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### ***NBA Weekly Update for January 17, 2020***

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*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.*

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### **No Weekly Update Next Week**

Dear Readers,

Because of the NBA Winter Conference and Gold Trophy Show and Sale next week, there will be no Weekly Update published. Look for us to return on January 31 with lots of news from next week's events.

Hope to See You in Denver,  
*The NBA Staff*

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### **NBA Set for Winter Conference, GTSS**

*(From NBA News Release)*

Westminster, CO (January 16, 2020) – The 400 ranchers bringing more than 100 head of live bison to Denver next week will also be bringing a commitment to continue building the market for bison meat based upon the quality of the meat and a dedication to sustainable ranching

practices.

The ranchers will be gathering at the National Bison Association's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary conference at the Denver Renaissance Hotel, and at the association's Gold Trophy Show and Sale at the National Western Stock Show. See the 2020 GTSS catalog [here](#).



"The bison business is expanding its efforts to develop meaningful relationships with our customers based on the great taste, nutritional attributes and environmental benefits of bison meat," said Dave Carter, executive director of the Westminster, CO-based association. "During our conference, we will be focusing heavily on working with the public as partners in bison restoration."

Keynote presenters during the association's 25<sup>th</sup> annual conference include Laurie Demeritt, CEO of Hartman Group Consumer Research Firm, and Rob Bleifer, executive chef and vice president of culinary at Food Network.

"Laurie and Rob have valuable insights and expertise that will help us introduce more people to bison, which will help us continue to build our business," Carter said.

Other sessions during the conference will focus on animal management, herd health, marketing, and cooperative relationships with tribal producers and the Canadian bison business. See a full agenda [here](#).

USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulation Greg Ibach is scheduled to address the group and discuss bison programs within that agency.

The annual conference will kick off at the Renaissance Hotel at 3801 Quebec St. with a luncheon on Wednesday (which the association has renamed as Bison Hump Day). Working sessions will unfold during the following two days, and the conference concludes with its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.



## Quality Items 'Consigned' for Benefit Auction

"Bringing the Best to Town," isn't just a catchphrase for Gold Trophy Show and Sale this year; it also applies to many of the items already "consigned" for the annual benefit auction scheduled January 23<sup>rd</sup> during the National Bison Association annual conference.

Headlining the auction line-up with Statue No. 1 of The Sage, created by renowned artist Veryl Goodnight to commemorate the association's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Goodnight has offered the first 15 sculptures to the NBA at a special price. Twelve have already been reserved for \$3,800 apiece. Two more are available for purchase, and No. 1 will be auctioned next Thursday.



Black Kettle Buffalo is also donating two silver-chromed bison skulls to benefit the NBA. One skull will be part of the raffle line-up, and the other will be auctioned Thursday.

Dr. Ken Throlson has sent along a knife





with a handle that he handcrafted from Cholla cactus wood and a buffalo nickel. That item will benefit the Throlson American Bison Foundation. Mosquito Park Enterprises has worked with Round Lake Vineyards to create a specially labeled edition of their signature red wine blend to commemorate the National Buffalo Foundation's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Proceeds from that item will benefit the NBF.

And, Mammoth Site archeological dig up South Dakota are donating a large laser cut ranch sign commemorating the NBA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

In addition to the silver-chromed bison skull, the raffle will include a beautiful handmade bison quilt and a *Stronger than Steel* bison sculpture, made and donated by Terry Jones--and made entirely from recycled items.



## Ibach Heads List of USDA Officials at Conference

U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Greg Ibach, along with at least two other agency officials will be actively participating in the activities next week at the NBA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary winter conference.

Ibach, who serves as Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulation, is expected to focus on the agency's work in improving animal traceability, but will likely touch on a variety of other issues important to U.S. bison ranchers and markets.

Agencies under Ibach's jurisdiction at USDA include the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).



Ibach will address the conference general session Wednesday afternoon.

