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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 September 16, 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.



New NBA Staffer Ready to Tackle D.C. Roundup

"Less than 24 hours from now, I'll be in Washington, D.C. I've been there before, to learn about the history of the United States, to visit my family that lives in the area, and to advocate on several occasions for farmers and ranchers," said NBA Program Director, Lydia Whitman.

Whitman goes on to explain, "Advocacy trips don't just happen. Behind the scenes, there are phone calls and emails back and forth to nail down meetings with senators, representatives, legislative staff, trade groups, and USDA departments. I'll confess, I don't know what normal is for the National Bison Association, but I am impressed. In just over 48 hours, the delegation will meet with the Agricultural Marketing Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, Farm Service Agency, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Trade Representative, Natural

Resources Conservation Service, Food Safety and Inspection Service, and Agricultural Research Service. That is a lot of impactful meetings."

"For each meeting, there is a researched brief generated by the National Bison Association to succinctly present the needs and current status of the membership," Whitman notes. "We're doing our homework and ready to push for the preservation, promotion, and production of the great American bison."

Whitman and NBA Executive Director, Jim Matheson, will join a delegation of about a dozen bison producers and marketers, as well as the leadership of the InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC) and other pertinent legislation.

The group will spend one day at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative's office to discuss regulatory issues impacting the bison industry. The second day will be spent on Capitol Hill to address the NBA's legislative agenda, which is focused on the forthcoming 2023 Farm Bill, the annual National Bison Day Senate resolution, and the Indian Buffalo Management Act bill (H.R.2074).

The delegation will meet with top officials at USDA, including agency administrators at most of their meetings, to discuss how the NBA can support the USDA in its many efforts supporting policies that benefit and include bison producers.

Special thanks to the delegation for taking their own time and expense to represent the American bison producer in this important advocacy outreach.

NBA Hosts Second Regenerative Ranching Field Day in South Dakota

The second NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Day was held last weekend at Antelope Creek Bison near Mission, SD. The event was co-hosted by the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association (DTBA), with Dakota Pure Bison sponsoring the noon meal.



This one-day event focused on utilizing bison in a production setting to maximize their regenerative potential, improving soil and grassland health while raising a high-value protein and restoring the bison species. Portions of this field day were filmed by Shauna and Charlie Rankin, whose names you may recognize as they are currently producing their *Native* bison documentary. The video will be posted in the member's area of bisoncentral.com in the video archives section for later viewing by the membership.

The nearly 40 attendees were able to enjoy a tour of the Antelope Creek Bison pastures, some of their breeding herds, and the corral system. Afternoon speakers talked about regenerative practices to keep the land and the animals healthy and thriving.


Thank you to DTBA, Antelope Creek Bison, Dakota Pure Bison, Mary Scott (NRCS), Chad Kremer (Custer State Park Herd Manager and NBA President), and the North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program at the University of Minnesota for making this field day a success!

Registration Open for Third Regenerative Field Day in Illinois

Join us for an all-day workshop and farm tour in Northern Illinois at McHenry Community College in Crystal Lake on October 15. There is a full lineup of speakers, including:

- Ed Collins, Director of Land Preservation and Natural Resources at McHenry County Conservation
- Andy Larson, Midewin Tallgrass Prairie
- Red Frazier Bison, from Bloomington, Indiana will be driving over with their food truck!
- Ruhter Bison, showing their bison grazing project in coordination with Pleasant Valley Preserve and the McHenry County Conservation District

[Click to Register](#)



**NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION
AND
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Regenerative Ranching Field Day #3
Saturday, October 15, 2022, 9am-4pm

Morning at McHenry County College
8900 US Hwy 14, Crystal Lake, IL 60012 : Scots Room/Cafeteria

8:30 Registration
9:00 Greetings and Presentations
• Ed Collins—MCCD
• Joe Wheeler—USDA



10:15 Raising Bison Panel Discussion
• Local Bison Ranchers

11:00 Funding and Capital Panel Discussion
• Paul Dietmann—Compeer
• Andy Larson—Food Finance Inst.

