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Weekly Update



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NBA Weekly Update for August 5, 2022

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.

Winter Conference Meets, Starts Planning 2023 Event

The NBA Winter Conference committee met this week for its first meeting to start planning the 2023 gathering. Mark your calendars for January 18 - 21, 2023 in Westminister, Colorado for the largest bison gathering of the year, which concludes with our Gold Trophy Show and Sale bison auction at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, CO.



The conference will be held at a new venue this year - the [Westin Westminister](https://www.westinwestminster.com), which hosted the conference for a number of years prior to the Denver Renaissance and is just five minutes further away from the National Western Stock Show. Room rates are comparable to those of the Renaissance and the hotel is in a much safer area with ample trailer parking and restaurants/shopping within walking distance. Reservation instructions will be posted shortly at <https://bisoncentral.com/winter-conference/>.

Chaired again by Beverly Brown, Lucky B Bison in Texas, the committee discussed potential themes, speakers, raffle items and more. While still early in the planning process, the group had tons of fun and informative ideas that will entertain and educate all attendees. Said Brown, "We have a new host hotel, a new director and staff, and a chance for us to get together in the large numbers that we used to before the pandemic. Please plan to join us for what's going to be an amazing conference and bison gathering!".

The committee hopes to have a fairly final agenda by the end of their next meeting in September with registration opening in October. Again, please mark your calendars and plan to join us!

NBA Bison App Webinar Tutorial #3 – Thursday, August 18th at 5 pm MT

The NBA will host its third Bison Producer App How-To Webinar for members to learn how to use this powerful herd management tool, which is free to NBA members. Next week's webinar will focus on the transfer and traceability functions of the app, as well as how to participate in the NBA's [Conservation Management Plan](#) via the app. The webinar will include:

1. How to participate in the Conservation Management Plan (CMP)
2. Go through the process of transferring animals from one premise to another
3. Demonstrate traceability via herd.ly
4. QR settings for data sharing

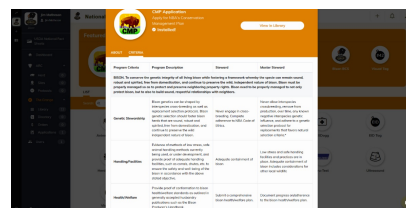
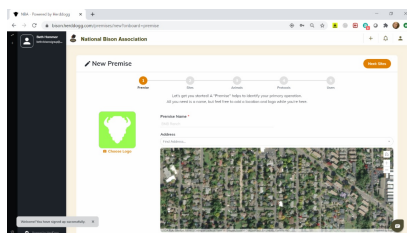
Watch the previous two webinars at

<https://bisoncentral.com/publication/conference-presentations/>.

The app, which was developed five years ago through the support of the USDA's Risk Management Agency, is the only bison-specific field app in today's marketplace. The app allows users to track their herd's vital data in the field, no internet or cell access is required, which includes weight, calving rates, vaccination schedules, herd moves, and much more.

Enhance your herd management with HerdDogg DoggTags. Patented ear tag technology that collects animal identification, location, movement, and welfare at long range. The data is delivered directly to your phone—allowing you to check on your herd from anywhere at anytime. Learn more at herddogg.com/the-shop/.

Learn more about the Bison App and download on Apple and Android devices at <https://bisoncentral.com/conservation-item/nba-producers-app/>.



USDA FSIS Plant Directory Now Available

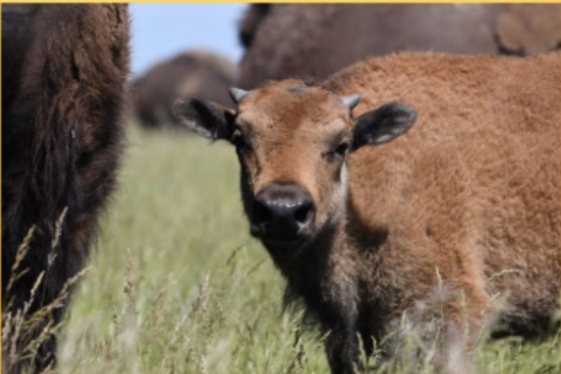
Processing meat can be an enormous challenge in the bison business, due to the nature of the animal and our relatively low-volume, great planning is needed to secure a consistent packer for your products.

