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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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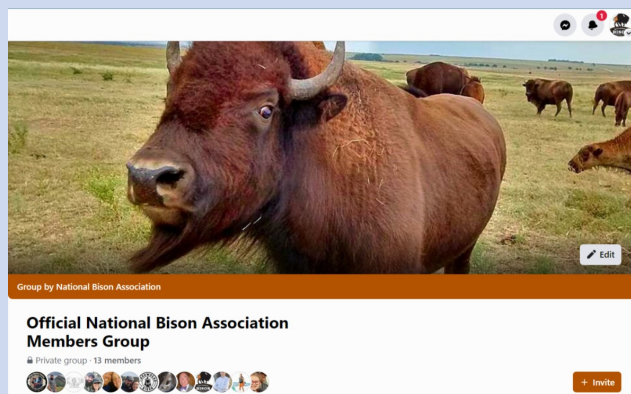
### NBA Weekly Update for October 14, 2022

*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 Launches Member's Only Group on Facebook

The National Bison Association Members Only Group is up and running!

This Facebook Group was created for members to inquire about, and discuss, bison management and marketing topics of all kinds as well as to post cool bison photos, videos, handling facilities, etc.



Our hope is to offer vetted answers to these questions as they come up from our vast network of bison experts. It goes without saying, but to maintain this service as a useful tool for the membership, please follow the rules tagged here and be respectful in your correspondence. We also ask everyone to refrain from using this forum to buy or sell animals, equipment, services, etc. as we have our Trading Board classifieds, which offers members cost-effective advertising -

<https://bisoncentral.com/trading-board-listings/>.

To join, follow this link and request to join the group, note - must be logged into Facebook account to access

- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/officialnationalbisonmembers>.

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## Third Regenerative Field Day Tomorrow in Illinois

Join us tomorrow 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

Day of registration available to NBA members. Please coordinate with NBA Program Manager, Lydia Whitman upon arrival, or click [here to register](#).



# NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION AND RUHTER BISON LLC



**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](https://MCCD.me/BisonWorkshop)**



## **Progress Being Made in Opening Japan to Bison Meat Imports**

The National Bison Association was contacted this week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service (USDA FAS) with a request from the Japanese government to tour a Colorado bison processing facility in December.

This is the next step in the long process of potentially opening up Japan to bison meat imports. Japan is a lucrative market for American proteins and bison has been excluded for decades due to the Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) outbreak in beef. Note, there has never been a recorded case of BSE in bison in North America.

FAS has already petitioned Japan to accept American bison products, and paperwork has been filed by both countries to continue the process. The NBA is working to also showcase a bison ranch during the Japanese visit, should time allow.

Said NBA Executive Director, Jim Matheson "While the NBA's primary focus is the North American consumer marketplace, where we're still educating and attracting new consumers, our business is growing and the Pacific Rim has always been a goal to market



higher-end cuts to a quality-driven marketplace, particularly Japan."

This news follows a recent meeting with the NBA's bison delegation in September with the Foreign Ag Service, where the group discussed next steps on opening Japan to bison.

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## Bulls and Heifers Higher in Latest USDA Report

Prices paid on dressed young bull carcasses were higher in September according to the latest USDA monthly wholesale price report released last today.

Dressed young bulls brought an average of \$3.78/lb. in September, which was \$.03 higher than the previous month, but \$.09 lower than the previous year.

Dressed heifer carcasses were also \$.03 higher than the previous month, which averaged \$3.61/lb. in September, and just \$.02 higher than this time in 2021.

Through October 7th, 53,056 bison have been processed under USDA inspection this year.

The monthly USDA price report is available [here](#).

To access archived USDA AMS Bison Price reports, click [here](#).

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## USDA announces details for the upcoming Census of Agriculture

America's farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to be represented in the nation's only comprehensive and impartial agriculture data for every state, county and territory. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will mail the 2022 Census of Agriculture to millions of agriculture producers across the 50 states and Puerto Rico this fall.

The 2022 Census of Agriculture will be mailed in phases, starting with an invitation to respond online in November followed by paper questionnaires in December. Farm operations of all sizes, urban and rural, which produced and sold, or normally would have sold, \$1,000 or more of agricultural product in 2022 are included in the ag census.

"Census of Agriculture data are widely used by federal and local governments, agribusinesses, trade associations, extension educators, and many others to inform decisions about policy and farm programs and services that aid producers and rural communities," said NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer. "By responding to the Census of Agriculture – by being represented in these important data – producers are literally helping to shape their futures."