Afternoon at Pleasant Valley Preserve
14935 Pleasant Valley Road, Union, IL

12:30 Lunch/Cooking Demo—Red Frazier Bison
1:30 NBA—Lydia Whitman
2:00 Field Presentations and Tour
• Brenna Ness—MCCD
• Adam Rex—MCCD
• Matt Ruhter—Ruhter Bison
3:00 Illinois Indiana Bison Association Meeting

\$30 Register Fee
Includes a Bison Lunch
Register: MCCD.me/BisonWorkshop



Nicole Masters to Keynote 2023 Winter Conference

Nicole Masters, the owner and director of Integrity Soils has been announced as the 2023 Winter Conference keynote speaker. We are excited to have Nicole join us and share her insight and expertise.

Nicole is an agro-ecologist, educator, and systems thinker with nearly 20 years of extensive practical and theoretical experience in regenerative

land practices. She has been communicating these methods throughout Australia since 2003 and in North America (2013), helping to inspire and guide producers into new and innovative ways to produce food.

Nicole has a large commitment to finding win-win solutions for both the well-being of landscapes and land managers. As a seasoned soils coach, she has a proven record in supporting producers in meeting their goals. With over 1.2 million acres under her programs, Nicole excels at

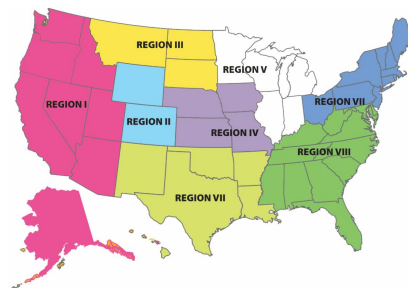
identifying and solving challenges through proactive management.

Her passion for fostering the growth of these farming practices calls upon diverse skills in facilitation, conflict resolution, an understanding of behavioral change, and science communication.

With soil as a major driver for ecosystem health, Nicole has worked closely with diverse production sectors from; dairy, sheep & beef, viticulture, compost, nurseries, market gardens, racing studs, and lifestyle blocks to large-scale cropping. Working with such diverse clients has fostered a broad knowledge and understanding of the challenges facing different production systems. Nicole has devised and delivered educational programs for a wide range of organizations, consultants, businesses, landcare, and extension services.

NBA Regional Director Elections Begin Today

Elections are now underway for Regions I, III, V, and VII. The elections will be conducted from September 16 – 30.



According to the NBA bylaws, regional directors "shall be elected by a mail-in, or electronic ballot during September of each year prior to the expiration of the regions' directors' terms. If, after the initial ballot, no one person in any region has more than 50% of the ballots cast, then a run-off election will occur during November, involving the two persons having the most votes cast in the September balloting. In case of a tie, a coin will be tossed to determine the winner. Only active and lifetime members residing within a region may vote in each region's election." Regional directors are eligible to serve two two-year terms.

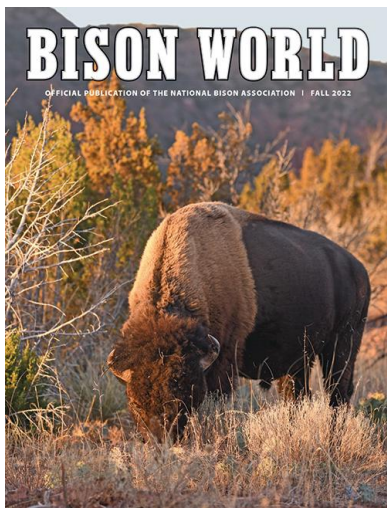
The directors elected in September will begin serving in January 2023.

The regions up for election and the states included are:

- Region I, representing AK, AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, UT, WA. Mary Adams, the current director is eligible for re-election.
- Region III, representing MT, ND, SD. Moritz Espy, the current director is eligible for re-election.
- Region V, representing IL, IN, MI, MN, WI. Jeremy Allemann of Wisconsin is term-limited and cannot run for a third term. Adam Ulbricht of Minnesota is running for that position.
- Region VII, CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT. Carie Starr, the current director is eligible for re-election.

Per the NBA bylaws, all regional directors shall have been active or lifetime members of the Corporation for at least two years and must have registered for and attended at least one general membership meeting or another NBA-sponsored event during the two immediately preceding years."

