



## National Bison Association

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### Weekly Update from the National Bison Association

A news and update service **exclusively** for members of the National Bison Association.  
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**July 19, 2019**

### Northfork Bison Distributions Inc. Is Voluntarily Recalling Bison Burgers And Bison Ground Because Of A Possible Health Risk

*(Editor's Note: The following is an official release from Northfork Bison Distributions, Inc. More information is available at: <https://www.northforkbison.com/news-product-recall-on-bison-burgers-bison-ground-meat/>)*

Northfork Bison Distributions Inc. of Saint-Leonard, Quebec, is recalling its Bison Burgers (aka Buffalo Burgers) and its Bison Ground, because they have the potential to be contaminated with Escherichia coli (E. coli) strains 0121 and 0103.

“The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and US state and local partners, with the support of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), are investigating a multi-state outbreak of E. coli 0121 and E. coli 0103 illnesses linked to ground bison supplied by Northfork Bison Distributions Inc. of St-Leonard, Quebec.”

These illnesses were reported in the US. No illnesses associated with this potential health risk have been reported in Canada.

Northfork Bison Distributions Inc. is working closely with the FDA, CDC and CFIA to complete the ongoing investigation and implement the required corrective action. The FDA praised Northfork's rapid response: “Northfork Distributions Inc. has been quick to initiate a voluntary recall and had been forthcoming with information to aid the investigation.”

“We are a family-owned company whose reputation is built on providing consumers with the healthiest, highest-quality meat products,” said Rocco Verelli, owner of Northfork Bison Distributions Inc. “Since our foundation in 1997, we have never encountered any health issues. The fact that our products have now caused some people to be ill is devastating to us all. Whatever the cause, our first concern is for the well-being of the people affected.”

Bison is generally less prone to bacteria than other meats, and Northfork Bison Distributions Inc. has always conducted all the regulatory tests prescribed for bison processing, including for E.

coli 0571. “Moving forward, we will also be performing additional, non-required testing, for E. coli strains 0121 and 0103,” stated Mr. Verelli. “We are doing everything in our power to ensure the safety of our products and regain the full confidence of our valued customers.”

## **Bison Battle Sizzles in Seattle**

The James Brockey Event Center in Seattle was filled with mouthwatering aromas on Wednesday, as three teams of student chefs squared off for the first-ever Bison Battle in Seattle cooking competition.

More than 100 spectators were on hand to view the competition, and to sample a variety of bison dishes prepared by Chef Todd Kihara.

Each team of three student chefs were given 30 minutes to devise recipes, 30 minutes to prepare an appetizer, and 30 minutes to prepare an entrée. When the burners were turned off, and the knives put down, a panel of four judges sampled the appetizers and entrees prepared by the three teams.

After extensive deliberation, Team Cheftastics was declared the winner with an appetizer featuring a bison wrap, along bison tartare in a golden beet cup; and an entrée that was parmesan encrusted center sirloin roulade served katsu style.

The event was sponsored by the National Bison Association through resources provided by USDA’s Farmers’ Market Promotion Program. The competition featured center cut sirloin from Durham Ranch, and fresh vegetables for Charlie’s Produce in Seattle. Also helping to sponsor the event were McDonald Meat Co. and Renton Technical College’s Culinary Arts Program.

## **NBA, Savory Institute to Host 50 Farm Broadcasters and Ag Leaders on Monday**

Some of the nation’s leading farm broadcasters, along with some top officials from ag and commodity organizations, will head out to the West Bijou Ranch east of Denver Monday evening to view bison, and to enjoy a bison dinner hosted by the National Bison Association and the Savory Institute.

The dinner was organized as an opportunity to connect with the board of directors of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting, which is holding its summer board meeting in Denver next week.

The West Bijou Ranch is owned by the Savory Institute and operated as a Savory hub. The bison herd on the ranch is owned by a partnership of Ray and Debbie Thieman of Limon, David and Laura Wentz of Strasburg, and Dave and Sue Carter of Westminster.

The 50 invited guests are scheduled to arrive at the ranch at 6 p.m., and will be taken out into the pastures to spend some time viewing the bison herd. Then, they’ll return to the gathering area at the ranch for a dinner featuring bison slider appetizers and entrée of bison kabobs, beans and corn.