A new resource is now available from the US Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Services (FSIS) in its directory of all established processing plants in the US, which you can sort by "Voluntary Inspection" to limit those that would potentially process bison and would require a phone call to inquire about bison processing - <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/inspection/establishments/meat-poultry-and-egg-product-inspection-directory>.

The NBA in the past compiled a separate list of USDA voluntary inspected processing plants across the U.S. We refer our Canadian members to the [Canadian Bison Association](#). Please [download this database](#) of voluntary processing plants, which is sorted by State, and be sure to contact them directly to inquire if they process bison, as not all voluntary plants process bison, though are permitted to under federal law.


See more at <https://bisoncentral.com/production-resources/>.

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.



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Indiana Bison farm is one of this year's featured farmers at the Indiana State Fair

From WRTV ABC

On approximately 320 acres across the rolling hills of Greene County, Indiana you will find the Red Frazier Bison Ranch. One of these years featured farmers at the Indiana State Fair.

Zach Martin is one of the co-owners of the ranch that is now home to over 150 bison making it one of the largest ranches in the state. After working in construction for many years Zach took his passion for animals, land management and farming and turned it into a new career.

Starting off with 8 bison through purchase and reproduction he has turn grown the herd to what it is today. As president of the Indiana/Illinois Bison Association, he is helping to not only grow the bison population in the state but is also helping to educate the public.

If you look at the Indiana state seal, you will see a bison on it. They roamed

the land long ago but almost became extinct. That population is now once again growing in the state thanks to mainly private ranchers like Red Frazier. I learned a lot about the animal from Zach as we ventured into the fields keeping safety in mind.

Bison are herd animals and roam the land together and are almost completely self-sufficient. On this ranch they are rotated into different pastures every 7-10 days all around a central water station. They all have access to the water and then eat the grass for food as they roam. They are never confined or placed in pens and stay in the fields no matter what the weather. They even birth their own calves in the field without any help.

Read [more](#).

Tourists In Yellowstone Walk-Up To 2,000 Pound Fighting Bison To Get Better View

From The Cowboy State Daily

It would seem to be conventional wisdom that when two 2,000-pound bison are fighting each other, it's a good idea not to get involved.

But that was not the case for one couple in Yellowstone on Monday.

Two irritated bison were actively throwing-down in the middle of a road. Snorting, bellowing, wallowing, locking horns. They weren't happy.

Instead of getting inside of their vehicle, an older couple walked up to the fighters for ring-side seats.

Cindy Shaffer, who works at a bookstore in Yellowstone and took video of the interaction, told Cowboy State Daily at one point the couple was less than 10-feet away from the bison.

"I was very scared for them," Shaffer said. "As you can see, they are very powerful and dangerous animals."

Shaffer's voice can be heard in the video. She said she was the one who yelled out to them to get in their car "or they will kill you."

Shaffer said it is especially dangerous around this time of year as it's "the rut" or mating season and it's peaking right now.

Read [more](#).

A bigger home on the range for Montana bison

From Science

For the first time in more than 15 years, Montana bison will roam new grazing grounds on public land. After 4 years of review, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on 28 July granted a request by the nonprofit American Prairie to release its bison herd onto more than 24,000 hectares in central Montana. This is the largest land approval BLM has given American Prairie. Many ecologists are celebrating the expansion, part of American Prairie's effort to restore Montana's prairie ecosystems and return the U.S. national mammal to its former glory.

"We get a lot of bad news about declines of biodiversity," says ecologist Liesbeth Bakker of the Netherlands Institute of Ecology, who has worked with

bison in Nebraska. "But then to see these things really gives you hope; it makes you think it is possible to restore these ecosystems and give these majestic animals the room they deserve." She notes that the benefits go beyond bison to a host of prairie plants and other native animals. Ranching groups and state officials are less enthusiastic, fearing the bison will compete with cattle.

American Prairie aims to create the largest nature preserve in the lower 48 states using purchased and leased land in central Montana. Bison are instrumental to its goal of restoring the prairies. The organization already manages about 180,000 hectares of public and private land, much of it former ranchland, on which they now graze about 800 bison. It hopes to expand that number to 1000 now that it has the extra space.

