

# Online Only Bison Auctions!

## **BENJAMIN LEE BISON, SAYRE, OK**

Monday, February 17 • 10 a.m. CST • (100)+ Head of Bull Calves, Yearling, Two Year Old and Mature Bulls

## **BUFFALO CROSSING RANCH, SHELBYVILLE, KY**

Tuesday, February 18 • 10 a.m. EST • (81) Mature, Bred Cows and (50) Yearling Heifers

## **CALI BISON, ALTURIS, CA**

Tuesday, February 18 • 11 a.m. PST

(35) Head of Calves, Two Year Old Heifers, Yearling and Three Year Old Bulls

Photos, videos and registration for all auctions available at:

**[www.qas.hibid.com](http://www.qas.hibid.com)**



Jud Seaman - Auctioneer  
(605) 390-1419



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### ***NBA Weekly Update for February 14, 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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## **NBA, ITBC Initiate effort to expand Bison in School Lunch Program**

National Bison Association Executive Director Dave Carter and two representatives of the InterTribal Buffalo Council met with representatives of two USDA agencies on Wednesday to formally initiate the drive to expand bison usage in the federal school lunch program.

Bison has been utilized in USDA's Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations for more than two decades, but is not part of the agency's Food and Nutrition Service's Foods Available for Purchase list to be used in the national school lunch program. The meeting this week was designed to initiate the process of getting bison added to that list.

Officials from FNS explained that USDA provides about 20 percent of the food utilized in the federal school lunch program. The other 80 percent is sources commercially by individual school districts. They noted that the agency adds products to the Foods Available for Purchase list once there is a demonstrated demand for that product from the commercial sector.

The USDA officials also recommended that the bison industry participate in fairs sponsored periodically by individual State School Nutrition Associations. Those fairs provide potential vendors with an opportunity to sample products, distribute recipes and

develop with school district officials in charge of purchasing for their school lunch programs.

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## Capitol Hill Barnstorm Focuses on Truth in buffalo Labeling

While in Washington, D.C. this week, National Bison Association Executive Director met with aides in 10 Senate and House offices to garner support for the Truth in Buffalo Labeling Act, which has now been introduced in both chambers.

*From left, U.S. Rep Ed Perlmutter (D-CO),*

*NBA Executive Director Dave Carter*

“Right now, we are still trying to gather additional names as co-sponsors, and to establish a time frame for holding a hearing the Health Committees in each Chamber,” Carter said.

In addition to huddling with the staff of Senate bills sponsors U.S. Sens John Hoeven (R-ND) and Michael Bennet (D-CO), Carter also met with aides to U.S. Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AL), Patty Murray (D-WA) Bob Casey (D-PA) and Mike Enzi (R-WY) All of those Senators are members of the Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee, which has jurisdiction over the legislation.

In the House, Carter met with staff members for bill sponsors U.S. Reps Ed Perlmutter (D-CO and Billy Long (R-MO) along with aides for U.S. Reps. Carol Miller (R-WV), Michael Burgess (R-TX) and Diane DeGette (D-CO) He also met with both the majority and minority stagg members on the House Energy & Commerce Committee’s Health Subcommittee.

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## Youth Test Skills on Eyeing Bison Quality

### *Junior Judging Competition Fosters New Bison producers*

DENVER, CO (February 12, 2020) – Forty five students wandered around the pens of bison late last week at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, peering intently at the animals, and jotting down notes, before standing before a panel of seasoned bison ranchers to defend their reasons for favoring one animal over another.

When the dust settled and the competition ended, Lilian Stavig of Jefferson County, CO 4-H won the top senior high competition, and Cooper Sanchez of Showkids 4-H in Bear River, Wyoming walked away with the top junior individual honors, while two Jefferson County 4H teams took the top two honors in the Group Rankings.

The second-place winter in the senior competition was Elizabeth Schroeder, and the third-place honor went to Marty Kacsh, both of Jefferson County, CO 4-H. Stavig was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship from the National Buffalo Foundation, Schroeder received a \$1,200 scholarship sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Bison Association, and Kasch received a \$900 scholarship sponsored by Rocky Mountain Natural Meats.

Jim Matheson, assistant director of the National Bison Association, helped coordinate the competition, and noted, “Our Junior Judging program is designed to help young people develop the skills to identify bison that will have hardiness in the pasture environment, will produce healthy calves, and will ultimately bring to market the high quality, healthy meat that our customers have come to expect.”