Collected in service to American agriculture since 1840 and now conducted every five years by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the Census of Agriculture tells the story and shows the value of U.S. agriculture. It highlights land use and ownership, producer characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures, among other topics. Between ag census years, NASS considers revisions to the questionnaire to document changes and emerging trends in the industry. Changes to the 2022 questionnaire include new questions about the use of precision agriculture, hemp production, hair sheep, and updates to internet access questions.

To learn more about the Census of Agriculture, visit [nass.usda.gov/AgCensus](https://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus) or call 800-727-9540. On the website, producers and other data users can access frequently asked questions, past ag census data, [partner tools](#) to help spread the word about the upcoming ag census, special study information, and more. For highlights of these and the latest information on the upcoming Census of Agriculture, follow USDA NASS on twitter [@usda\\_nass](#).

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**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.**



## REACH THE WHOLE HERD!

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### American bison all have some cattle DNA. Here's why.

*From National Geographic*

Bison once numbered in the hundreds of millions and roamed in vast herds throughout North America. But after Europeans colonized and began developing the continent, the newcomers set about killing the shaggy herbivores en masse. Their numbers declined rapidly, and, by the 1870s, American bison—also called buffalo—had nearly gone extinct, dropping to a total population of around 500.

But bison are survivors. They hung on in a small herd in what's now Yellowstone National Park, as well as another tiny population in Canada. A handful of ranchers also kept some alive, most of whom also experimented with breeding buffalo and cattle in a failed attempt to create a better beef-producing animal.

More than a century's worth of dedicated conservation has helped the animals rebound tremendously, to a total population around 500,000.

But hidden in their DNA, these iconic species bear marks of their scrape with humanity: A recent study published in the journal *Scientific Reports* finds that all American bison tested have low but significant quantities of domestic cattle DNA.

The results came as a surprise to study co-author James Derr, a biologist at Texas A&M University. "I was absolutely in denial," he says. "It was like being punched in the mouth."

[Read more.](#)

### In 1984, Scientists Ate 50,000-Year-Old Bison In A Stew

*From IFL Science*

Blue Babe was a bison with two lifetimes. The first occurred 50,000 years ago when the steppe bison (*Bison priscus*) roamed Alaska before meeting its end in the jaws of a lion. The second began when its mummified remains were retrieved from the Interior permafrost where it had remained frozen in time since the Ice Age.

The remarkably well-preserved bison was first discovered by gold miners in 1979 and handed over to scientists as a rare find, being the only known example of a Pleistocene

bison reclaimed from the permafrost. That said, it didn't stop gastronomically curious researchers from whipping up a batch of Pleistocene-era bison neck stew.

The unusual dinner party would play out at the Alaska home of palaeontologist Dale Guthrie who was instrumental in the retrieval of Blue Babe from the environment. Initial analyses of the bison's collagen appeared to indicate the remains were around 36,000 years old, but more modern investigations changed this to 50,000 years.

[Read more.](#)

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## Kansas to auction off surplus bison

*From KSN - NBC*

CANTON, Kan. (KSNW) — The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) will be holding a public auction of surplus bison.

The bison come from the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge and the Sandsage Bison Range. The public is invited and encouraged to attend the auction, which will be held at 11 a.m. on Nov. 2 at the Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, located 6 miles north of Canton in McPherson County.

The refuge and Bison Range are used to preserve both Bison and Elk populations that are native to Kansas. However, only a certain population level can be maintained, so excess Bison are occasionally auctioned off.

A total of 80 bison will be auctioned off on Nov. 2, including:

- 15 – Cows
- 2 – 2-yr-old Heifers
- 7 – Yearling Heifers
- 13 – Heifer Calves
- 12 – 2-yr-old Bulls
- 15 – Yearling Bulls
- 16 – Bull Calves
- 

Bison older than one year will be brucellosis and tuberculosis tested and accompanied by a health certificate. Heifer calves older than 6 months will be vaccinated for brucellosis, and certificates will be issued.

[Read more.](#)

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# farm crisis center

Even in the best of times, farming can be an incredibly high-stress 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)**

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## RIGHT TO ROAM

*From Red Bull*

On July 18 this year, three female bison ventured out into West Blean and Thornden Woods in Kent. Bison have not lived wild in England for more than 10,000 years, yet this trio made themselves right at home. "The older one came out, confidently looked around, then looked back to let the younger two know it was safe," says Stan Smith, Wilder Landscapes Manager for the Kent Wildlife Trust, who's been working on the Wilder Blean project since its inception four years ago

"They have this matriarchal structure; the three met for the first time on-site and sorted it out immediately. They slotted into their environment quickly." The bison are part of a global trend of reintroducing vanished native animals into struggling ecosystems to restore the natural balance, rebooting wild spaces to function as they did before humans took over. Most successful has been the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone in the US, which has revitalised the national park's flora and fauna.