Amber Sisco, market news reporter for AMS, is scheduled to participate in the Commercial Marketers' Committee meeting scheduled on Thursday morning. Sisco will discuss ideas for refining and expanding the monthly bison reports produced by AMS.

And, Joseph Degreenia, bison specialist for USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, will be one of the presenters during the Commercial marketers' Panel discussion scheduled as a conference general session Thursday morning.

Dave Carter, NBA executive director, noted, "We have worked hard over the past two decades to develop strong working relationships with the agencies within USDA. The willingness of key leaders within USDA to participate in our conference reflects the strength of those relationships."

## Conley Spreads NBA Winter Conference Message

NBA Communications Director Karen Conley spread the word on the association's upcoming winter conference activities this week, in an interview that was carried across the West by AgInfo.net.

Listen to the full interview here.

<https://www.aginfo.net/report/44885/Colorado-Ag-Today/National-Bison-Association-Meets-in-Denver>

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## Thank You Winter Conference and GTSS Trophy Sponsors!

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## Prairie Edge named Retailer of the Year by SD Retailers Association

*(From the Rapid City Journal)*

Prairie Edge art gallery and Sioux trading post in Rapid City was named Retailer of the Year at the South Dakota Retailers Association annual banquet in Pierre this week.



Prairie Edge is owned by NBA member Mimi Hillenbrand of the 777 Ranch near Rapid City, and has operated in downtown Rapid City since the 1980s, providing an outlet for Native American artists and helping educate the public about Native American culture. The business offers everything from clothing, jewelry and paintings to books, herbs and crafts.

“Prairie Edge has become an integral part of the revitalization of downtown Rapid City and an important cultural touchstone,” said SDRA Executive Director Nathan Sanderson. “They focus on providing the best possible experience for their employees, customers, and the people whose works they sell.”

The leadership team at Prairie Edge has been a driving force in establishing Main Street Square in downtown Rapid City, developing transitional housing for homeless people, helping to establish the Lakota Nation Invitational Basketball Tournament, and other important community and cultural projects.

Founder Ray Hillenbrand died last year.

“Ray’s legacy and Prairie Edge’s legacy, is you can’t just come in and set up and do business and that’s it,” said general manager Dan Tribby. “You have to help other people out, be a good community member, and encourage your employees to be good community members.”

Read more [here](#).

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## At Ted’s Montana Frill, Sustainability is Part of the Business Model

*(From the Chicago Tribune)*

For more than a decade, Ted’s Montana Grill has been serving classic American dishes and providing genuine hospitality to diners at their charming location in Naperville.

“We love being in the heart of downtown Naperville,” said Chris Tillson, proprietor of Ted’s Montana Grill in Naperville. “The area is vibrant and filled with friendly people we call our guests.”

Tillson said whether guests visit after a busy day of shopping or are there to celebrate a



special occasion, his team has the same goal.

“Our goal is to make them feel better when they leave Ted’s than when they came (in),” Tillson said.

Tillson said Ted’s Montana Grill believes that the little things are what makes a good experience great. In Naperville that includes preparing food in small batches throughout the day, hand-crafting its burgers and hand-cutting each steak rib and roast at their in-house butcher shop.

Read more [here](#).

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## **Bison Are Back in the Great Plains—Sweet, But What Does That Actually Mean?**

Driving north of Pawhuska, Oklahoma, an extraordinary landscape comes into view. Trees disappear and an immense landscape of grass emerges, undulating in the wind like a great, green ocean.

This is the Flint Hills. For over a century it has been cattle country, a place where cows grow fat on nutritious grasses. More recently, a piece of this landscape was transformed in 1989 when the nonprofit [Nature Conservancy](#) bought the Barnard Ranch. It created a nature reserve there, the [Tallgrass Prairie Preserve](#), which now covers almost 40,000 acres.

A central element of the group’s conservation strategy was reintroducing the American bison (*Bison bison*), which had been eradicated from the land in the mid-1800s. Releasing the first bison in 1993 was a step toward restoring part of an ecosystem that once [stretched from Texas to Minnesota](#).