Grasslands, especially tallgrass prairies, are some of the most endangered and least protected ecosystems in the world, and they have received relatively little restoration. Some former prairie is difficult or impossible to restore, such as that converted to cropland or urban development. But there's hope for land used for cattle grazing, notes American Prairie spokesperson Beth Saboe. "The biodiversity that can exist there is astonishing."

Read [more](#).

Man killed, Ellsworth County deputy injured by charging bison

From KWCH CBS

WICHITA, Kan. (KWCH) - Update 12:45 p.m. A man suspected to have been killed by the bison that injured an Ellsworth County Deputy was found by his aunt on Monday morning.

At around 9 a.m. Monday, Ellsworth County 911 received a call from the man's aunt, who found her nephew, 56-year-old Scott Schroeder of Bushton, dead in a pen. She said she thought that a bison had killed him. The location of the body was in a row of trees north of K-4 highway and 5th Road.

The location of the deputy injured Sunday night was about 1/4 of a mile south of where Schroeder's body was found on Monday. It is likely that Schroeder was killed before the deputy was injured.

The deputy underwent surgery Sunday night at Salina Regional Health Center and is in stable condition. A Rice County Deputy arrived at the scene of the attack Sunday night as it occurred, and the bison was put down when it appeared that it was preparing to charge at the injured deputy. Both incidents are under investigation.

An Ellsworth County deputy was injured Sunday night by a bison he was trying to return to a pasture from the K-4 highway.

Ellsworth County 911 received a call about the buffalo on K-4 highway at 5th Road in Ellsworth County. The deputy was dispatched to the area, where he found the animal and attempted to get it to return to a pasture. The bison suddenly charged the deputy and seriously injured him.

The deputy, who was not named, was transported by Claflin EMS to the Ellsworth County Medical Center and then to Salina Regional Health Center. His condition has not been released.

Read [more](#).

British Tourist Still Hospitalized After Bison Attack; Remains Partially Paralyzed

From The Cowboy State Daily

It's been seven weeks since British tourist Amelia Dean was gored and flipped by a bison in Custer State Park.

Dean is still hospitalized in Rapid City, South Dakota where she is going through therapy to deal with partial paralysis as a result of the injuries.

Unlike many of the tourists in Yellowstone National Park who have deliberately put themselves in harm's way by taunting bison or trying to pet or ride them, Dean said she was doing everything by the book.

Dean stayed far away from the bison herd, she said, although admitting that she could have turned around upon spotting the bison but was thirsty so decided to continue and "walk around them."

Bison Attack

Yellowstone officials advise staying at least 25 yards away from bison. Dean said she was more than 100 yards away from a bison herd when one began running her way.

"The bison just ran down the hill at her. It came right up and stopped in front of her and then apparently, they had a bit of eye contact for a few seconds," Dean's mother Jacqueline told South Dakota TV Station KOTA.

The bison stopped right in front of Dean and then gored her, Dean said.

Read [more](#).

Young wood bison released to the wild in the western Interior

From Alaska Public Radio

A group of 28 yearling wood bison from Canada that were transported to the western Interior in July have been released into the wild.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wood Bison biologist Tom Seaton said the yearlings were barged 750 miles along the Tanana, Yukon and Innoko rivers over four days, and then released into a large pen set up along the lower Innoko River on July 24.

"The grass was deep, you know, it's about 4- or 5-foot tall grass there, sometimes 6-foot tall," he said. "It's pretty crazy. So they just kind of disappeared into it and started eating away. And they quickly kind of recovered and calmed down from their trip."

The animals stayed in the holding pen until adult cow wood bison showed up in the area late last week. The young wood bison were set free to join them.

"So that they can just become part of the herd and learn everything they need to know from those wild animals," said Seaton.

Young wood bison and adult females naturally group together.

Connecting the yearlings to the herd initially seeded with Canadian animals in 2015 is the latest step in a decades-long effort to reestablish wood bison in Alaska. The 28 yearlings increase the Western Alaska Wood Bison herd to about 160 animals.

Read [more](#).

USDA awards \$197 million for regional conservation projects

From Agri-Pulse

Projects to conserve and restore grasslands are among the biggest beneficiaries of \$197 million in grants awarded Friday under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, which uses contributions from non-governmental organizations as well as states and local governments to maximize funding for each project.

