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Weekly Update



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

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NBA Weekly Update for August 19, 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.

The NBA Welcomes Lydia Whitman, Program Manager

The NBA is pleased to introduce Lydia Whitman of Calamus, Iowa as our new Program Manager. Lydia was among three strong finalists interviewed by members of the NBA leadership and proved to be the best candidate for the newly created position. Lydia is a full-time employee with a great skill set and the people skills that will serve the NBA membership well. Please be sure to reach out and to say howdy as she gets to know our great community. You can reach Lydia at Lydia@bisoncentral.com, and in a week or so, at 303-292-2833, extension 102.



An excerpt from the new Fall edition of Bison World magazine:

Lydia Whitman is a newcomer to the National Bison Association, and is joining as a Program Manager. Lydia is a self trained farmer with some serious people skills. She grew up on a farm in Southeastern Minnesota,

although now, she admits, the tractors are quite a bit larger. She has been living and farming in Iowa for the past 15 years with her husband and kids on their 6th generation crop, cattle and goat farm.

"Wherever I am- in life and in career- my goal is to do good and be the good."

Before taking this role, she was working for the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. In this role she supported animal husbandry, crop production, soil health and prairie management; using her knowledge and experience in production agriculture to work with landowners and get solid conservation planning accomplished. She also led outreach for the region coordinating field days and conferences.

She also holds diverse volunteer experience from local County Extension Council and Planning and Zoning Commission appointments, to the Iowa Soybean Association promoting conservation and regenerative agriculture, to serving with American Farm Bureau on a young farmer and rancher advisory committee.

"I have witnessed so much diversity in farming and ranching- different landscapes, different crops and animals. There is still a common theme that outdoes the differences- these farmers and ranchers are answering a calling. There is an element of heart, an element of business, an element of grit. I'm honored to be part of this uncommon group and work on behalf of ranchers and farmers."

NBA Participates in Colorado Ag Roundtable with Secretary Vilsack, Senator Bennet

NBA Executive Director, Jim Matheson, this week was invited to attend a roundtable discussion on Colorado agriculture in Palisade, CO. The meeting was organized by Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) and featured US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack.

The Roundtable featured approximately 20 Colorado farmers, ranchers, agricultural professionals, and other stakeholders who were each given the opportunity to express their constituents' current concerns.

Matheson thanked the two leaders for their longtime support for the bison industry and discussed the severe impact that the current drought in many parts of the mid-west and the western US is having on bison producers. He also discussed the unique challenges of dispersing animals due to drought, which lead to a discussion on the processing capacity issue that plagues bison growers. Matheson also expressed the need to expand funding for the USDA NRCS and particularly the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). He also asked that bison producers be eligible for all applicable support and relief programs in the forthcoming Farm Bill.

Secretary Vilsack addressed all issues, explaining that included in the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act, is nearly \$20 billion dedicated to conservation programs in the next Farm Bill, and also includes funding to expand the NRCS and EQIP. He also discussed the various programs

aimed to increase processing capacity through grants, workforce training, etc. which is to continue with new programs to be announced next month.

Said Matheson, "It was an honor to be invited to this event, and of course, it's always great to be able to talk about bison issues directly to the top leadership of not only the USDA, but also the Senate Ag Committee in Senator Bennet."

The NBA will follow up with Senator Bennet and other agriculture leaders on Capitol Hill and at the USDA in Washington, DC with a small delegation next month to continue to lobby for equal treatment in the 2023 Farm Bill and other legislative priorities. The delegation will also meet with the leadership of various agencies of the USDA to work on pertinent regulatory issues and projects.