If you did not receive an emailed ballot, please email jim@bisoncentral.com.



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 opinions or the positions held by the NBA on matters such as genetic integrity, animal management, and other issues.



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SDSU Receives \$80M Grant from USDA for Climate-Smart Project with Beef and Bison Producers

From Sioux Falls Argus Leader

South Dakota State University announced Friday morning it's receiving up to \$80 million for the Partnerships for Climate - Smart Commodities

Initiative from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

It's the largest grant ever received by the university, according to a press release. Final funding levels will be determined in the coming months.

SDSU's project, entitled "The Grass is Greener on the Other Side: Developing Climate-Smart Beef and Bison Commodities," will create market opportunities for beef and bison producers who utilize climate-smart agriculture grazing and land-management practices.

The project will guide and educate producers on climate-smart practices most suited for their operations, manage large-scale climate-smart data that will be used by producers to improve decision-making, and create market demand for climate-smart beef/bison commodity markets.

Read [more](#)

The Return of a National Icon

From Smithsonian Magazine

"The buffalo are more than an animal to Indigenous people. They are a relative. They provided everything for us and to this day they are a constant reminder of our connection to our ancestors. The songs and ceremonies that come with the restoration of buffalo provide that direct link to how we once lived in harmony with nature. Though buffalo were nearly eradicated, they are resilient and tribal restoration efforts are helping them to thrive. The buffalo are providing a resurgence in our cultural practices that for many years was stripped away by their absence. In my Lakota Language there is a saying, 'Pte Oyate Zani hechi, Hu nupa ki Zani pi kte' which translates to 'When the buffalo are healthy, the people are healthy.'"

Troy Heinert (Sicangu Lakota), InterTribal Buffalo Council Executive Director

The American bison once roamed from what is now from northern Alberta, Canada, as far south as northern Mexico, and from California to the east coast. Population estimates range from twenty to sixty million that once inhabited the North American continent. The American bison, or buffalo, is called tatanka in Lakota, áuñ:gáu[bìñ in Kiowa, boy-zshan in Eastern Shoshone and iiniiwa in Blackfoot, and is a significant subsistence and spiritual animal to many American Indian tribes. For thousands of years, Natives relied heavily on bison for their survival and well-being. Clans, societies, ceremonies and individuals were named after the bison. They used every part of the bison for food, shelter, clothing, ceremonies, transportation, weapons, tools, utensils, water storage, rope, jewelry and to barter.

Read [more](#)

Grand Canyon Bison are Headed to Great Plains Tribal Lands as North Rim Herd is Reduced

From Arizona Republic

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK — Fifty-eight Kaibab Plateau bison are bound for tribal-managed herds on the Great Plains.

The National Park Service, with federal and state partners, gathered the animals from the forests and meadows near the Grand Canyon's North Rim last week in an effort to control a herd that might otherwise damage park resources. Officials handed off the animals to [the InterTribal Buffalo Council](#) for transport to Native American lands in Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The bison, originally a captive herd from [nearby House Rock Valley](#), have taken up residence in the relatively safe confines of a national park where hunting is prohibited and predators such as wolves are absent.

About a dozen years ago, the herd settled in and stopped migrating back to House Rock's lower ground in winter. Park biologists say their numbers can grow by 20% a year, potentially damaging the landscape and trampling archaeological sites below the rim, where they winter.

Read [more](#)

In Northern Michigan, bison teach a lesson in sustainability

From The Capital News Service

INTERLOCHEN – On the drive up U.S.-31 into Traverse City, people expect to see strip malls and a view of Grand Traverse Bay once they crest a big hill.

But they don't expect a field full of bison.

These animals have been a fixture of the area for nearly 60 years. The herd is owned by Oleson's Food Stores, a local grocery chain where bison meat is a centerpiece item.

The Oleson's bison aren't alone. Other family operations are popping up, re-establishing an ecological tradition from a time when they roamed as far east as New York and the Carolinas.

I wanted to find out what farming bison in Northern Michigan actually looks like. Luckily, I happen to know a farmer.

