

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

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NBA Weekly Update for November 4, 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.



2022 National Bison Day - Saturday, November 5th

WESTMINSTER, CO (November 3, 2022) The first Saturday in November offers everyone an opportunity to rally around a symbol of national unity, as National Bison Day celebrates the cultural, historical and economic significance of our National Mammal. The American bison is at home in a wide variety of climates across the continent, with herds today found in American parks, refuges, national forests and grasslands, Tribal lands, private conservancies, ranches and farms.

Since 2013, the United States Senate annually has designated the first Saturday in November as National Bison Day. This resolution has the full support of a community bound by the heritage of the American Bison and includes the National Bison Association, the Wildlife Conservation Society and the InterTribal Buffalo Council. These three organizations championed the enactment of legislation in 2016 designating bison as the National Mammal of the United States.

Today's bison herds continue to grow despite a three-year cycle of pandemic, drought, and economic uncertainty. There are exciting advances in understanding bison through the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies, established in 2020 within the South Dakota State University system. Researchers and academics from across the country are bringing together projects to improve the ability of bison caretakers to manage healthy herds and produce healthy meat.

As bison return to the landscape, the National Bison Association remembers their rebound from near extinction only 150 years ago. With this National Bison Day we celebrate the heritage of the buffalo, strive to keep learning more, and create a sustainable future for the caretakers of the animals.

Learn more at https://bisoncentral.com/.

NBA Heads to World Food Championships Next Week

The National Bison Association, in conjunction with

Benjamin Lee Bison, is headed to Dallas, TX next week to attend the 2022 World Food Championships (WFC). There they will host a booth at this enormous food festival and competition known as the "World's biggest food fight"!

The NBA and Benjamin Lee Bison are jointly sponsoring the sandwich category of the WFC, making bison the main ingredient in this competition, which members of both groups will help judge. Chefs are up-and-coming food celebrities and influencers in today's gourmet food scene, for which bison is a perfect fit.



Anyone attending the five-day event, stop by the bison booth and try some smoked bison chili, as well as bison steak, which the group will grill every hour to hand out lucky attendees to promote bison "beyond the buffalo burger".

NBA Communication Director, Karen Conley will attend the WFC next weekend to help in the booth and to post and livestream on NBA's social media channels to provide real-time updates and stories. Thanks too to North American Bison's Al Samuelson, who will volunteer his time and help host the booth talking bison and slinging chili!

According to its website, "the World Food Championships is the largest competition in Food Sport, where culinary competitors of previous events convene for a chance at winning the ultimate food crown and a share of hundreds of thousands of dollars in prize money. The World Food Championships is also the springboard for many up and coming culinary stars and home cooks as they seek TV fame through many well-known food shows and acting opportunities."Learn more at https://worldfoodchampionships.com/.

Our participation in the World Food Championships is thanks to the NBA Growth Fund, in which we ask that members contribute \$1/head of bison sold or slaughtered to fund our outreach and promotion of bison to both consumers and producers. You can contribute to the Growth Fund, and continue our expansive outreach efforts, at https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-growth-fund-program/

Bison Scholarships Awarded to Three University Students, Throlson Bison Foundation Awards \$12,000 in Support

Three emerging livestock industry leaders received welcomed financial support this month as they were named recipients of the 2023 Throlson American Bison Foundation scholarship.

The Throlson Foundation scholarship review committee reviewed numerous applications and narrowed them down to three stand-out students. This year's recipients include funding from the Rich Zahringer Memorial Scholarship Fund, which supports those students who focus on agricultural business and accounting in recognition of the fund's namesake, who was a longtime bison industry accountant and is among the pioneers of the modern bison business. The scholarship is made possible by Rocky Mountain Natural Meats.

This year's scholarship recipients include: Kaylee Kipp - Texas A&M University - Veterinary Medicine Sam Stroup - Texas A&M University - Biomedical Sciences Mikayla Lacher - Kansas State University - Veterinary Medicine

The primary mission of the foundation is to annually award scholarships in bison-related studies. Some previous winning students have pursued degrees in veterinary medicine (production or pathology research), nutrition (livestock or meat), animal science, and behavior science. One common theme they have all possessed is an interest in the advancement of the bison industry.