The Junior Judging competition is held annually at the National Western Stock Show by the National Bison Association and the Rocky Mountain Bison Association, which collectively represent nearly 2,000 members in 48 states and 10 foreign countries. Information on the National Bison Association is available at [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com).

## Farmers Marketer's: Stock Up on NBA's Promotional Resources

Winter has most of bison-country in its grip, but many NBA member-ranchers are already planning for the upcoming season of setting up pop-up tents, sampling products, and enticing prospective customers into their booths at local farmers' marketers.

As you start making plans for the upcoming 2020 farmers' market season, don't overlook the wealth of resources available through the National Bison Association, thanks to resources provided by USDA's Farmers' Market Promotion Program. Here are some of the marketing and promotional materials that are only a click away on [www.bisoncentral.com](http://www.bisoncentral.com):



1. Bison feather flags – a feather flag can help draw prospective customers' eyes to your market booth, and the NBA has several available that promote the "Bison Advantage."
2. *Cooking with Bison is Easy* cards – One of the most prevalent questions asked by prospective customers is, "how do cook it?" The NBA teamed up with the Escoffier School of Culinary Arts to produce three short on-line videos covering cooking ideas for bison burger, roasts and steaks. The NBA has cards contain9ng a QR code that marketers can distribute to those customers to help them go on-line and view those tips.
3. *Why Bison* brochure – This tri-fold brochure is an attractive introduction into bison nutritional benefits, recipes and cooking tips.

Of course, the first step in your 2020 marketing season is to make sure that you are listed in the NBA's new *BuySome Bison* consumer app. By signing up for the NBA on-line buyers guide at <https://bisoncentral.com/buyers-guide/>, you will automatically be listed in *BuySome Bison*. In the buyers' guide, and on the app, you can list the farmers' markets in which you will be participating.

If you are having trouble navigating through regulatory and labeling issues, or if you just need some ideas for marketing and promotion, be sure to check out the comprehensive resource guide available on-line at <https://bisoncentral.com/marketing-resources/>



### Winter 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 Winter 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.

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**Editor's Note: The following news stories were distributed by organizations not affiliated with the National Bison Association. They may not reflect the**



# MISSOURI BISON ASSOCIATION



## 21ST ANNUAL SPRING SHOW & SALE

Saturday, **March 21th, 2020** – 11:00 AM

Mo-Kan Livestock Market, Butler, MO

Dinner & Fun Auction: March 20th,  
Sale Barn Cafe, 6pm

To Consign, Call:  
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## When did wild bison disappear from Minnesota?

*(From The Star Tribune)*

When President Barack Obama designated the American bison as the national mammal in 2016, it capped a stunning comeback for an animal that once dominated the American frontier but was nearly driven to extinction.

Centuries before American settlers migrated west, bison freely roamed the interior of the United States, from the mountains of Idaho to the woodlands of New York, in numbers surpassing 30 million before rampant hunting left [fewer than 1,000 wild bison](#) in the United States in the 1880s. The empty prairies that once teemed with bison got Ed Mathwig wondering about the animal's history in Minnesota.

The 74-year-old from Rochester turned to [Curious Minnesota](#), our community-driven reporting initiative fueled by questions from readers, to ask: Where were bison found in Minnesota and when did they disappear?

Contrary to popular western songs, [buffalo never actually roamed](#) the United States, because they are a different animal indigenous to South Asia and Africa. Bison, with their distinct shaggy manes and broad heads, are the large wild bovines native to North America.

The recorded history of bison in the Minnesota began when the 17th-century missionary Father Louis Hennepin and a group of Native Americans found the animals along the Mississippi River, according to Evadene Swanson's "The Use and Conservation of Minnesota wildlife, 1850-1900." The animals the group encountered were American plains bison, one of two species of American bison, along with the wood bison.

Read [more](#).

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## Learn history of the bison at new exhibit in Enid museum

*(From KFOR)*

ENID, Okla. (KFOR) – A new exhibit featuring the history of the American Bison has opened at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid.

[According to the Heritage Center's website](#), the "Bison Exhibit" tells "the tragic history of this majestic animal, its rescue from near extinction, and the story of people across North America working to preserve the bison as a vibrant part of our future."

The National Buffalo Foundation has made the exhibit available for tour across North America.

