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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 9, 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.

NBA Hosts 2nd Regenerative Ranching Field Day Tomorrow in South Dakota

The NBA's executive director, Jim Matheson, and communications director, Karen Conley, head to Mission, SD this weekend to facilitate the 2nd NBA Regenerative Ranching Field Days at Antelope Creek Bison tomorrow. The event is co-hosted by the Dakota Territory Buffalo Association.

This one-day event will focus on how to utilize bison in a production setting to maximize their regenerative potential thereby improving soil and grassland health while raising a high-value protein in the process and restoring the bison species. Portions of this field day will be 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 agenda is as follows:

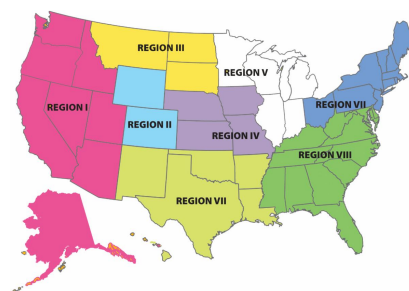
Saturday:

- 9:30 am – Meet and Greet at the ranch
- 10 am – Welcome from NBA, DTBA and Antelope Creek Bison and introductions
- 10:15 – Pasture and herd tour
- 11 am – Handling facility tour and Q&A
- Noon – Lunch
- 1:30 pm – NRCS Presentation; Mary Scott, NRCS Agent – How to utilize NRCS's services in your bison operation
- 2:30 pm – Break
- 3 pm – Chad Kremer, Custer State Park Herd Manager and owner, Kremer Buffalo Company on his approach to holistic and regenerative bison management
- 4 pm – Q&A and General Discussion
- 5 pm - DTBA Update & Social/Dinner

Special thanks to the North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program at the University of Minnesota for its support for these field days.

NBA Regional Director Elections Begin Sept. 16th - Nominations Due Monday!

September 12th is the deadline for NBA members interested in running for election in Regions I, III, V and VII to submit nominations to the NBA office. 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.

In this election cycle, directors will be elected for two-year terms from Regions I, III, V, and VII.

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.
- Region VII, CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT. Carie Starr, the current director is eligible for re-election.

Nominations for candidates interested in serving as regional directors must be submitted to the NBA at jim@bisoncentral.com by September 12th. 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 other NBA-sponsored event during the two immediately preceding years."

NBA Prepares for Annual Legislative Roundup

The NBA will head to Washington, DC on September 19 and 20 this year for its annual fly-in lobbying trip with a small delegation of a dozen bison producers and marketers, as well as the leadership of the InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC).

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 currently 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).

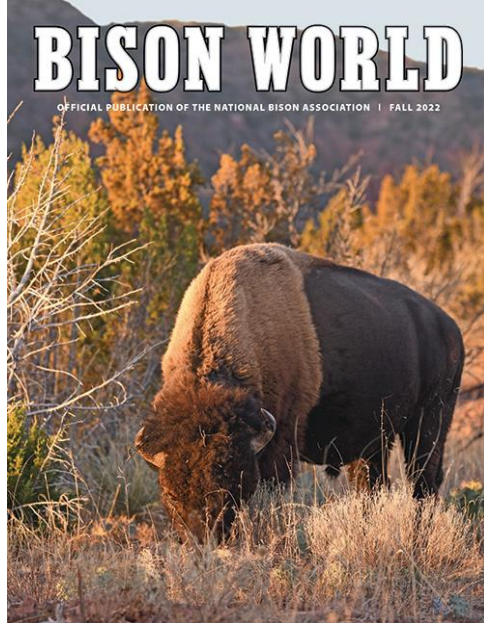
The delegation will sit down with top officials at USDA including agency administrators at most of their meetings to discuss how the NBA can support the USDA in its many efforts supporting policies that benefit and include bison producers. Said NBA Executive Director, Jim Matheson "the welcome reception that we're getting from the federal government as we schedule these important meetings is thanks to our consistent efforts at developing these relationships over the past 20 years. We have agency administrators joining us for a majority of our USDA meetings, and many congressmen planning to join us for our Capitol Hill meetings, which is a testament to the work we do as bison stewards and to the genuine interest the public sector has in our National Mammal."

Matheson and new NBA Program Manager, Lydia Whitman will lead the delegation through its many meetings in Washington. Special thanks to the delegation for taking their own time and expense to represent the American bison producer.

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



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Carie Starr realizes her dream at Cherokee Valley

Bison Ranch

From Farm and Dairy

THORNVILLE, Ohio — In 2005, Carie Starr had a life-changing meal.

At that time, she was living on 25 acres of her family's land, in Thornville, Ohio. Her grandparents originally owned that land as part of their 160-acre farm. They enjoyed harness racing and had most of the farm in hay production. They also kept a few other animals, like goats and cattle, over the years. Starr grew up around the farm and her grandparents, but never had any plans to be a farmer.