You can support the Throlson American Bison Scholarship by making a tax-deductible

donation to the Throlson American Bison Foundation by contacting the NBA at (303)292-2833, or by emailing info@bisoncentral.com, or by visiting http://bisoncentral.com/about-nba/throlson-american-bison-foundation.

NBA Busy with In-Person Outreach and Education

Staff of the National Bison Association are on the road a lot this month. Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Texas, Kansas, South Dakota, Oklahoma... and more.

Last weekend Executive Director Jim Matheson joined the Wisconsin Bison Association at their fall meeting in Wausau. This happens to be proclaimed as the "center of the Northwestern world." This unique spot is halfway between the Equator and the North Pole, a quarter of the way around the planet, and halfway between Greenwich Meridian and the International Date Line (45Nx90W).

The National Bison Association serves as a unique spot too, where all with an interest in the American bison can gather. Marketers, growers, conservationists, and enthusiasts are gathering in small groups over the next few months with fall meetings and sales. Meetings can be a great crossroads. Crossroads can put the *confer* back into conference, gathering dedicated individuals who benefit by exchanging ideas, weighing possibilities, and then returning home to deliberately move along their respective paths.

Thank you to all of the members that are volunteering their time at the bison conferences and events this month, like executive board member Mimi Hillenbrand who shared her time at the Regenerate Conference in Denver, Colorado, story below. We are excited to see everyone at the January Winter Conference and Gold Trophy Show and Sale, at the convergence of all things bison!

NBA Hosts Booth at REGENERATE 2022 Conference

NBA Executive Director, Jim Matheson, and NBA Director at Large, and owner of 777 Bison Ranch, Mimi Hillenbrand, hosted a booth at the REGENERATE 2022 conference.



The two shared our message of Regenerative by Nature, and visited with attendees about the bison advantage, and particularly what an effective regenerative tool bison can be when managed properly.

The event was hosted by Holistic Management International, The American Grassfed Association, and the Quivera Coalition and took place at the National Western Complex in Denver, with presentations ironically taking place in our own Gold Trophy Show and Sale ring. Attendees ranged from college students to regenerative farmers and ranchers taking in educational presentations and networking.

Said Matheson, "This is the first time that we've hosted a booth at REGENERATE, and I'm glad we did. We really didn't have to do a lot of the usual detailed explanation of what we do as bison stewards, as attendees were already pretty aware that bison are a no-brainer when talking about regenerative and sustainable agriculture, which is great to see and validated our mantra that bison truly are regenerative by nature."

The NBA's presence at this conference is thanks to the NBA Growth Fund, in which we ask that members contribute \$1/head of bison sold or slaughtered to fund our outreach and promotion of bison to both consumers and producers. You can contribute to the Growth Fund, and continue our expansive outreach efforts, at https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-growth-fund-program/



Winter Conference Registration Now Open

January 18 – 21, 2023 in Denver, Colorado

<u>Registration is open</u> for the 2023 NBA Winter Conference! Please mark your calendars and plan to join the biggest bison gathering of the year where we'll gather, network, learn and celebrate the American bison!

Two days of top-notch educational programming, market updates, and amazing bison-themed meals, all concluding with our annual Gold Trophy Show and Sale (GTSS) bison auction at the National Western Stock Show on Saturday, January 21st. See a conference agenda below to help plan your travel and see why you won't want to miss out on this great opportunity!

Also, please be sure to book your deeply discounted Winter Conference lodging at the beautiful Westin Westminster hotel, details and links below:

Click here to book your room without breakfast option – \$139/night

Click here to book your room with hot buffet breakfast included – \$159/night (\$20/room – double occupancy)

Or call the Westin hotel directly at 303.410.5021, or Marriott reservations at 888.236.2427 and request the National Bison Association room block to reserve over the phone.

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.

MISSOURI BISON ASSOCIATION



FALL PRODUCTION SALE

Thursday, **December 8, 2022** - 11:00 A.M.

Lolli Bros. Livestock, Macon, MO

Buyers Reception: December 7 at 6 p.m.

Raspberry's BBQ Restaurant

To Consign, Call:

Carol Morris: 660-998-0990 or Peter Kohl: 816-585-4779 MISSOURI BISON ASSOCIATION



The Bison Myth You Can Stop Believing

From The Tasting Table

Dining field-to-table certainly isn't a new concept, but it is one that has been gaining momentum. Rarely hunted, The Chicago Sun-Times explains that game meat refers to any wild animals and birds raised on ranches, left to roam freely, and graze in spacious areas before they are butchered and sold to restaurants and markets. Whether it's duck, rabbit, boar, or venison, game meats are slowly yet steadily, appearing on menus across the country. Despite the fact that there are a lot of preconceived notions about these meats, there's one myth surrounding bison in particular that you need to stop believing.