NBA Bison App Webinar Tutorial #3 – Rescheduled for August 31st at 4 pm MT

The NBA will soon 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. No registration is required, simply follow this link to participate -

The webinar will include:

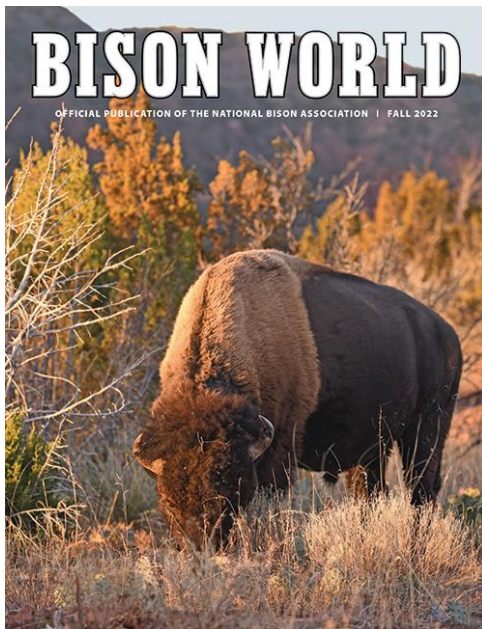
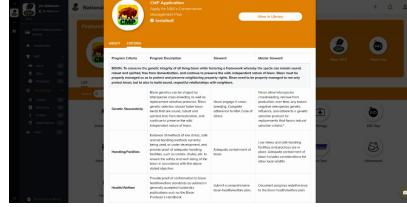
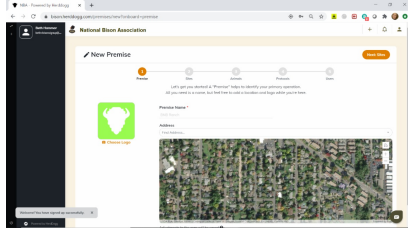
1. How to participate in the Conservation Management Plan (CMP)
2. Go through the process of transferring animals from one premise to another
3. Demonstrate traceability via herd.ly
4. QR settings for data sharing

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/>.



Fall Bison World Magazine Now 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 Fall issue has wrapped up, and it is now available on the [Bison World](#) bookshelf on the NBA website. You must log in to the member area to access the magazine.

You can view the flipbook version of the magazine right on your computer. Handy links allow you to open it into a new window, make it larger, and even magnify certain features. The realistic page-turning sounds make it feel like

you are reading the printed version of the magazine. We are also incorporating links that will take you directly to websites and other areas of interest. Hover and click over links or ads to enable this feature.

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

Advertising Opportunities in the Winter Issue of Bison World

Production will soon be underway on the Winter 2023 issue of the Bison World magazine. This issue will also include our annual Membership Directory.

Various advertising options are available within the Winter magazine pages, from 1/8 page to full page. Lifetime and Active NBA members will enjoy discounted rates as part of their membership perks, and contract holders will receive a 5% discount for pre-paid advertising. Karen can work with you to tailor an advertising campaign that fits your budget and targets your message!

The advertising space reservation deadline is October 10, with final materials due by November 1. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time but are subject to the same deadline for the Winter issue.

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

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



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Bison sightings in Big Bend National Park prompt speculation about their origins

From The Big Bend Sentinel

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK — On August 7, Britney Martin was headed from Rio Grande Village to visit her uncle in Marfa. As she neared the park's northern entrance station, she saw him: a bison bull with a patchy summertime coat, standing around 6 feet tall. She stopped the car to get a picture, but the move was startling — instead of a serene nature shot, she caught a dramatic short video of the bison charging her car.

Martin was aware of rumors among park employees about bison spotted near the northeastern edge of the park — a few days before, a friend of a friend had seen one on her way to the Chisos Basin. Someone else claimed to see a pair out by Dog Canyon. As someone who has lived most of her life in Big Bend National Park, Martin knew better than to approach the animal on foot. "I didn't get out; I wasn't trying to die," she said.

The sightings of the bison — considered wiped out from West Texas since the 19th century — have prompted speculation among locals and park aficionados alike. "Most visitors — and park employees — don't expect to see a bison in Big Bend National Park," said Tom Vandenberg, the park's chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services. "When first reported in mid-July, it was hard to believe, but photos don't lie."

In the past two weeks, Martin's photographs have been liked and shared by around 2,000 people on social media. John Karges, a former conservation biologist for the Wildlife Conservancy, was quick to join in on the fun. From retirement in San Antonio, chiming in on Big Bend forums and Facebook pages is a way of connecting with his former home. "On social media, there's a lot of misidentification and misrepresentation out there," he said.

Read [more](#).

What's the Difference Between Bison and Buffalo?