“The American Bison was such an important mammal all across North America, both ecologically and culturally,” said Heritage Center Director Jake Krumwiede. “Their rapid decline to near extinction was catastrophic, but also symbolic of the changes happening in the ever-evolving American West in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The conservation efforts made in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are admirable, to say the least.”

The exhibit opened to the public on Feb. 11 and will stay open through March 24. Visitors to the Heritage Center can see the exhibit at no additional cost, with the regular price of admission.

The Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center is located at 507 S. Fourth St. in Enid.

Read more [here](#).

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## **Ranch-Focused Educational Event Planned**

*(From Western Farmer-Stockman)*

In a single day, the organizers of the inaugural Range Practicum are offering a large slate of useful information. The event is slated for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 20 at the National Western Complex in Denver. Here’s a look at the many hands-on educational events scheduled.

The highlight of the event is a low-stress livestock handling workshop led by Whit Hibbard of Montana. Hibbard is a protégé of Bud Williams and is a longtime student of low-stress livestock management. The workshop will include a look at horsemanship, ranch roping and facilities design.

Even a lifelong rancher can benefit from this workshop, according to Hibbard, who says the educational sessions “will save you money and make you money.”

The event also features a Women in Ranching Forum. This is a keynote event that highlights some of the leading women in ranching across the West. The panel includes women with non-ranching backgrounds and those whose families have been ranching for many generations. Topics range from “Betting It All” to “Using Bison to Regenerate Grasslands” to “Regenerative Ranching.”

The Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and Mantle Ranch of Wheatland, Wyo., will host a daylong wild horse training demonstration. Topics include handling fresh-trapped horses, first touch and halter-starting the untrained horse. The demonstration will also cover include wild horse and burro issues. At the end of the day, there will be a trained wild horse auction.

Read more [here](#).

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## **NCBA Research Highlights Plant-Based Confusion**

*(From Meatingplace.com)*

The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) released the results of a survey it conducted that show “widespread consumer confusion regarding the ingredient composition and purported benefits of plant-based fake meat products,” the organization said in a news release.

NCBA surveyed more than 1,800 consumers online, and found that less than half of the respondents understood that the labeling term “plant-based beef” was intended to describe an entirely vegetarian or vegan food product. Further, about one-third of surveyed consumers “believed that plant-based fake meat products contained at least some real beef in them,” NCBA said.

“The fact that so many consumers look at these labels and think that the products include meat or other animal by-products is a clear sign that the misleading labeling and deceptive

marketing practices of plant-based fake meat companies has caused real consumer confusion,” said NCBA President Jennifer Houston, in a statement.

Respondents also indicated that they believed the plant-based substitutes were healthier than meat, indicating that they believed the analogues were lower in sodium and less processed than a beef burger.

NCBA has actively pressed for regulations that prohibit plant-based meat substitutes from using the term “beef” on the label.

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## **Election-Year Budget Slashes Farm Programs, Boosts Infrastructure**

*(From Agri-Pulse)*

President Donald Trump’s election-year budget proposes \$1 trillion in infrastructure spending, including \$25 billion earmarked for rural America, while reprising the administration’s failed efforts to slash farm programs and nutrition assistance.

The fiscal 2021 budget also repeats past proposals to deeply cut funding for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Under the “Revitalizing Rural America” infrastructure initiative, funding for broadband, transportation and other projects would be distributed via formula to states. Bonus grants would be “provided based on the boldness of locally-developed investment and performance plans,” according to the White House.

The largest portion of the total 10-year infrastructure plan, \$810 billion, would be devoted to surface transportation.

Congress is not expected to consider a major long-term infrastructure package this year, although small individual bills could pass, including water projects authorization legislation. A president’s annual budget lays out the administration’s spending priorities both for program where entitlement programs such as commodity programs, food stamps, Medicare and Social Security, where spending levels are determined by eligibility, and for “discretionary” programs that are subject to annual appropriations by Congress.

Congress has shown no interest in the sweeping cuts in spending proposed by Trump. But the FY21 budget, released Monday, calls for \$43 billion in cuts to farm programs over the next 10 years, including proposals rejected repeatedly by Congress to slash crop insurance subsidies.

“Farm subsidies should be targeted to the farmers who have fewer options to manage risk through the private sector,” the budget says.

The White House wants to save \$21 billion by reducing the average premium subsidy for crop insurance from 62% to 48%. Capping crop insurance companies’ underwriting gains at 12% would save \$2.8 billion.

The major trade groups representing the crop insurance industry quickly issued a joint statement criticizing the proposal.