European rewilding projects have included the return of beavers to Scotland, Iberian lynx and wolves to parts of Portugal, and vultures to Bulgaria. Setting wolves loose in Kent was never an option, however. Fortunately, bison were ideal for this specific task. Smith explains that, at present, the forest is a monoculture containing only non-native conifers planted for timber production, and it lacks the diversity needed to encourage the range of wildlife you'd find in naturally developed woodland. As the conifers are mature, they're no longer taking in as much carbon as growing trees. By trampling paths through the forest and eating bark from the conifers, bison help kill off older trees and create space for a diverse range of new ones, along with the wildlife this attracts

"The bison push over trees and flatten vegetation, which encourages new tree growth, meaning more carbon is sucked out of the air," Smith says. The result: woodland that captures carbon more efficiently and is home to a greater number of wildlife species.

[Read more.](#)

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## Farm Service Agency Offering Tax Education Webinar

When filing an income tax return, it is important to determine if a venture is a business or hobby. In general, the IRS considers an activity a trade or business, and not a hobby, if it is conducted with a profit motive.

Join USDA and JC Hobbs, Associate Extension Specialist, Department of Agriculture Economics, Oklahoma State University for a producer educational webinar.

Event: Hobby Losses

Date: Monday, October 17, 2022

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Eastern Time

[Register here](#)

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## NCBA bashes Google's new sustainability search feature

*From Meatingplace.com*

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is up in arms about a new sustainability search feature being offered by Google, saying the company is offering "inaccurate climate information on cattle production" to bias people against eating meat.

The company should "consider the science of beef production before making this new feature widely available," NCBA said in a news [release](#).

Asked to clarify how the company was misrepresenting facts in its new feature, an NCBA spokesperson told Meatingplace in an emailed statement that Google had not provided detailed information on the data the Interget giant is using for determining emission levels.

"We would expect Google to rely on a data source like FAO STAT from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, however FAO STAT level out critical data like emissions from manufacturing and processing, thus creating an incomplete representation of the emissions from various foods. Many of the foods Google used as an example of 'more sustainable,' like tofu or pasta, are highly processed products and their true emissions value would be higher than what FAO STAT reports," the spokesperson stated.

Google did not respond to a request for comment on NCBA's claim that it was ignoring science that shows "beef's sustainability and value to the environment."

[Read more.](#)

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## FARM BUREAU SEEKS 'UNIFIED' FARM BILL OF AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION AID

*From Successful Farming*

The largest U.S. farm group believes "it makes perfect sense" to combine commodity supports and SNAP in the same piece of big-ticket legislation, said president Zippy Duvall in announcing the American Farm Bureau Federation's farm bill priorities on Thursday. The AFBF called for higher subsidy rates, at a still-to-be-determined cost, and more emphasis on stewardship on working lands rather than long-term idling of cropland.

Congress was expected to begin work in earnest on the farm bill early next year. The 2018 farm policy law expires in the fall. Action on the 2014 and 2018 farm bills was delayed by attempts by conservative Republicans to slash SNAP spending and expand the program's work requirements. Senate Agriculture Committee chair Debbie Stabenow said earlier this week that food stamp fights were likely during drafting of the 2023 farm bill.



First on the AFBF's list of priorities was "protect farm bill program spending," followed by "maintain a unified farm bill that keeps nutrition programs and farm programs together." Also on the list were a robust federally subsidized crop insurance system and "adequate" staffing and funding of the USDA's technical assistance programs for farmers and ranchers.

[Read more.](#)

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## Grocery prices up again in September, driving another gain in CPI

*From Agri-Pulse*

Supermarket prices rose another 0.7% last month, driven by increases in nearly every category, and food costs are now up 13% over the past year.

The increase in grocery costs helped drive a 0.4% rise last month in the Consumer Price Index, which had increased just 0.1% in August.

The produce aisle saw some of the biggest price increases in September. The fruit and vegetable index jumped 1.6%, led by a 6.8% increase in the price of lettuce and 5% rise in apple prices. Potato prices rose 3.5%.

The meat index rose 0.7%, driven by a 1.8% increase in pork prices and a 0.6% rise in poultry prices. Beef prices remained relatively stable, declining 0.1% in September. Egg prices, which have jumped 30.5% over the past 12 months due to an outbreak of avian influenza that forced some farms to be depopulated, fell 3.5% last month.

The index for cereal and bakery products rose 0.9%, while dairy prices were 0.3% higher in September.