Deemed more sustainable and even healthy, Healthline states bison is a good source of lean protein that's abundant in zinc, iron, selenium, and B vitamins. Game meat has even become trendy. In fact, Eater reports that our fascination with wild fare can be attributed to our desire for new and unique flavors, especially exotic meats. However, with this newfound carnivorous curiosity comes a bit of uncertainty as to just what they may taste like.

Wild meats tend to be an excellent expression of terroir. Impacted by their environment (along with diet, age, and processing), this specialty meat tastes starkly different from the chicken and beef available at the grocery store. However, Hunter Angler Gardener Cook reminds us that even some farm-raised animals, like mutton or guinea hen, can be a bit pungent. So, where on the spectrum of flavor does that leave bison?

Often when we hear the words "wild game," we automatically assume that these meats will taste, well, wild. While many boast some pungent nuances, this isn't always the case. If you've been holding back on trying bison for fear that it might be too earthier for your palate, fear not. When it comes to bison, the meat is anything but gamey.

Read more.

AgriLife Research studies bison in Texas

High Plains Journal

Texas A&M AgriLife Research, including student projects, continues to advance science related to management of bison in Texas for conservation and production. Perry Barboza, Ph.D., AgriLife Research professor in the Departments of Ecology and Conservation Biology and Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management, said research into the sustainability of bison in Texas for production and conservation is focused on addressing basic challenges and establishing foundational knowledge.

Barboza has supervised student research related to bison, a species that once ranged the length of the Great Plains within the two Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences departments.

Bison could become an increasingly important animal option for Texas ranchers, but for now, they represent a niche opportunity, he said. Meat commands a premium—around \$9 per pound for ground bison—but production is limited by problems ranging from parasites and disease to temperament.

Most bison are marketed as yearlings between 300 to 500 pounds, Barboza said. This makes each animal's body condition and maximizing daily weight gain vitally important for producers.

Much of the early projects conducted by undergraduate and graduate students are designed to answer basic questions related to bison management under production conditions.

"There is the possibility of using bison more than cattle if enterprises want to use them at lower stocking rates and to increase the diversity of pasture," he said. "Bison are much

more tolerant of drought, so an operation might run separate herds of cattle and bison to balance the economic and ecological goals for the rancher."

Read more.

The Pueblo Zoo Celebrates National Bison Day and Free Military Weekend (November 5th and 6th)

Newsbreak

National Bison Day is Saturday, November 5th, and the Pueblo Zoo is celebrating its resident bison family, Cody and CJ, with prizes, activities, and a special appearance by Wilder.

Cody, a male bison with pure bison genetics, is the father of CJ (Cody Jr.). These two magnificent bulls live in the "short grass prairie" section of the zoo towards the back of the venue.

The American bison was named the U.S. national mammal in 2016, and the bison is the largest mammal in North America. These impressive creatures are big, fast, agile, and can be unpredictable.

The largest bison population on any public land is at Yellowstone National Park, and the bison that live there now are descendants of animals who roamed there in prehistoric times. Bison are an important part of our nation's history, and they join the bald eagle as a U.S. symbol of strength, courage, and beauty.

Learn more about these amazing animals on Saturday during the National Bison Day event at the Pueblo Zoo. The fun starts at 10:00 a.m. and goes until 2:00 p.m., and guests will have the chance to win two free behind-the-scene passes to meet CJ.

Read more.

Caring for American Bison: Stories from Real-life Zoo Guardians From Smithsonian's National View

Herds of American bison historically ranged from present day Alaska, through vast stretches across the United States and into Mexico. They played an integral role in the ecosystems where they lived and in the native cultures of the people they lived alongside. European expansion across the continent fueled a near extermination of this iconic species. By the 1890s there were fewer than a thousand left. Our founder, William Temple Hornaday, saw this and decided to take action. His conservation efforts to save bison resulted in a small herd on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. and the eventual creation of Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute.