“It’s inexplicable as to why OMB would target such a critical risk-management tool for budget cuts. The proposed cuts will make crop insurance unaffordable and unavailable for farmers, seriously undermining the farm safety net,” said the statement issued by the American Association of Crop Insurers, Crop Insurance and Reinsurance Bureau, Crop Insurance Professionals Association, Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America, National Association of Professional Insurance Agents, and National Crop Insurance Services.

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## **An Elder Statesman of Sustainable Ag Looks to the ‘Regenerative Generation’**

*(From Civil Eats)*

When it comes to farming organically and building resilient, sustainable agricultural systems, Fred Kirschenmann is a prominent and oft-awarded elder statesman. And while you might expect him to be reflective (he'll be 85 on February 4), the pioneering organic farmer is firmly forward-thinking.

Kirshchenmann is president of the board at [Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture](#), a regenerative agriculture farm and educational center located about 30 miles north of New York City. During an interview with Civil Eats at the center's [2019 Young Farmers Conference](#) in early December, Kirshchenmann referenced authors to illustrate the future of agriculture. Jared Diamond, for example, studied past civilizations to find out what caused some to thrive while others collapsed.

"The conclusion he came to was that those civilizations that recognized that changes were on the way and got a head start preparing for those changes—they were the ones that thrived," Kirschenmann said. "Those that failed in that exercise were the ones that tended to collapse. And when I read that, I thought, 'That's an important lesson for us, because we do know that changes are on the way.'"

But Kirschenmann is not just observing changes related to the economic and environmental viability of farming sustainably—he's living them.

Over the past few years, political maneuvering in Iowa resulted in [a major loss of state research funding](#) for the pioneering [Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture](#) based out of Iowa State University, where he is the distinguished fellow.

At his 1,800-acre, certified organic grain farm in south-central North Dakota, he was forced to rethink the crop rotation system after the market for buckwheat collapsed. And at a time when [farm succession](#) is one of the biggest challenges facing agriculture, he's working on transferring ownership of the farm to the family that's been working the land for many years.

Read [more](#).

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## **Is Regenerative Agriculture Profitable?**

*(From Forbes)*

2020 will be a year of climate and environment. The World Economic Forum's top five long-term global risks are all [environment-related](#). With that, regenerative agriculture is set to take center stage. For those who aren't familiar with it, regenerative agriculture is a set of farmland management practices that go beyond sustainable farming to rebuild soil health, a key solution to combating climate change and recapturing carbon. Here I'll be tackling a question that is top of mind for many investors interested in farmland: Can moving from traditional cropping systems to regenerative agriculture be profitable?

I believe the answer to that question is a resounding yes. Many might point to decreases in yield, but under the right conditions, and by taking a holistic view of farmland operations and the underlying asset value, the profitability of a farm can increase, all while reducing risk and crop loss. Below, we'll look at research that backs up that opinion and what it might mean for your investments.

### **Comparing Regenerative Versus Conventional Corn Systems**

Accounting for [approximately 30%](#) of all gross crop value in the U.S., corn is a crop of special significance in the U.S. agriculture market. Nearly all of that crop is grown through conventional farming practices, which include tillage and the introduction of additional fertilizer and pesticides.

Researchers from Ecdysis Foundation [investigated](#) how the move to more regenerative systems might affect yields, pests and profitability. The 20 farms in the review were ranked based on their implementation of regenerative agriculture practices. The researchers then looked at soil organic matter, pest presence, crop yield and profit.

As expected, crop yields decreased in regenerative systems, and by 29%, no less. But while yield has served as the traditional metric of interest for farmers, that decrease in yield does not tell the whole story. The study found that the farms with regenerative practices were 78% more profitable than conventional plots. This increase in profitability was the result of two main factors: input costs and end markets.

Read [more](#).



## REACH THE WHOLE HERD!

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### *Save the Date!*

- 2/15/2020 - Prairie Legends Conservation Bison Auction - NM
- 2/17/2020 - Benjamin Lee Bison Online Only Auction - OK
- 2/18/2020 - Buffalo Crossing Ranch Online Only Auction - KY
- 2/18/2020 - Cali Bison Ranch, LLC Online Only Auction - CA
- 02/20/2020 - Manitoba Bison Association Great Spirit Sale - MB
- 2/22/2020 - Rocking P Ranch & Guests Online Only Bison Auction - SD
- 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.

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

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