From Treehugger

Never mind what the unofficial anthem of the American West says about buffalo roaming—this type of bovid is not found on U.S. soil. What we have stateside, making up the best-known herds in Yellowstone National Park and on Catalina Island, are bison.

Though bison are sometimes colloquially called buffalo, the two are biologically different, unconnected in their ranges, and can be told apart by a few distinguishing physical features. Here's everything you need to know about the two oft-confused families of ancient grazing giants.

Key Differences

- Range: Wild American bison occur only in North America, European bison in Europe, water buffalo in Asia, and African buffalo in Africa.
- Size: Most buffalo species are larger than bison species—1,900 to 2,600 pounds versus 1,600 to 2,000 pounds.¹
- Horns: Bison have short and stubby horns whereas buffalo's are long and curvy.
- Beard: Only bison have long, shaggy beards.
- Shoulder hump: Only bison have a distinctive shoulder hump, the American bison's more prominent than the European bison's.

Buffalo and Bison Classification

Buffalo and bison belong to the tribe Bovini, which includes medium to massive animals of the Bovidae family. The Bovidae family also includes antelopes, gazelles, goats, and sheep.

While a number of Bovini species are commonly called buffalo or bison (the anoa a "dwarf buffalo" and the gaur "Indian bison," for example), there are only four true bison and buffalo species.

Read [more](#).

Yellowstone National Park warns visitors male bison in rut may agitate easily

From Oil City News

CASPER, Wyo. — It's breeding season for Yellowstone National Park bison, and park officials are warning visitors that male bison might become agitated more easily than usual because of it.

"When bison begin to slowly migrate to the Lamar and Hayden valleys, you know it's rut season in Yellowstone National Park," a social media post by the park states. "Rut lasts from mid-July through September. It's important to remember that during rut, bulls are on high alert and can get aggravated easily!"

"No matter what time of year, always stay further than 25 yards away from all wildlife, and make sure both tires are over the white lines if you pull off the road to view them," the park added.

Rut is the time of year when bison come together in large herds to compete, socialize and breed, the post states. Male bison will fight with each other to prove themselves the strongest for females. Bulls mate

with multiple females during a single season, but female bison mate with only one bull.

There have been three people gored this year by bison in Yellowstone National Park: an Ohio woman who was thrown 10 feet into the air, a Colorado man who was walking on the boardwalk near Giant Geyser and a 71-year-old woman who inadvertently approached a bison. Most recently, the park reported that a bison headbutted a visitor's car after the car stopped briefly by three grazing bison.

Read [more](#).

Bison herd reestablished by Red Lake Nation has grown to 31

From Montana Public Radio

Only a couple of hundred years ago, 20 to 30 million Bison lived in vast herds across North America. There is an effort by some Native tribes to reestablish bison herds in Minnesota.

The Red Lake Nation in far northern Minnesota started a herd back in 2021 and we thought we'd check in to see how they're doing.

Cherilyn Spears, the new director of the Red Lake Nation's Department of Agriculture, spoke with Cathy Wurzer about the herd.

Use the audio player above to listen to the full conversation. Read a transcript of their conversation below.

Read [more](#).

Montana ag community reacts to American Prairie bison grazing announcement

From KRTV

The Bureau of Land Management has approved a controversial bison sanctuary to grow an additional 63,000 acres on BLM land. The decision has caused some division between a desire to protect an iconic part of the American west and worries about local economy.

The American Prairie non-profit aims to create a wildlife refuge stretching 3.2 million acres throughout the plains and prairies of Montana.

Beth Saboe, American Prairie's senior public relations manager, explains "A lot of this land is existing public land and what we're seeking to do is to buy private land and then connect that with existing public land to create one contiguous space or corridor for wildlife and people to enjoy."

Bison are mounting a comeback from the verge of extinction nearly a century ago when fewer than two dozen roamed the range.

American Prairie's Bison Restoration Manager Scott Heidebrink says there are now around 400,000 in production herds and 30,000 in the wild. He explains, "These grasslands in north central and northeast Montana evolved with bison on the landscape. So the plants, the animals, everything is adapted with that grazing in mind. So to put bison back on the landscape we can return some of those natural system and that

natural grazing pattern to the landscape."

Read [more](#).

