learned from the 2015 Clean Water Rule and the Trump administration's 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule, which has been vacated by a federal court.

In July, EPA and the Corps said they would first issue a "foundational rule" to restore pre-2015 regulations, "with updates to be consistent with relevant Supreme Court decisions." A separate rulemaking process would follow "to refine this regulatory foundation and establish an updated and durable definition of 'waters of the United States,'" the agencies said.

"The agencies will not be reinstating either the (Navigable Waters Protection Rule) or the Clean Water Rule," Regan said, reiterating the administration's desire to make the rule "durable" — in other words, able to survive different administrations and inevitable court challenges.

He also said that in addition to protecting water resources, any new regulation must also provide "clarity" and "certainty" for farmers.

He reassured the audience those exemptions for "normal farming" activities and prior converted cropland would continue. "Normal farming, silviculture and ranching activities, as defined by the Clean Water Act section 404, that could take place in a jurisdictional waterway or wetland, will not require a permit," Regan said.

Regan again committed to making sure the agriculture community will be able to offer input as the administration rewrites the rule.



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Save the Date!

- 9/25/2021 – 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](#)

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