Four different grasslands projects will share \$19.2 million in RCPP funding, which will be matched by \$19.4 million in partner contributions, the Natural Resources Conservation Service said in an announcement. In all, 41 projects are being funded.

The largest of the grants, \$10 million, will go for a project to restore and conserve grasslands in the southern High Plains. RCPP funding will be used to place conservation easements on more than 40,000 acres. The Nature Conservancy, which is leading the project, and more than ten other partners "have spent years developing the Grassland Strongholds strategy, designed to create large areas of conserved and preserved grasslands within the Prairie Grasslands [Critical Conservation Area]," one of eight areas so designated under the RCPP program.

Another grasslands project, called Life from Soil, aims "to improve the ecological function of over 500,000 acres of grasslands in Montana, Nebraska and South Dakota by 2027," NRCS said. "Participating ranchers will enroll in World Wildlife Fund's Ranch Systems and Viability Planning Network (which already has under 420,000 acres enrolled in the Northern Great Plains), which creates a support system for ranchers interested in making ecological improvements and enhancing the financial sustainability of their operations.

Ranchers who take part agree not convert any of their grasslands for ten years and develop and implement a written grazing management plan, among other requirements. The project was awarded close to \$2.86 million.

Read [more](#).

Grocery shoppers cutting back, switching brands: Lusk

From Meatingplace.com

Higher prices at the grocery store have led 28% of Americans to begin searching for sales and switching to generic brands, according to recently released findings from Purdue University's Center for Food Demand Analysis and Sustainability.

In July, American consumers reported seeking out sales, switching to generic, using coupons and cutting out nonessentials more often compared to five months ago. Overall, weekly food spending rose by just 3% from June to \$191 per week.

"Shopping discounts and generics is a clear sign of budget consciousness among consumers," said Purdue's Jayson Lusk, who heads the university's Department of Agricultural Economics. "After increasing for several months in the first half of the year, food expenditures are now remaining relatively consistent. This indicates consumers have become more concerned with finding ways to keep their grocery bills from rising any higher."

The survey, which included 1,200 customers from across the United States, is conducted monthly by Purdue researchers and focuses on what consumers can afford and what food attributes are important to them.

Read [more](#).

Now Accepting 2022 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award Nominations

From USDA Press Release

The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP) is accepting nominations for the 2022 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award for Conservation Excellence! Please help us spread the word by sharing the call for nominations with your respective partner.

NCP created the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award for Conservation Excellence in 2017 to honor the legacy of Hugh Hammond Bennett by recognizing producers and conservation planners from within the NCP partnership who have exemplified outstanding service through development and implementation of sound conservation planning and other conservation techniques.

There are two award categories:

- The Producer Award will be presented to a producer who demonstrates a commitment to conservation planning, pioneering new opportunities and leadership in the community. The local field office staff that provides assistance to the producer will also receive recognition.
- The Conservation Planner Award is independent of the producer award and will be given to an individual who demonstrates a high standard of conservation planning and implementation for customers as well as sharing his/her expertise with others.

Anyone can submit a nomination, but those interested in making a nomination should notify their respective state conservation partner leader regarding the planned submission. Notification of submission should be communicated with the following: NRCS state conservationist, state conservation district association president or executive director, state conservation district employee association president or executive director, state resource conservation and development council association president or executive director, state conservation agency leadership, etc.

Note: NCP recommends taking this step to reduce duplication efforts and be sure a nomination isn't already planned for your state by the conservation partnership agencies – NRCS, NACD, NASCA, RC&D and NCDEA.

We encourage you to look at your past or current local/state conservation farmer/rancher award winners as possible nominees for the producer award. If your organization offers a planner award, please consider those past or current winners as possible nominees as well.

Once ready to submit a nomination, please click on the following link: https://nacd.formstack.com/forms/form_2022_hugh_hammond_bennett_award_for_conservation_excellence_nomination

Successful nominations should contain concise yet detailed narratives in each section for the evaluators to effectively assess each candidate's accomplishments. You can save the nomination and come back to it at any time by clicking 'save and resume.'

All nominations must be fully completed and submitted by October 1, 2022.