Today some 500,000 bison have been restored in over 6,000 [locations](#), including public lands, private ranches and Native American lands. As they return, [researchers like me](#) are gaining insights into their substantial ecological and conservation value.

It was not always certain that bison could rebound. Once numbering in the tens of millions, they dominated the Great Plains landscape until the late 1800s, anchoring a remarkable ecosystem that contained perhaps the [greatest concentration of mammals on Earth](#). That abundance was [wiped out](#) as settlers and the U.S. government engaged in a brutally effective campaign to eradicate the ecosystem and the native cultures that relied on it.

Bison were shot by the millions, sometimes for “sport,” sometimes for profit, and ultimately to [deprive Native Americans of vital resources](#). By 1890 fewer than 1,000 bison were left, and the outlook for them was bleak. Two small wild populations remained, in Yellowstone National Park and northern Alberta, Canada; and a few individuals survived in zoos and on private ranches.

Read more [here](#).

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## **New information from FWP on Bison Restoration**

*(From ABC Fox Montana)*

GREAT FALLS - After nearly eight years of public processing, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks have issued a decision on publicly managing bison.

Montana FWP will not be advancing a site-specific restoration program, instead, any new proposal is now going to have to follow specific guidelines focused on state law and the Environmental Impact System.

Since 2010 the public has been confused about what the process is for publicly

managed bison restoration, and now FWP is fixing that confusion with a [press release](#) on what it will take for someone to get restoration proposal approved.

“We didn’t decide with a specific restoration project in mind, or a specific restoration plan in mind. We issued a decision that finally clarifies the process that someone would have to go through if they wanted to restore publicly managed bison in Montana,” said Greg Lemon, Information Bureau Chief at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Any proposal for bison restoration will have to undergo site-specific analysis and a public review process.

FWP stated they feel any restoration effort could take a considerable amount of time for even the smallest of test subjects.

FWP says the success of any bison restoration program will be dependent on who is directly or indirectly impacted by bison on their land and if you would like any more information on the release you can find the [link here](#).

[Source.](#)

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## **Nature Up Close: Bison in Winter**

*(From CBS Morning News)*

Watching a big male Yellowstone bison use its massive head to move snow out of the way to get to the grass below is an impressive sight. I'm struck by how much effort they must exert to get to a relatively small amount of grass. How they survive long Yellowstone winters is a mystery to me. But they have been doing it for eons.

Although all the bison in North America are the same species (*Bison bison*), Yellowstone bison are slightly different from plains bison. Often called mountain or wood bison, Yellowstone bison males have a much larger head and more massive shoulders they use like a bulldozer to move snow away from their food. Another way of stating the differences is that the male mountain bison has low surface-to-volume ratios. That is, a male mountain bison has less surface area in comparison to his body's total volume, which allows them to withstand cold better.

That isn't true for female and young mountain bison who have higher surface-to-volume ratios than mature males. Maybe that is why the former are more likely to move out of the park to lower, less snowy elevations in the winter. They aren't as well-adapted to the cold. They also aren't as good at moving snow out of the way to get to the grass they need to survive.

Some migrating bison go to the west of Yellowstone, and others go north. The north side of Yellowstone, along with the area north of the park, is attractive to them due to lower elevations (and therefore usually less snow). But that is also where problems arise. Many Montana ranchers do not want bison near their cattle. There has never been a proven case of transmission between bison and domestic cattle, but bison do carry brucellosis, a bacterial disease that can cause spontaneous abortions in both bison and cattle. Elk also carry brucellosis and migrate outside the park, but have been able to escape the stigma that bison have, maybe because hunters like targeting elk more than they do bison.

Full story and video [here](#).

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## **Wyoming Funds College Meat Program, Mobile Slaughter**

*(From Meatingplace.com)*

The state of Wyoming has awarded a \$777,809 grant to Central Wyoming College to develop a meat processing program that will include a mobile slaughtering unit, the school announced.