After the meal, NBA Executive Director Dave Carter and Byron Shelton of the Savory Institute will address the group.

Carter noted, “This type of outreach is one of the activities made possible by the NBA Growth Fund. It’s another reason that contributions to the Growth Fund are so important.”

## **More Than 200 Attend Excellent NBA Summer Conference**

### **NBA Bison Field Necropsy Guide Now Available**

Field Necropsies are an important tool in protecting the health of a bison herd, but most ranchers are unfamiliar with the steps required in performing the procedure. Those ranchers now have an additional resource available, thanks to the NBA’s all new Bison Field Necropsy Guide.

This 57-page booklet offers a step-be-step explanation, complete with illustrations, for performing a proper necropsy. The booklet was developed by the NBA Science and Research Committee, with the content produced by veterinarians Dave Hunter, Todd Shury and Murray Woodbury. Cam Johnson of Parks Canada, and Drs. Gary Mason and Garry Franklin of Colorado State University’s Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory provided photographs and editorial suggestions. Dr. Shelagh Copeland of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine also provided editorial reviews and expertise on the content.

Dave Carter, NBA executive director, noted, “the tissue and organs of a deceased bison provide key information that can help us understand the cause of death of an individual animal, and thus keep the rest of the herd alive. We are grateful for all of the experts who collaborated to produce this field guide.

The Necropsy Field Guide is available the bison store at [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com). The cost is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. Those prices include shipping and handling.

### **Introducing the all-new NBA Bison App! *Now Available Exclusively to NBA Members***

The National Bison Association is pleased to announce its new NBA Bison Producer’s App, now available for both iOS and Android devices, as well as a web based version that can be accessed at <https://bison.herddogg.com/>.

The app is among the deliverables resulting from a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Risk Management Agency (USDA RMA) and the project it’s underwriting – Record Keeping for Risk Mitigation.

The project aims to improve the overall performance of bison operations through better record keeping and analysis, with the producer’s app providing a powerful tool to do so. The app is available at no charge for NBA members to use during the project period, which ends in March of 2020, after which a nominal fee will be charged to utilize the app.

The app’s extensive features result in a very powerful resource that literally fits in the palm of your hand. App features include animal photo ID, birth date, herd and tag ID, weight, gender, vaccination/dewormer schedule, North American Bison Registry animal history, notes for things like body condition, health, transfer history, animal test results, genetic/parentage information,

calving rates, USDA RMA Crop Insurance fact sheets, NBA push notifications including Trading Board ads, Weekly Update, NBA membership data and more.

Download the app, sign up and start tracking your herd's performance today!

Google Play Store: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.herddogg.bisonapp>

App Store: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/herddogg/id1470531054>

Web based: <https://bison.herddogg.com/login>

Important - Be sure to include the NBA member pilot code when prompted: **NBA2020**

See installation instructions below and email [nba-support@herddogg.com](mailto:nba-support@herddogg.com), or call 833-437-3364 for assistance.

## **Bulls Lower, Heifers Higher in Latest USDA Market Report**

Dressed young bull carcasses brought slightly lower prices, and dressed heifer carcasses brought higher prices in June, according to the latest monthly wholesale bison market price report issued today by USDA's Grain and Livestock Market News Service.

Young bull carcasses averaged \$448.11/cwt. in June, which was \$1.21/cwt. lower than in May, and \$41.58/cwt. lower than the previous June. Heifer carcasses averaged \$445.93/cwt. last month, which is \$13.03/cwt. higher than in May, but \$25.97/cwt. lower than the previous June. Old bull carcasses were slightly higher in June, but older cow carcasses were lower.

Year-to-date, 28,084 head of bison have been processed under federal inspection, which is 1,251 more than during the equivalent period in 2018, and the highest level since 2016. Bulls represented 69 percent of the younger animals processed YTD. That compares with an average of 60 percent over the previous nine years.

The USDA's latest price report is available here. [https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw\\_ls526.txt](https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw_ls526.txt)

The NBA's five-year price tracing report is available in the members' section at [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com).

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## **Bison Find Home On Western Maine Range**

*(From The Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel)*

There are innumerable differences between bison and hobbits, the mythical creatures in "The Lord of the Rings." But Ted Colburn, who owns Beech Hill Farm & Bison Ranch in Waterford with his wife, Doretta, makes the comparison because they both share a love for second breakfasts.