But near the end of 2005, she had dinner at Ted's Montana Grill, a restaurant in Columbus, to celebrate getting a new job. She wanted to try something new and adventurous, so she ordered bison prime rib.

"I was like, 'Oh my gosh, that's the most delicious thing I've ever eaten. I'd like to be able to eat that all the time' ... Well, I live in the middle of 25 acres. I could raise bison," she said.

By 2008, bison grazed the pastures around her. Now, in 2022, she has almost 50 of them at Cherokee Valley Bison Ranch.

She really never thought it would happen. Bison are expensive. She was a single mom at the time, and had recently gotten out of an unhappy relationship. But the idea stuck with her. It was something she read about and thought about to take her mind off of things when she wasn't happy.

"It was just kind of a fun little fantasy," she said.

Read [more](#)

In Northern Michigan, bison are teaching a lesson in sustainability

From The Bridge Michigan

On the drive up US-31 into Traverse City, Michigan, 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 Markets, a local grocery store chain where bison meat is a centerpiece item.

The Oleson's bison are not alone. Other family operations are popping up, re-establishing an ecological tradition from when the animals were found 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.

David Kirby is my now-retired high school physics teacher. He's been

maintaining a herd of bison near Lake Leelanau for about eight years now.

Kirb, as we called him in school, began farming bison as a passion project on century-old farmland in his neighborhood. He and his wife bought it to keep a subdivision from going in near their home.

Now, he maintains a herd of 16 bison, with new calves each year and three animals slaughtered in the fall.

"We call it graduation," he said as the bison lumbered over to greet him at the fence. "They're about to graduate from our program."

Read [more](#).

Battle lines drawn over bison grazing

From The Daily Interlake

The American Prairie Reserve's stated plan to "create the largest nature reserve in the contiguous United States" continues to meet strong rural opposition that is in sharp contrast with supportive views held by wild bison proponents. Battle lines have been drawn and the court of public opinion is now in session over BLM's recent decision to approve bison grazing on APR's allotments.

The real argument in all of this is whether or not a nonprofit organization like APR should be allowed to create a wild bison reserve that when fully implemented would shift the region's economic paradigm from agriculture to ecotourism and APR has no intention of raising cattle or engaging in a production livestock operation.

APR intends to raise bison they define as semi-domestic indigenous livestock to demonstrate that the grazing pattern of bison results in the restoration of rangeland health. Ecosystem engineering through bison grazing, as APR labels it, does not hold up to legal scrutiny because federal grazing laws require permittees to be engaged in raising production livestock on federally reserved grazing districts and APR has no interest in doing that.

BLM's recent approval of APR's bison grazing request finally puts the skunk on the table and enables the federal judicial system to determine whether BLM's decision is in compliance with federal grazing laws and regulations.

Read [more](#).

Rock on at the Bison Music Festival

From Myhighplains.com

AMARILLO, Texas (KAMR/KCIT) — You can help out a good cause while listening to some local artists at the Texas State Bison Music Festival, also known as Bisonfest.

It is an all-day event along Main Street in Quitaque. Saturday, Sept. 24.

This year's lineup includes the Panhandlers, The Dirty Boys, West Texas

Exiles, and Mason and the Gin Line. They will also have food vendors, shopping, and craft booths.

The proceeds go towards restoring the official bison heard of the state of Texas. Located in Caprock Canyons State Park, the bison are direct descendants of the herd started by Charles Goodnight in 1878.

You can find more info and tickets at bisonfest.com

Read [more](#).

Bison lead the way with "A Call to Rewild"

From The Great Falls Tribune

In October 1871, U.S. Cavalry 1st Lt. George Smith Anderson, riding across the Kansas tallgrass prairie on his way to serve at Fort Lyon in Colorado, stopped to write a letter to his sweetheart, declaring, "I am safe in calling this a single herd [of bison], but it is impossible to approximate the millions that composed it. It took me six days on horseback to ride through it."

Those hefty hordes would dwindle to a mere 300 bison by 1900. Today, about 350,000 bison are in the United States — about one percent of their prior population — with the largest herd living in Yellowstone National Park.

The Oniya Bison Rewilding Project, headed by Tara Shaehan, is located on 37.5 acres outside La Jara, Colorado, in Conejos County. The Rewilding Project's goal is to have 44 million bison in North America by 2050.

On Saturday, Sep. 17, the "A Call to Rewild" fundraiser will benefit the Oniya Bison Rewilding Project, local artists, organizations and Indigenous people. The event will take place from 5 to 10 p.m. at 13 Moons Ranch, 6334 Highway 133, about four miles south of Carbondale.

Read [more](#).

B.C. mayor wants help fending off 'not very friendly' bison from N.W.T.

From The CBC

A mayor in northern B.C. is asking the province to install cattle guards along a bridge on Highway 77 to fend off what he describes as an invasive herd of bison migrating from the Northwest Territories to graze.