Ellsworth Co. Deputy injured in bison attack recovering at home

From KWCH - CBS

WICHITA, Kan. (KWCH) - The Ellsworth County deputy injured last week in a bison attack has been discharged from Salina Regional Health Center and is recovering at home.

Deputy Jerry Slaight was injured while looking for a bison that had killed a man in an earlier attack. Slaight found the bison just south of the K-4 highway.

According to the Ellsworth County Sheriff's Office, by the time discovered Slaight, it was too late for Slaight to retreat to his patrol car. The bison charged him a second time, goring Slaight in the left thigh and tossing him about 10 feet into the air.

A Rice County deputy arrived at the scene as it occurred and put down the bison when it appeared it would charge a third time.

At around 9 a.m. on Aug. 8, Ellsworth County 911 received a call from a 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.

Read [more](#).

The future of claims-based and meat alternatives ***From Meatingplace.com***

In a sea of products in the meat case, items that project health, sustainability and transparency continue to resonate with consumers. Indeed, Americans who are looking for products that are either better for them, better for the planet, better for workers, or better for animals rose to 86% this year.

Those findings come from the 2022 Power of Meat report, which is commissioned by the Annual Meat Conference, a joint conference between the North American Meat Institute and FMI, The Food Industry Association, made possible by Cryovac Sealed Air and conducted by 210 Analytics.

The trend emerges as inflation and supply chain issues push consumers to cheaper cuts of meat that are perceived as less healthy. So although the percentage of people who say they are looking for meat that is better for them dropped this year, consumers already primed to purchase "better-for-you" meat are, mostly, not backing away from purchasing those higher-priced items, according to Anne-Marie Roerink, principal at 210 Analytics.

"That's not something that I saw back in 2008 [during the Great Recession]. And it's not something I've seen today," Roerink says. "People that are specifically looking for these hardcore claims ... are just dedicated to that lifestyle."

Meat also isn't the only option when it comes to consumers' perceptions on health, sustainability and transparency. Plant-based meat alternatives continue to be an occasional choice for consumers. However, penetration of those products appears to be hitting a ceiling, according to Chris DuBois, senior vice president for protein practice at IRI.

Read [more](#).

State Veterinarian cautions cattle buyers [TN]

From WYSHradio.com

(TN State Veterinarian press release) Any purchase sight-unseen carries risk, and that's especially true for livestock. Tennessee's State Veterinarian is advising livestock buyers of best practices and legal requirements before purchasing animals for import into Tennessee.

"Emerging diseases and parasites have been introduced into Tennessee this year through infected livestock purchased without the buyer seeing the animals in advance," State Veterinarian Dr. Samantha Beaty said. "I recommend buyers visualize animals in person before money changes hands to help minimize the risk of moving disease onto their farm or into their established herd. I discourage purchase of animals sight unseen from an online source where delivery is included. If it seems too good to be true, it likely is."

Additionally, all animals moving into Tennessee are required by law to have a current health certificate issued within 30 days of movement and official identification where applicable by law. Buyers and shippers must adhere to all other state and federal import rules and regulations. These rules can be accessed at 0080-02-01.20210621.pdf (tnsosfiles.com).

Read [more](#).

Farm Bureau tallies herd liquidations in the West

From Meatingplace.com

Two-thirds of farmers and ranchers in the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) latest survey gauging the impact of drought conditions in the West said they are selling off portions of their herds or flocks.

Insufficient and poor-quality forage is forcing the liquidations, which cut into operational income, the AFBF said. Average herd sizes are expected to be down 36% in the surveyed region.

The survey results come as the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on Tuesday announced water reductions for Arizona, Nevada and part of Mexico in response to the depletion of the Colorado River. The cuts came after it was projected that Lake Mead, a reservoir for the river, would operate in

its first-ever Tier 2 water shortage condition in 2023.

More than 60% of the U.S. West, Southwest and Central Plains is in severe drought or higher, the AFBF noted. The 17 states support 74% of the nation's beef cattle, responsible for 18% of U.S. agricultural production by value.

The AFBF survey, conducted June 8 to July 20, gathered input from 652 respondents in 15 out of 17 states in the drought-stricken region.

Read [more.](#)



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Save the Date!

- 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 - KS
- 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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