The Zoo has been a leader in conservation—as well as a place for people to learn and connect with wildlife—since its start. Although bison populations have grown since Hornaday's early efforts, they still need our help and protection.

We continue to participate in the conservation of bison today bothin the wild and at the Zoo. It's important for zoos to tell the bison's story and continue to provide an opportunity for people to connect with bison and care about their future.

Read more.

Midewin Prairie hires new supervisor, plans for National Bison Day From Daily Journal

The USDA Forest Service recently announced the appointment of Christina Henderson as Prairie Supervisor of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Wilmington. During the month of November, Henderson will present information during several public interpretive programs celebrating National Bison Day, which is Saturday, Nov. 5.

Midewin Prairie Supervisor Wade Spang retired from the USDA Forest Service after over 40 years of public service, including over a decade at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Henderson moved to the Midewin from the Kisatchie National Forest in Bentley, La., where she was a district ranger on the Catahoula Ranger District. She began with the USDA Forest Service in 2003 as a student in the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP)/ Student Career Experience Program (SCEP). Henderson was converted to a full-time USDA FS employee in 2011 when she became an assistant Special Uses program manager. She has also served on the El Yunque National Forest in San Juan, Puerto Rico; on National Forests in Florida; and in the USDA FS Region 8 regional office. Prior to the USDA FS, she worked in rainforests in Trinidad and Tobago.

Henderson grew up in Toms River, N.J. She enjoys cooking, traveling, rollerblading, and reading – including all seven of the Harry Potter books. She has Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in urban forestry from Southern University and Texas A&M College.

"It is an honor and a privilege to be able to be a part of this exceptional community," Henderson said in a news release. "Serving in the Forest Service provides me the opportunity to demonstrate my values of connectivity, community, equity and integrity. I am dedicated to doing all that I can to ensure that, together, we continue to pursue the core objectives of the Illinois Land Conservation Act to restore the land for the purposes of Recreation, Restoration, Education and Agriculture."

Read more.

New bison herd roams prairie at Dakota County park

From Minnesota Public Radio

A new bison herd is roaming near the Mississippi River in the south Twin Cities metro. Spring Lake Park Reserve in Dakota County is the latest place in Minnesota to welcome the giant mammals. It's part of a decades-long effort to both increase their numbers and restore native prairielands.

As a gusty wind blows dry prairie grass on an unseasonably warm November afternoon, Carleigh Dueck drives her pickup truck at a cautious pace past a tall gate, and into a new bison habitat.

"We think they're up over here. We'll see if we can't find them in their preferred spots." Read more.

A small herd of bison and a small Texas city are helping each other survive

From CNN

Quitaque, Texas CNN — Before the bison arrived, the tiny city of Quitaque, Texas, was on the verge of extinction.

Empty storefronts and dilapidated buildings stood silently on Main Street, a short corridor that intersects with First Street at the city's only traffic light. Truck drivers passed through as they transported cattle throughout the surrounding ranch lands across the vast Texas panhandle.

Over the past century, the city's population has dwindled from 945 to just over 300. Quitaque used to have five gas stations, according longtime resident, Albert Castillo. Now it has only one.

"At one time I thought it would be a ghost town," said Castillo, 61, who also manages the lone remaining grocery store in town (there used to be four). "People were struggling back then and it was kinda hard."

But the city took on a new spirit a little more than a decade ago.

In this remote pocket of Texas – about 100 miles southeast of Amarillo – a wildlife conservation effort has helped revitalize not only a rare and treasured herd of bison, but also the endangered existence of a small, rural community.

Two icons of the American West, now saving each other.

Read more.

farm crisis center

Even in the best of times, farming can be an incredibly highstress occupation. Unpredictable weather, crop disease, volatile markets, heavy workloads, and social isolation are just a handful of the challenges that farmers may face.

These conditions force many family farmers and ranchers to make tough financial decisions that will impact their families, communities, and the entire country.

National Farmers Union compiled resources to help farmers through stressful times. Find them at:

https://farmcrisis.nfu.org/

National Suicide Hotline - 800-273-TALK (8255)

'Quite rare': 12,000 year old bison bones discovered at Saanich construction site

From Chek News

A long-term care home construction site in Saanich turned into a paleontological site after bison bones were discovered which experts believe date back at least 12,000 years. Two weeks ago, Steve Oatman was afraid of his discovery while working onsite at the future home of Broadmead Care's Nigel House.