Historic funding bill for addressing climate change clears Congress

From Agri-Pulse

The Agriculture Department is poised to pour nearly \$20 billion into expanding climate-related farming practices and another \$500 million into biofuel infrastructure, under a historic funding package the Democratic-controlled House cleared Friday to slash U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

The bill, dubbed the Inflation Reduction Act, would provide \$18 billion for four farm bill conservation programs, plus another \$1.4 billion for the Natural Resources Conservation Service to provide technical assistance to farmers and measure the impact of farming practices on carbon emissions.

The bill also includes new extended incentives for biofuels, plus about \$20 billion in funding for USDA forestry and energy programs, including the biofuel infrastructure funding. There also are new provisions to provide debt relief to financially "distressed" farmers and victims of discrimination in USDA lending programs, replacing a loan forgiveness program for minority farmers that was blocked by courts.

The House approved the bill on a strict party-line vote, 220-207, readying the measure for President Joe Biden's signature.

"This package makes important investments in our oversubscribed farm bill conservation programs," said House Agriculture Committee Chairman David Scott, D-Ga. "By expanding participation in these programs and providing increased technical assistance funding, farmers will more readily be able to employ proven conservation practices on their land, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and sequester carbon."

Read [more](#).

Wisconsin college gets funds for meat processing training

From Meatingplace.com

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) in Wausau, Wis., said it has received \$220,000 from the state to help solve food supply chain challenges through short-term training in meat processing aimed at rapidly building the workforce.

The funding is part of a broader effort to [boost butcher training](#) in Wisconsin, one of several states to tap American Rescue Plan Act funding and other resources to develop programs to train students.

Funding at NTC will be used toward a mobile learning lab that will allow the

college to bring training to students throughout north-central Wisconsin. Part of the investment will provide financial support to students in the college's meat processing programs.

The short-term training aligns with the needs of employers to develop talent in the industry, the school said. The training will focus on farm-to-table sustainable practices that will connect learners from NTC's Agriculture Center of Excellence to the Culinary Arts Associate Degree.

North-central Wisconsin has twice as many jobs in the meat processing industry as the national average, and the number is projected to increase 21% over the next 10 years, according to the school. The industry will also experience high retirement rates because 27% of those employed in it are age 55 and older.

Read [more](#).



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Save the Date!

- 8/15/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - Online
- 8/18/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 9/10/2022 - NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop - Mission, SD
- 9/15/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 9/24/2022 - Rocky Mountain Bison Assn. Fall Ranch Tour - WY
- 10/14/2022 - Wisconsin Bison Producer's Association Fall Meeting - WI
- 10/15/2022 - NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop - Villa Grove, IL
- 10/17/2022 - Middle Creek Ranch Production Webcast Auction - Online
- 10/20/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 11/02/2022 - Maxwell Wildlife Refuge Annual Auction
- 11/05/2022 - Custer State Park Annual Buffalo Auction - SD
- 11/09/2022 - Antelope Island State Park Bison Webcast Auction - Online
- 11/17/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 11/19/2022 - Coyote Trail Buffalo Ranch Simulcast Production Auction - SD
- 11/25/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Bison Fundamentals - MN
- 11/26/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Legends of the Fall Sale - MN
- 11/27/2022 - Rocking P Ranch Simulcast Production Auction - SD
- 11/14/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - Online
- 12/01/2022 - Kansas Buffalo Association Sale - KS
- 12/01/2022 - Western Bison Association Meeting and Show/Sale - UT
- 12/06/2022 - Northern Range Buffalo Consignment Simulcast Auction - Online
- 12/15/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 1/02/2023 - Prairie Legends Bison Webcast Auction - Online
- 1/07/2023 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Simulcast Auction - SD
- 1/17/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 1/18/2023 - NBA Winter Conference - Westminster, CO

- 1/21/2023 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - Denver, CO
- 2/02/2023 - Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Winter Conference - SD
- 2/04/2023 - Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Simulcast Auction - SD
- 2/11/2023 - Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Sale Simulcast Auction - SD
- 2/24/2023 - Beltway Bison Consignment Auction - PA
- 3/09/2023 - Eastern Bison Association Winter Conference and Auction - PA

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](#)

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