The funding, through the Wyoming Works initiative, will support an agriculture faculty position and meat sciences lab equipment, as well as the mobile unit, and is based on a four-year budget. The program will also serve Eastern Wyoming College and the Northern Wyoming Community College District in a consortium.

Central Wyoming College President Brad Tyndall said the program will provide for the workforce needs of the area, which is due to gain a new USDA-inspected meat slaughter and processing facility, Wyoming Genuine Meats, this spring. In addition, a local state-inspected facility is considering changing to a USDA-inspected plant, he said.

"Fremont, Hot Springs and Teton counties are really tourism corridors with many thousands of people driving through wanting to experience local food and meats. Our Rocky Mountain Complex, which should break ground in 2021, intends to help meet that agri-tourism need locally and elsewhere by "beefing up main street," as I like to say. More and more people are contacting us to be a part of this vision," Tyndall said in a press release.

Central Wyoming College's Wyoming Works agriculture-related programs will serve 60 students annually in a two-year program, or 120 students across the four years of the grant period. The consortium will add an additional 76 students annually in a two-year program, or 152 across the four years of this grant period.

The college said it created its animal sciences and meat sciences curricula in consultation with local ag producers and meat processors. Once the school received approval for the meat sciences curriculum, it was then approved as a Wyoming Works program by the Wyoming Community College Commission.

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## **North Dakota Department of Agriculture Launched the Feed Transportation Cost-Share Program**

*(From AgriPulse)*

**MINOT, N.D.** - Many North Dakota farmers and ranchers had a rough year in 2019, but a new program may relieve some of their burdens.

Many ranchers found their feed unusable after excessive moisture destroyed their supply. If they apply for the program in time, they could get help to recover a portion of the cost to transport feed they purchased to replace what was damaged.

Last fall, poor weather conditions contributed to a dismal harvest for wheat, potatoes, corn, and other crops.

"Certainly, mother nature stretched her imagination last year and 2019 will be one that all in agriculture to remember," said Julie Ellingson, Executive Vice President of North Dakota Stockmen's Association.

Unusual moisture also ruined the hay and straw ranchers use to feed livestock.

"The gathering of hay, the making of silage creating a feed accessibility issue for many livestock producers in North Dakota," said Ellingson.

To help offset some of that, the North Dakota Department of Agriculture launched the Feed Transportation Cost-Share Program. The \$250,000 state-funded plan gives back a portion of the cost ranchers use to transport hay.

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## **USDA's Food Safety Triumvirate Had A Lot Of Visitors This Past Year**

*(From Food Safety News)*

Each member of the triumvirate responsible for food safety at USDA brings something



unique to the department's leadership. Deputy Under Secretary Mindy Brashears is a top food scientist. FSIS Administrator Carmen Rottenberg is an experienced government lawyer. And Deputy FSIS Administrator Paul Kiecker has, during the past 30 years, held almost every job in the agency since joining it as a food inspector.

People outside USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) last August came to the agency to discuss a variety of issues. These included: sodium reduction targets, quail issues, consumer food safety education, Tyson, pre-harvest food safety inspection, exports, human rights, and the Humane Society.

Each time, one or more members of the triumvirate were both a fit and available to meet with the outside parties. FSIS periodically reports after the fact on meetings of agency leaders with persons outside the federal government.

Where bison is the sole meat ingredient of a product, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates it. That's why a Sept. 18 meeting that Rottenberg and Kiecker had with National Bison Association leaders is interesting. The topic was bison inspection. There currently is a voluntary program for USDA/FDA bison inspection.

Dave Carter, Executive Director of the National Bison Association, had a follow-up telephone conference with Rottenberg on Oct. 17 with "inspection" as the reported topic. Rottenberg and key staff members also finished up the swine inspection interviews by holding a session on Oct. 21, 2019, with Morgan Radford and Aaron Franco, both with NBC News.

Read more [here](#).