"They get up, eat, lay down, rest for a while, get up, eat again," said Ted.

Bison have strong herd instincts and do mostly everything as a unit, staying within sight and hearing distance of one another.

“They do things as a herd. They get up and eat, most everyone will lie down together, then they get up again. They eat about nine times a day. They eat, ruminate, digest and eat more,” said Ted, noting his herd enjoys a life of leisure.

“We tell our bison that they’re in resort living,” said Ted. “It’s all hands off. They’re a natural animal. They’re effectively wild. What we want to do is have them think they’re out in the wild, but they can’t leave.”

According to Doretta, it doesn’t take much to impress a bison, which are commonly referred to as buffalo but are a different species. (See related story.)

Read more. <https://www.centralmaine.com/2019/07/14/bison-find-home-on-waterfords-range/>

## **Locally Raised Bison Meat To Be Introduced Into Miami, OK Public Schools Lunch Program**

*(From kjrh tv)*

MIAMI, Okla. — As the result of a federal Farm to School grants, Miami Public Schools, in conjunction with the Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma, will introduce locally-raised bison meat into the student lunch program.

The tribe will develop a partnership with the district to facilitate planning the introduction and regular consumption of the meat at the school.

It comes after more than \$9 million in USDA grants was awarded across 42 states to increase the amount of healthy, local foods served in schools and create economic opportunities for nearby farmers.

The projects are expected to serve more than 3.2 million students in more than 5,400 schools. “The farm to school grants announced today connect schools with the farmers, ranchers, and producers in their communities,” said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. “Everybody wins with Farm to School. USDA is proud to help the next generation better understand where its food comes from, while strengthening local economies.”

Source. <https://www.kjrh.com/news/local-news/locally-raised-bison-meat-to-be-introduced-into-miami-public-schools-lunch-program>

## **Boy With Special Needs Climbs Fence, Gets Into Bison Enclosure At Wildlife Safari Park**

*(From WSAZ)*

For a frantic half hour, a 9-year-old with special needs was missing at Wildlife Safari Park.

The nimble climber had scaled a 7-foot fence into an area where the park’s 23 bison live.

That's when Cass County 911 got a "very frantic" call.

Within minutes, four deputies and a Nebraska state trooper were on the scene.

Rescuing someone from bison isn't something covered in law enforcement training.

The officers along with park rangers had 40 acres to search for the missing boy. And they had to watch out for the bison, which can weigh 2,000 pounds and run up to 40 mph.

The 9-year-old was in an area used for grazing.

"He had scaled that fence and gotten into the bison enclosure and at the time he was contacted by the deputy, he was within feet of another fence to go into another enclosure." Lt. Larry Burke with the Cass County Sheriff's office said.

Body camera video shows the deputy sprinting across a field to catch up with the boy.

Read more. <https://www.wsaz.com/content/news/Boy-with-special-needs-climbs-fence-gets-into-bison-enclosure-at-Wildlife-Safari-Park-512790811.html>

## **Bison vs. Beef: What's the Difference?**

*(From Healthline)*

Beef comes from cattle, whereas bison meat comes from bison, which is also known as buffalo or American buffalo.

Though both have a lot in common, they also differ in many aspects.

This article tells you everything you need to know about the similarities and differences between bison and beef.

Bison and beef similarities

Bison and beef are two types of red meat that share many qualities.  
Comparable nutrient profiles

Lean cuts of bison and beef are good sources of protein and many nutrients like iron and zinc. Therefore, eating either in moderation can be part of a healthy diet (1Trusted Source).

Here are the nutritional differences between 4 ounces (113 grams) of bison and beef.

As you can see, beef is higher in calories and fat than bison.

Both are excellent sources of iron and zinc and provide good amounts of phosphorous, niacin, selenium, and vitamins B6 and B12 (2, 3).

What's more, like all meats, bison and beef are composed mainly of high-quality protein, providing all nine essential amino acids your body needs for growth and maintenance (4Trusted Source).