"I was very like cautious, worried that it was something else," said Oatman, an operator with Michell Excavating LTD.

But after finding various bones too large to be human, he thought it may have been a

sabertooth tiger or a mammoth. Workers at the construction quickly put in a call.

"It was really exciting, I was really excited to dig it up. I wanted to keep going. Of course, we had to wait for everyone to come in and do their actual job," said Oatman.

Paleontologist Edward Davies was among one the handful of experts who were called to examine the fossil. The team was able to uncover around 20 per cent of the animal bones including parts of the backbone, feet, shoulder, skull, horn, and pieces of its ribcage.

Click to Read More.

Bison return program is now helping Native American ranchers build herds

From Nebraska Examiner

LINCOLN — For years, Wayne Frederick and his father managed a herd of bison held by the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of south-central South Dakota.

But now, a unique partnership between a tribal nonprofit that helps Native ranchers raise bison and the Nature Conservancy is helping Frederick start his own commercial herd.

Four bison were delivered to Frederick's Rez Raised Ranch near Winner, S.D., last week, and another 10 are scheduled to arrive Monday. They will be released on pastures where his family just recently completed installing six-wire fence to hold the massive animals, which can weigh up a ton and be 6 feet tall.

The 43-year-old rancher is thankful for the help from the Kyle, S.D.-based Tanka Fund, as well as the Nature Conservancy, to return an animal that once blanketed the Plains, providing his people with food, tools and shelter.

"There's a lot of meaning to it — not only are they a keystone species for the area, they're a cultural animal," Frederick said. "The cultural impact and meaning is much bigger than raising beef animals."

The delivery of the bison is part of a larger, decades-long effort to repopulate the Plains with bison and re-establish a buffalo economy that enriches Native communities and ranchers.

Read more.

Why Bison Rib Roast Is Harder To Perfect Than Beef Rib Roast From The Tasting Table

When life gives you prime rib, you cut it into ribeye steaks. Prime rib is the popular cut of meat to use when making a rib roast, as the marbled fattiness adds flavor throughout every bite. You'll notice when requesting it at the store that it can go by several different names, like "beef rib roast," "prime rib roast," "standing rib roast," or just "rib roast." It's often called "standing rib roast" due to the meat standing on the bones while roasting (via Natasha's Kitchen).

Either way, it's a delicious, show-stopping centerpiece to a holiday dinner, and makes for great leftovers to tuck into sandwiches the next day. But if you're searching for a way to cook a roast without dealing with the bone, and maybe on the leaner side, bison is always a great alternative. Just keep in mind that it has some stipulations.

According to Bearded Butchers, bison is a much rarer type of meat compared to beef, making it more expensive. To get into the nitty-gritty, only 20,000 bison are processed each year, compared to 125,000 beef cattle. Bison is also more nutrient-dense, higher in protein, and much lower in fat, calories, and cholesterol, compared to beef, pork, chicken, and salmon. Because of the lower fat content, it's hard to cook it just right when

preparing a large cut of it. However, there are ways to work around this.

Read more.



Save the Date!

- 11/04/2022 Texas Bison Association Fall Conference TX
- 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
- 11/16/2022 22nd Annual Brownotter Buffalo Auction Online
- 11/17/2022 Jack Auction Group Video Auction Online
- 11/19/2022 Coyote Trail Buffalo Ranch Simulcast Production Auction SD
- 11/21/2022 NBA Member's Fall Webinar 1-4 pm MT
- 11/22/2022 NBA Member's Fall Webinar 1-4 pm MT
- 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
- 11/28/2022 BSS Land Management, LLC Complete Dispersal Auction Online
- 12/01/2022 Western Bison Association Conference UT
- 12/03/2022 Western Bison Assn. Wild West Buffalo Stampede Auction UT
- 12/03/2022 Kansas Buffalo Association Sale KS
- 12/06/2022 Northern Range Buffalo Consignment Simulcast Auction SD
- 12/08/2022 Missouri Bison Assn. Fall Production Auction MO
- 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
- 2/24/2023 Beltway Bison Consignment Auction PA
- 3/09/2023 Eastern Bison Association Winter Conference and Auction PA
- 3/11/2023 Missouri Bison Assn. & Oklahoma Bison Assn. Show & Sale MO

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.

Events







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