Read [more.](#)

It's Important to Protect the Bison, the "Original Climate Regulator"

From Clean Technica

Their hoofs sounded like rolling thunder two centuries ago, when tens of millions of the enormous animals roamed and dominated North America. They're bison, the largest land mammal on the continent, known for their long shaggy brown fur, beards, really big heads with short black horns,

and humps on their shoulders. These grazers were nearly extinct by the early 1900s. Today, rigorous recovery efforts continue to protect the bison.

Officials find themselves moving beyond historical respect for this species that roamed our lands for thousands of years. Now restoration efforts encompass complex socio-ecological landscapes. Bison herds being restored to Native American lands have the potential to provide the food sustenance, cultural reconnection, and ecological sustainability imperative to meet future climate challenges.

Read [more](#)

New Study Shows Bison Increase Plant Diversity, Drought Resilience in Grasslands

From DRG News

A Kansas State University - led study finds bison double plant diversity in a tallgrass prairie. The research involves more than 30 years of data collection and was recently published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

The study found that plant communities also were resilient to the most extreme drought in four decades. These gains are now among the largest recorded increases in species richness because of grazing in grasslands globally, researchers said.

Read [more](#).

Cattle Genes in Bison Unable to Hide

From The Western Producer

"Two primary events being an extremely small bison population size and widespread interest in developing hybrid animals changed and shaped the genomes of this species in ways we are just now starting to understand," he said.

Derr's team conducted various tests and sampling strategies. One included bison that represented all the historical founder bison lineages established in the late 1800s. Hair, blood, hide, tissue, and bone samples from historical and modern bison from across North America were collected from museum holdings and bison populations. Hide and bone came from curated collections while hair and blood came from annual roundups co-ordinated by ranches.

In addition, samples for DNA analysis were taken from four cattle breeds — Angus, Hereford, Charolais, and Holstein. These breeds were chosen because they were known to be used in past bison-cattle hybridization programs.

A further test compared genome sequences among the major historical lineages of bison to a panel of 1,842 domestic cattle genomes representing all major breeds. The tests confirmed that all analyzed bison genomes contained evidence of cattle introgression.

"Virtually in every bison we sequenced, we found multiple regions of cattle genes," said Derr. "I would never say never (that there are purebred bison) because technology always changes, but at this point, I don't think we can put the genie back in the bottle. My personal opinion

is that I don't think there's a bison out there that doesn't have some cattle introgression."

Read [more](#).

Bison and Cattle Coexist Just Fine

From Daily Inter Lake

Earlier this summer, the Montana-based American Prairie organization was approved to graze bison on Bureau of Land Management lands in Central Montana where they hold grazing privileges. This decision sparked a string of lawsuits from cattle groups and even the state of Montana, who claim surrounding ranchers and local communities will go belly-up as a result.

I don't buy it, and neither will the judge. As a recovering attorney I can tell you this is a classic false dilemma. By saying coexistence is impossible, they are trying to frame the conversation as a mutually exclusive choice between two extreme alternatives.

The truth is bison and cattle have already been sharing the short-grass prairie for well over a decade. This dynamic will not change as American Prairie sustainably grows their bison herd in the future. There is plenty of room in Central Montana for these large animals to graze as they once did and for ranchers to continue raising high-quality Montana beef.

Read [more](#).

Ancient Bison Bones Dug Up in Georgia Unveil Climate Conditions from 50,000 Years Ago

From The Savannah Morning News

Imagine standing at the edge of Tybee Island looking out into the expanse of the ocean, but instead of seemingly endless water there is another 60 miles of grasslands sprawling out ahead.

Paleontologists from Georgia College and State University are uncovering what Georgia's coastal environment looked like 58,000 years ago by studying the remains of ancient bison that once lived on these grasslands.

Down in the Brunswick area, GSCU paleontology professor Al Mead and his team are unearthing all sorts of fossils, from little rodents to bison. The ancient bison are about 25% bigger than their modern descendants and they also have giant horns, extending up to 7 feet long.

Read [more](#).



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Save the Date!

- 9/24/2022 - Rocky Mountain Bison Assn. Fall Ranch Tour - WY
- 9/26/2022 - Owl Creek Bison Complete Dispersal Auction - OH
- 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
- 11/14/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve 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
- 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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