Read more. <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/bison-vs-beef#similarities>

## **Are You an Elk Parent or a Bison Parent?**

*(From Outside)*

A few weeks ago, while visiting Vermejo Park Ranch in northern New Mexico, my family and I were out on a wildlife safari in a remote valley when we spotted a newborn elk calf wobbling across the road, trailed by its mother. It was late May, the beginning of calving season, and the baby elk was minutes old, its fur still wet. When it saw us, it flopped to the ground, while the cow bolted in the opposite direction, running up a ridge until she was out of sight. Distressed, we watched the calf flatten itself into the dirt, all alone.

Our guide, Pete, explained, “This is what elk mothers do. When predators approach, they run away, leaving their babies, who aren’t strong enough to walk. Most of the time, the mothers come back for their calves but only after the danger has passed.” After a minute, we drove on, not wanting to scare the mother away for good, while Pete continued, “Bison mothers do the opposite. After their babies are born, they’ll stand their ground, snort, and charge to keep them safe.”

Afterward, I couldn’t stop thinking about the difference between elk mamas and bison mamas. Their two styles of parenting seemed to encapsulate everything I’d been wrestling with since becoming a mother—the fine line between giving kids too much independence and too little, overprotection and tough love, smothering and neglect.

My own approach to child-rearing has spanned the spectrum. When my girls were infants and toddlers, I was terrified that I’d forget them in a field while hiking and they’d be eaten by coyotes, or that left alone at home, they’d choke on a grape or get tangled in blind cords. Their vulnerability triggered something primal and bison-like in me, and their survival was paramount, the single most defining focus of my life. Deep down, though, my inner elk grieved the freedom I’d lost when they were born; I needed time to myself to run and think and write. I hired babysitters, enrolled them in part-time daycare, and tried to tend to my own needs while tending to theirs. The time apart was as essential as it was wrenching I hated to leave, but I always came home happier, calmer, and more myself than when I’d left.

Read more. <https://www.outsideonline.com/2399414/are-you-elk-parent-or-bison-parent>

## **Thank Bison And Their Dung For Domesticated Quinoa**

*(From Futurity: Research News)*

The domestication of small-seeded plants like quinoa and amaranth relied on help from large, grazing animals including bison, according to new research.

About 5,000 to 7,000 years ago, in river valleys and grasslands all around the world, people started to cultivate small plants for their seed or grain. Wheat, barley, and rice are some of the earliest plants to show signs of domestication, and scientists have extensively studied the domestication process in these large-seeded cereal crops.



Until now, however, scientists have known significantly less about the domestication of small-seeded grain crops—such as quinoa, amaranth, buckwheat, the millets, and several now-lost crops domesticated in North America.

### Bison and the 'lost crops'

“As ecosystem engineers, bison have been hiding in plain sight for the past 40 years, since archaeologists first discovered that several native plants were domesticated in eastern North America and started to theorize about how and why,” says Natalie Mueller, assistant professor of anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis.

“I think the reason no one has thought of them before is because they were almost driven to extinction, along with the tall grass prairies where the lost crops were domesticated,” she says. “As a result, very few of us have ever seen a tall grass prairie with bison grazing on it, much less spent time walking through one and gathering food.”

Read more. <https://www.futurity.org/bison-dung-crop-domestication-2103992/>

## **Mid-Atlantic states hold one-third of U.S. bison**

*(From Delmarva Farmer)*

Personal chef Will Supik of Baltimore was sourcing healthy options for clients when he discovered meat said to be much lower in fat and calories, slightly lower in cholesterol and higher in iron and vitamin B-12 than pork, poultry and beef.

Bison, or American buffalo, is “juicy, punctuous,” a “no-brainer” for adding to client menus, Supik said. He scoured the Internet and found the breed more often associated with the Great Plains available at a Maryland farm.

“I was kind of agog,” Supik said of the species that is particularly popular during the summer grilling season.

The bison, as the American Buffalo is known, rises as much as six feet or more at the hump, weighs as much as a ton and is in the bovine, not the buffalo, family. The breed is the only native North American wild cattle species, according to the National Wildlife Federation. Bison once thrived on drought-resistant plants throughout the country, according to the Eastern Bison Association.

Of 39 bison farms that the 2017 USDA Agricultural Census shows exist nationwide, 13 are between New Jersey and Virginia and are Eastern Bison Association members. Some of the region’s bison farmers breed, raise and finish their herds while others send them elsewhere for finishing or just do the finishing alone. Association membership is intended to provide an education on the species and its restoration.