In a letter to Transportation Minister Rob Fleming dated mid-July, Gary Foster, mayor of the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality — which covers the Fort Nelson area, about 915 kilometres north of Prince George — said a sizable number of Nahanni wood bison returned to B.C. this summer, after local farmers drove them back to their home range near Fort Liard, N.W.T., in August 2021.

This week, Foster said, there are about 50 bison grazing on the vegetation at the junction of Highways 77 and 97, south of the Fort Nelson River Bridge — causing trouble to locals as well as domestic cattle.

"Bison are not very friendly animals," he told guest host Bill Fee on CBC's Daybreak North.

"They do a lot of damage when they're around domestic farms ... you can look on YouTube and see what happens when tourists confront bison — and it's not a pretty story."

Read [more](#).

Panel approves McKalip as ag trade negotiator

From Agri-Pulse

The Senate Finance Committee unanimously approved USDA adviser Doug McKalip to be the chief agricultural negotiator for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, sending the nomination to the full Senate for final approval.

"Today's unanimous vote by the Senate Finance Committee sends a strong, bipartisan message that Doug McKalip will be an outstanding Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Representative," USTR Katherine Tai said after the 27-0 vote. "Doug's decades of public service and his unparalleled knowledge of agricultural and food security issues will be a major asset to our office as we continue to advance a trade agenda that benefits our farmers, ranchers, and producers."

Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden, D-Ore., lauded McKalip's three decades in government service – many at USDA – and said, "There's no doubt that he'll be ready to step in and succeed as Chief Ag Negotiator on day one, and he's sure to be busy."

But it's unclear when that "day one" will be, given that he needs a final Senate vote.

"Given the importance of this position, I urge the United States Senate to confirm Doug as soon as possible so he can get to work on behalf of American agricultural producers, workers, and businesses," Tai said. Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo, the top Republican on the Finance Committee said Wednesday that he supported McKalip's nomination despite the Biden administration's refusal so far to negotiate traditional market access agreements with countries that include tariff reductions on ag commodities.

Read [more](#).

American Heart Association sued over Heart-Check mark on beef

From Meatingplace.com

An animal protection organization is suing the American Heart Association for allowing use of its Heart-Check certification on certain meat products.

The lawsuit by Animal Outlook accuses AHA of misleading the public by allowing beef companies to pay a fee to use the Heart-Check tag and

then market the meat products as “heart healthy,” according to documents filed in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

The suit also claims that AHA fails to disclose to consumers that food companies – including beef processors – pay a fee to use the Heart-Check label, allowing them to market their products as heart healthy.

The suit contends that the use of the AHA mark “runs counter to the (organization’s) stated mission and its own admissions that eating beef is not, in fact, heart healthy.” It also cites several scientific studies that Animal Outlook says show that eating beef presents “a higher risk of cardiovascular disease.”

AHA also is accused of not using its own nutritional and scientific guidelines in determining if beef is “heart healthy.” The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages that the 36-page court filing says will be disclosed and proven at trial.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Indemnity Regulations

From the Federal Register Online

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Indemnity Regulations

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking and request for comments.

SUMMARY: We are soliciting public comment on a new approach to indemnity value determination and a new framework for the indemnity regulations. These parts address payment of indemnity for the destruction and disposition of animals the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) classifies as infected with, suspect of, or exposed to diseases of concern, to eradicate and control foreign animal diseases, emerging diseases, and program diseases.

The current regulations for valuing animals for the purpose of indemnification vary from species to species and, in some cases, disease to disease within a species.

The new approach would harmonize how APHIS determines animal values and deals with costs associated with transportation, cleaning, disposal, and other points at which variations occur in how APHIS manages indemnity and compensation.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before November 7, 2022.

Read [more](#).

Stabenow vows to maintain farm, food support in next farm bill

From Agri-Pulse

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., says she's opposed to broad, sweeping cuts to nutrition spending and wants to make sure the upcoming farm bill doesn't pursue those kinds of changes.

Speaking on Agri-Pulse Newsmakers, Stabenow says the farm bill has a commitment to ensure there is a "farm safety net for farmers and a family safety net" and that she "intends to keep that commitment broadly."

In the 2018 farm bill, Congress called on the Department of Agriculture to reevaluate the Thrifty Food Plan, USDA's calculation for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. That update went into effect last year.

Stabenow said the updated plan created a "level playing field" for families facing rising food costs.

"I'm not interested in cutting food assistance for families just to say we did it ... we want to make sure that in the United States of America, folks can put food on the table for their children and have the benefit of being able to have the healthiest, safest, frankly still most affordable, food in the world," said Stabenow.

The farm bill has long benefited from a coalition of lawmakers on Capitol Hill interested in supporting either ag programs, food programs, or both. But some recent votes on the House floor have tested that coalition, and debate over the nutrition title could put that unity under further pressure.

[Source.](#)



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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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