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## **USMCA Easily Clears Congress On 89-10 Senate Vote**

*(From AgriPulse)*

The Senate on Thursday overwhelmingly approved the Trump administration's revision of the North American trade pact with Canada and Mexico, sending the deal to the White House where the president indicated he will sign the implementing bill in a grand ceremony next week.

The Senate passed the implementing bill, 89-10, a virtually identical margin to the House's earlier 385-41 vote. The lone senator who missed the vote, Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., supports the agreement.

The Senate no votes included Democratic presidential nominee Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Minority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

The other senators running for president - Sens. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Michael Bennet of Colorado - all voted for the agreement. Sanders and Schumer both complained that the agreement didn't contain provisions to address climate change.

Still, the support for USMCA, which would open up new Canadian market share for U.S. dairy and poultry, was historically broad and bipartisan for trade issues, and was especially notable given the criticism that the original North American Free Trade Agreement has received. The relief from the U.S. ag sector is palpable after years of threats from President Donald Trump to pull out of NAFTA.

d delicious array of products.”

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## **Trading Meat for a Plant-Based Patty Doesn't Make Fast Food Healthier**

*(From Healthline.com)*

On Monday, Jan. 13, rapper and media personality Snoop Dogg [took to his Instagram](#) to reveal his next big brand partnership: a new breakfast sandwich from Dunkin' that uses

plant-based protein and the company's signature glazed doughnuts.

In a [blog post](#) announcing the Beyond D-O-Double G Sandwich, Dunkin' revealed the sandwich would only be available at select locations for just 1 week, from Jan. 13 to 19.

Consisting of a meatless [Beyond Sausage](#) patty, egg, and cheese that's served on a sliced glazed doughnut, the Snoop-approved menu item might sound like a tasty way to start the morning. But obviously, not a healthy one.

However, nutritionists say it's not merely the glazed doughnut bun that makes it an unhealthy choice.

In fact, the growing plant-based meat alternative trend fast-food chains are embracing isn't as healthy as they'd like you to believe.

It's not just the glazed doughnut bun.

While there's currently no nutritional information about the new, limited-time-only sandwich on the company's website, Dunkin' does have [nutrition information](#) available for the original Beyond Sausage sandwich that was launched last fall.

Read more [here](#).

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## Trump's Next Trade Fight Could Be With Europe

*(From NY Times)*

WASHINGTON — European officials arrived in Washington this week with a new mantra for the trans-Atlantic trading relationship: reset, refresh, recalibrate.

But when it comes to dealing with the Trump administration, it appears that the new European Union government, even more than its predecessor, may be gearing up for a fight.

In remarks in Washington on Thursday morning, [Phil Hogan, the new European trade commissioner](#), gave a frank assessment of an important trading relationship that had grown troubled on many fronts.

Mr. Hogan vowed to "robustly defend" European interests as he justified the European position on trade spats with the United States over [airplane subsidies](#), [digital taxes](#) and [the World Trade Organization](#). He criticized American officials for inaccurately claiming that trade between the United States and European countries was unbalanced, and said that the administration's aggressive use of tariffs against trading partners was "hardly a sensible approach."

Read more [here](#).

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- 1/25/2020 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - Denver, CO
- 2/6/2020 - DTBA Annual Conference and Black Hills Buffalo Classic Auction - SD
- 2/15/2020 - Prairie Legends Conservation Bison Auction - NM
- 02/20/2020 - Manitoba Bison Association Great Spirit Sale - MB
- 3/05/2020 - Eastern Bison Association Annual Sale and Conference - PA
- 03/06/2020 - Denver Mountain Parks Genesee Bison Auction - CO
- 3/07/2020 - Rocky Mountain Bison Association Spring Conference - CO
- 3/21/2020 - Missouri Bison Association Spring Sale - MO
- 04/03/2020 - Minnesota Bison Association's Education Conference
- 06/21 - 06/23/2020 - National Bison Summer Conference - Cheyenne, WY

Please visit <https://bisoncentral.com/calendar/> for details and more up-to-date events. If you have a bison event coming up that's not listed, please send the details to [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com) and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

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[Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events](#)

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