Centuries ago, bison numbered some 60 million and, as a result of habitat change and hunting, by 1889 declined to around 1,000, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“If it wasn’t for farming bison, the breed would be extinct,” Shane Robbins, a New Jersey owner of West Virginia-based Buck Wild Bison said.



*Editor's Note: The National Bison Association contacted the publication to correct the error in the number of bison farms reported in the story. The 2017 Census of Agriculture reported 1775 bison farms nationwide, not 39. The publication has since printed a correction.*

Full story here. <https://americanfarmpublications.com/mid-atlantic-states-hold-one-third-of-u-s-bison/>

## **Texas Anthrax Situational Update No. 2**

*(From Texas Animal Health Commission News Release)*

Austin, TX - Since the July 9, 2019 update, anthrax has been detected on three additional premises in southwest Sutton County and one premises in south central Crockett County. The Texas Animal Health Commission quarantined the premises after animals tested positive for the reportable disease.

To date, eight premises in three Texas counties have had animals confirmed with anthrax. Animals include the following species: antelope, goat, horses, and cattle. Producers have been advised on vaccinating exposed animals and instructed on the proper disposal of affected carcasses, as outlined by TAHC's rules. Anthrax quarantines are typically lifted 10 days from vaccination or the last death loss.

It is common to see an increase in anthrax cases after periods of wet, cool weather, followed by hot, dry conditions. During these conditions, animals ingest the anthrax bacteria when they consume contaminated grass and hay, or inhale the spores. Outbreaks usually end when cooler weather arrives.

There is an effective anthrax vaccine available for use in susceptible livestock (includes but is not limited to, swine, equine, sheep, goats, cattle, etc.). TAHC encourages livestock owners to consult with a local veterinary practitioner and consider vaccinating livestock if owners live within the triangular area bound by the towns of Uvalde, Ozona and Eagle Pass. Producers may order anthrax vaccines directly from the manufacturer.

Full text:

[https://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/2019/2019-07-09\\_AnthraxUpdate.pdf](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/2019/2019-07-09_AnthraxUpdate.pdf)

## **Court Fight Could Affect Future Of Bison In Montana**

*(From Trueviralnews.com)*

The Democratic governor of Montana who is running for president and the Republican secretary of state who wants his job were locked in a constitutional dispute over a uniquely Western issue that lies at the intersection of politics, wildlife, agriculture and property rights.

The argument between Gov. Steve Bullock and Secretary of State Corey Stapleton could hamper plans to build a sanctuary where thousands of buffalo would roam. It escalated into a legal battle over whether Stapleton has the power to overrule Bullock's veto of state legislation on a technicality.

A judge who heard arguments in the case Wednesday ruled that Stapleton lacks that authority and blocked the vetoed legislation from becoming law for now.

“I think there’s a substantial injury when the secretary of state of Montana overrides a veto by the Montana governor unilaterally,” District Judge Mike McMahon said.

Bullock is one of nearly two dozen contenders trying to stand out in the Democratic presidential field, while Stapleton is part of a crowded GOP primary race for governor. Their fight centers on an effort to change the state’s legal definition of “wild bison.”

Some Republican lawmakers say the changes are necessary to close gaps in the law. The measure has support from ranchers and landowners, including the United Property Owners of Montana, who worry that an expansion of bison rangeland would increase the risk of disease to their livestock and damage to their property.

Full story here. <https://trueviralnews.com/court-fight-could-affect-future-of-bison-in-montana/>

## **House Committee Passes Farmer Bankruptcy Bill**

*(From the FencePost)*

The House Judiciary Committee on July 11 passed a bill that will help more family farmers avoid liquidation or foreclosure, allowing them to stay in operation. The Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019 (H.R. 2336) would raise the Chapter 12 operating debt cap from \$4.1 million to \$10 million. “Our farmer members have experienced several consecutive years of weak commodity prices and the low profitability and poor farm income that follow. As a result, farmers and ranchers are watching their equity erode as their debt-to-asset ratios climb and debt financing reaches a 30-year high,” AFBF President Zippy Duvall and NFU President Roger Johnson wrote in a joint letter to Congress in May.

The tremendous challenge of record nominal farm debt and poor economic conditions has led many farmers to seek Chapter 12 bankruptcy as a debt relief and restructuring option. Though Chapter 12 has been a help to many family farmers, its \$4.1 million debt limit kept many more from using it.

The Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019 alters the definition of “family farmer” under Chapter 12 of the bankruptcy code as it pertains to the total liabilities threshold to qualify as a “family farmer.” By raising the level of total liabilities to \$10 million, the bill would address several problems plaguing small and midsize farms across the country.

“Lifting the liability cap will expand access to the restructuring and seasonal repayment flexibility that many farmers need in today’s lagging farm economy, which is being further affected by trade disputes, projections for below average farm income over the next decade and rising interest rates,” Duvall and Johnson said, encouraging lawmakers to cosponsor the legislation and pledging to work with them for quick passage.

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## **Fate Of USMCA Hinges On Trump And Pelosi Agreement**

*(From AgriPulse)*

Snowballing signals from the White House of losing patience over the slow pace of ratification of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement could force a showdown with House Democrats, and there’s a lot at stake for the U.S. ag sector.

“We have to get the Democrats to pass it,” Trump said of the USMCA in a speech Monday. “They may or may not, depending on how they feel politically.”

There are plenty of Democrats in the House who support ratification of USMCA, but it will be up to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi if there is ultimately a vote, and she has stressed she won’t be rushed.

“We are trying to keep the discussion on track and on schedule,” she said in a June press conference. “What the schedule is – is when we come to an agreement.”

But there’s no agreement in sight as Trump and others continue to lobby lawmakers on a quick approval.

“It’s absolutely essential we get the USMCA passed by the Congress, and passed by the Congress this summer,” Vice President Mike Pence said in a speech last week. “It’ll finally give American workers and farmers a level playing field that we need to be able to compete and win.”

## **U.S., Japan Eye Possible Small Trade Deal By September: Sources**

*(From Reuters)*

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The United States and Japan are working on a trade deal involving agriculture and autos that could be agreed by President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe when they meet in New York in September, three industry sources familiar with the discussions said on Tuesday.

An auto industry official said the deal could involve Japan offering U.S. farmers new access to its market in return for Washington reducing tariffs on certain Japanese auto parts. But he emphasized the talks remain fluid.

Such a deal would give Abe a win on autos, while helping Trump shore up support among farmers, an important constituency ahead of the 2020 presidential election.

A second source familiar with the discussions said the Trump administration was looking for increased access for U.S. beef and pork products.

Improved access to the Japanese market would help the United States compete with members of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a trade agreement among Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

One of Trump's first acts as president was to pull the United States out of that agreement's predecessor, which killed the deal.

Trump and Abe discussed trade in Osaka, Japan, during a Group of 20 meeting last month, but no details of their talks were released. Politico on Tuesday reported some sort of a deal was possible in September.

Full story here. [https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-japan/us-japan-eye-possible-small-trade-deal-by-september-sources-idUSKCN1UC009?utm\\_source=Agri-Pulse+Daily+Harvest+2018&utm\\_campaign=7c17444525-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_07\\_17\\_09\\_59&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_6978e27d37-7c17444525-48784377](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-japan/us-japan-eye-possible-small-trade-deal-by-september-sources-idUSKCN1UC009?utm_source=Agri-Pulse+Daily+Harvest+2018&utm_campaign=7c17444525-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_07_17_09_59&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6978e27d37-7c17444525-48784377)

## **Most Kentucky Cattle To Require RFID Tags By 2023**

(From WBKO.com)

The Kentucky Office of the State Veterinarian has announced that the federal government will require most Kentucky cattle to bear a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag in the next few years.

"By 2023, only RFID tags will be considered official identification," State Veterinarian Robert C. Stout said. "The U.S. Department of Agriculture is requiring the RFID tags and phasing out metal tags to improve our ability to trace animal movement quickly and efficiently in the event of a livestock disease outbreak. A strong traceability system is absolutely essential to maintaining open overseas markets for Kentucky and U.S. cattle."

Animals that will require official, individual RFID tags include:

- Beef cattle and bison that are sexually intact and 18 months or older;
- Beef cattle and bison used for rodeo or recreational events (regardless of age);
- Beef cattle and bison used for shows or exhibitions;
- All female dairy cattle; and
- All male dairy cattle born after March 11, 2013.

Cattle not being moved off the farm will not be required to have an RFID tag.