Prices also were higher for sugar and sweets, up 1.8%, and fats and oils, up 1.2%. An official with the Food Marketing Institute, which represents major supermarket chains, linked the continued food price increases to "spikes in costs due to labor, lower capacity production disruptions, transportation demands, and global conflicts."

[Read more.](#)

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## Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)

*From USDA*

### Program Description

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) offers payments to eligible livestock producers with eligible livestock. You must also be a producer of grazed forage crop acreage.

The payments help producers with grazing losses suffered on native or improved pastureland due to a qualifying drought. This can be land with eligible permanent or planted grazing cover.

LFP also provides for livestock producers on rangeland managed by a federal agency, if the agency halts grazing on the land due to a qualifying fire.

For grazing losses due to drought, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) will calculate payments equal to 1, 3, 4 or 5 times the LFP monthly payment rate. The payment rate for drought is equal to 60% of the lesser of the monthly feed cost for all covered livestock or the normal carrying capacity of the eligible grazing land.

For grazing losses due to fire on federally managed lands, the payment begins on the first day the permitted livestock are stopped from grazing the eligible rangeland. It ends on

the earlier of the last day of the federal lease of the eligible livestock producer or 180 days from the first day the livestock were stopped from grazing.

The payment rate is 50% of the monthly feed cost for the number of days the producer is stopped from grazing the federally managed rangeland because of a qualifying fire, not to exceed 180 days.

### **Application Process**

You must apply for payment and submit required supporting documents to your local FSA office within 30 days after the end of calendar year the grazing loss occurred.

There is a payment limitation of \$125,000 per program year per person or legal entity. If you have an average AGI of more than \$900,000 that applies, you are not eligible for LPF payments. Legal entities exclude joint ventures and general partnerships. Other terms and conditions may apply.

*Last Updated: 06/23/2022*

Read [more](#)

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## **Northern Great Plains Program**

Applications are due November 17, 2022.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is soliciting proposals to conserve and restore grasslands and wildlife species in the Northern Great Plains. The goal of the Northern Great Plains Program is to maintain and/or improve interconnected grasslands in focal areas to sustain healthy populations of grassland-obligate species while fostering sustainable livelihoods and preserving cultural identities. The following are the Northern Great Plains focal areas: Dakota Grasslands, Missouri-Milk River Grasslands, Nebraska Sandhills, and the Powder River-Thunder Basin Grasslands. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations; U.S. Federal, state, local, and municipal governments, Tribal agencies, and educational institutions.

Funding Priorities Include:

- Intact grasslands: Increase large intact grasslands by permanently conserving a minimum of 100,000 acres of native grasslands in core areas within the identified focal areas.
- Connectivity: Increase connectivity of core native grasslands by restoring a minimum of 150,000 acres of degraded habitat adjacent to native grasslands within identified focal areas.
- Working lands: Improve management on 750,000 acres of working land. Management agreements with landowners are an effective tool for implementing habitat improvements at large scales through prescribed grazing, fencing and livestock water development to facilitate rangeland management, and behavior modifications.
  - Private ranchlands: Support existing rancher-based initiatives and engage new partners in delivery of conservation projects on ranching lands, including the delivery of Farm Bill and other federal programs that provide incentives for sound range management.
- Tribal communities: Support efforts to enhance or restore native prairie habitats and associated species that are culturally significant to tribes; support participation of tribal biologists in species conservation or recovery programs; and increase access of tribes to federal incentive programs.

Read [more](#).

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## **Northeast SARE Farmer Grant Program**

Proposals are due by November 15, 2022.

Northeast SARE offers grants to farmers to explore new concepts in sustainable agriculture conducted through experiments, surveys, prototypes, on-farm demonstrations or other research and education techniques.

Farmer Grant projects address issues that affect farming with long-term sustainability in mind. The Farmer Grant program is open to all commercial farm business owners and farm employees in the Northeast region.

Awards typically range from \$5,000 to \$30,000, depending upon a project's complexity and duration.

Read [more](#).



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### ***Save the Date!***

- 10/15/2022 - NBA Regenerative Ranch Tour Workshop - IL
- 10/17/2022 - Middle Creek Ranch Production Webcast Auction - Online
- 10/20/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Bison Auction - Online
- 10/24/2022 - Beaver Creek Buffalo No Reserve Complete Dispersal - Online
- 10/28/2022 - Wisconsin Bison Producer's Association Fall Meeting - WI
- 10/31/2022 - Konza Prairie Biological Station - Annual Sale -
- 11/02/2022 - Maxwell Wildlife Refuge Annual Auction - KS
- 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
- 11/25/2022 - 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](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com) and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

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Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events

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