"In effect, all cattle presented for sale at Kentucky livestock markets will be considered to be moving interstate," Dr. Stout said. "All animals requiring official ID will be required to have an RFID tag."

"The Kentucky Department of Agriculture will work with producers and industry organizations to help with a speedy and orderly transition to RFID ear tags," Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles said. "In the weeks and months to come, we will be speaking to industry groups and

passing out informational materials to help producers make the switch. As we get updates from USDA, we will pass them along to Kentucky producers."

Full text:

<https://www.wbko.com/content/news/Kentucky-cattle-to-require-RFID-tags-by-2023-512790171.html>

## **KDA Alerts Livestock Owners Of Virus In Nearby States**

*(From Kansas Dept. of Agriculture News Release)*

MANHATTAN, Kan. - With Texas, Colorado, and New Mexico reporting multiple confirmed cases of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV), the Kansas Department of Agriculture is encouraging livestock owners to be aware and take precautions, particularly with animals that may be commingled with other animals at competitions and similar events.

At this time, there have been no cases of VSV reported in Kansas.

VSV is considered a reportable disease in Kansas. Any person who suspects their animals may have VSV should contact their local veterinarian or state animal health official.

KDA has implemented increased importation requirements from the affected regions to help prevent the spread of VSV into Kansas. Likewise, many states have now enhanced their importation requirements as well. Therefore, animal health officials strongly encourage all livestock owners and veterinarians to call the animal health authority in the destination state for the most current import requirements prior to travel.

Full text:

<https://salinapost.com/2019/07/16/kda-alerts-livestock-owners-of-virus-in-nearby-states/>

## **Stripping Down Bacterial Armor: A New Way to Fight Anthrax**

*(From Infection Control Today)*

A new study led by Dr. Antonella Fioravanti in the lab of professor Han Remaut (VIB-VUB Center for Structural Biology) has shown that removing the armor of the bacterium that causes anthrax slows its growth and negatively affects its ability to cause disease. This work will be published in the prestigious journal Nature Microbiology can lead the way to new, effective ways of fighting anthrax and various other diseases.

Anthrax is a deadly and highly resilient disease, caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. Historically, it was a major cause of death in humans and cattle. Today it is much less prevalent thanks to better hygiene and the immunization of cattle. Nevertheless, anthrax remains a naturally occurring disease that affects wildlife and livestock animals around the world. In humans, it presents a health concern primarily as a skin infection in people handling contaminated animal products, or more rarely as deadly systemic infection when ingested or inhaled.

The toughness of the spores and the lethality of an anthrax infection via inhalation unfortunately spurred its development as biological weapon in the mid-twentieth century. Although the

development and stockpiling of anthrax as a bio-weapon has been banned by the international community, these regulations are violated at times. Because treatment options are limited and not effective in most cases, this means anthrax remains a potential bioterrorism threat.

Full text:

<https://www.infectioncontrolday.com/bacterial/stripping-down-bacterial-armor-new-way-fight-anthrax>

## **Court Fight Could Affect Future Of Bison In Montana**

*(From Trueviralnews.com)*

The Democratic governor of Montana who is running for president and the Republican secretary of state who wants his job were locked in a constitutional dispute over a uniquely Western issue that lies at the intersection of politics, wildlife, agriculture and property rights.

The argument between Gov. Steve Bullock and Secretary of State Corey Stapleton could hamper plans to build a sanctuary where thousands of buffalo would roam. It escalated into a legal battle over whether Stapleton has the power to overrule Bullock's veto of state legislation on a technicality.

A judge who heard arguments in the case Wednesday ruled that Stapleton lacks that authority and blocked the vetoed legislation from becoming law for now.

"I think there's a substantial injury when the secretary of state of Montana overrides a veto by the Montana governor unilaterally," District Judge Mike McMahon said.

Bullock is one of nearly two dozen contenders trying to stand out in the Democratic presidential field, while Stapleton is part of a crowded GOP primary race for governor. Their fight centers on an effort to change the state's legal definition of "wild bison."

Some Republican lawmakers say the changes are necessary to close gaps in the law. The measure has support from ranchers and landowners, including the United Property Owners of Montana, who worry that an expansion of bison rangeland would increase the risk of disease to their livestock and damage to their property.

Full story here. <https://trueviralnews.com/court-fight-could-affect-future-of-bison-in-montana/>