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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 28, 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 Promotes Bison at National FFA Convention

What happens when you put a bison mount, 65,000 FFA members, and free jerky together? Ring the bison!

That wasn't all that was accomplished at the National FFA Convention. Volunteers from Cook's Bison Ranch and NBA staff shared the story of bison and handed out loads of resources to FFA advisors and students alike. We also had the coolest ear tag key chains (thank you, Ranch 287)!

The National Bison Association has represented bison at the National FFA Convention for over 10 years. FFA is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Today, 850,823 FFA members aged 12-21 have





8,995 chapters in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

FFA develops members' potential and helps them discover their talent through hands-on experiences, which give members the tools to achieve real-world success. Our goal is to add bison ranchers to this list!

Special thanks to [Durham Ranch](#) and [Cook's Bison Ranch](#) for donating bison jerky to these eager students and future bison producers!

The poster features a dark wood-grain background. At the top, the text 'WINTER CONFERENCE 2023' is displayed in white, spaced-out capital letters. Below this, the word 'AGENDA' is written in large, white, outlined capital letters. To the left of 'AGENDA' is a small yellow square logo with a bison silhouette and the text '#Bison Benefit' and 'Good for Us. Good for Our Planet.' To the right is a circular logo for the 'NATIONAL BISON ASSOCIATION' featuring a bison silhouette. The agenda is organized into four orange rectangular boxes. The first box is for 'JANUARY 18' and lists: Registration Open (3pm), Tradeshow Open (3-6pm), Foundation Welcome (4-6pm), and Reception. The second box is for 'JANUARY 19' and lists: Registration Open (7:30am), Tradeshow Open (8am), Mentor Session (8-11am), Education Sessions (9-11am), Lunch (Noon), Keynote- Nicole Masters (1:30pm), Education Sessions (3-5pm), and Benefit Auction Dinner (5:30pm). The third box is for 'JANUARY 20' and lists: Consigner's Meeting (7:30am), Registration Open (8am), Tradeshow Open (8am), Junior Judging at NWSS (9-Noon), Elections and Reports (9:30-11:15am), Lunch @ NWSS (Noon), Day at the Yards (1-4pm), and Banquet Dinner (6pm). The fourth box is for 'JANUARY 21' and lists: GTSS Judges Comments (8-9:30am) and Live Animal Auction (10am). At the bottom, the text 'REGISTER RIGHT AWAY @ WWW.BISONCENTRAL.COM' is written in white, followed by 'JANUARY 18-21, 2023' and 'WESTMINSTER, COLORADO'.

## Winter Conference Registration Now Open

January 18 – 21, 2023 in Denver, Colorado

[Registration is open](#) 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.

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## NBA Attends Wisconsin Bison Producers Association Fall Meeting

The National Bison Association's executive director, Jim Matheson, will provide an industry and association update at the annual fall meeting of the Wisconsin Bison Producer's Association (WIBPA).

The group is gathering in Wausau, WI this weekend to hear from an array of speakers addressing various bison management and marketing topics. The conference will conclude with a farm tour of WIBPA president Rob and Tanya Holcomb's bison operation.

According to the WIBPA's most recent newsletter:

"Tanya Holcomb and Mandy Hein have worked hard to find us a beautiful meeting location and plan yummy menus. The registration fee includes the conference, appetizers at the Friday social, Saturday continental breakfast, Saturday bison burger bar lunch and Saturday bison pasta dinner. An open bar will be available. Mimosas, beer and wine anyone? And, of course, the best part of a statewide conference is the chance to catch up with old bison friends, meet a few new bison friends and simply have a good time."

Learn more at [www.wibison.com](http://www.wibison.com).

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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.***

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# HELP US BUILD A STRONGER BISON MARKETPLACE



**Your voluntary contributions help support the ongoing mission of the National Bison Association. Marketing, outreach, promotion and teaching are just a few of the projects supported by donations to the Growth Fund. Any amount is welcome!**

**DONATE NOW!**

Learn more at <https://bisoncentral.com/product/nba-growth-fund-program/>

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## 1839 Cherokee Meat Co. celebrates opening

*From MeatPoultry.com*

TAHLEQUAH, OKLA. — To commemorate the opening of 1839 Cherokee Meat Co., representatives from Cherokee Nation Businesses held a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Oct. 24 in addition to hosting tours of the facility.

Named after the year Cherokee Nation became untied by the constitution, 1839 Cherokee Meat Co. is a USDA and state-certified meat processing facility located in Tahlequah, Okla. The 12,000 square-foot plant repurposes tribal property to support food security for Cherokee citizens.

"As the Cherokee people navigated through the pandemic, we learned valuable lessons about food security and food sovereignty," said Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. "By addressing the shortage of meat processing capacity with our own facility, we support local agriculture and locally sourced food all for the benefit of Cherokee citizens and the region's economy."

Hoskin along with Deputy Chief Bryan Warner and the Council of the Cherokee Nation instigated the construction of the facility, which is expected to expand in phases. Eventually, 1839 Cherokee Meat Co. will use surplus bison from Cherokee Nation's herd to meet their goal of a sustainable local farm-to-table operation.

The facility was funded through Cherokee Nation's COVID-19 Respond, Recover and Rebuild relief plan. A total of \$27 million in funds went to the facility, five new distribution centers and additional refrigerated trucks.

"I am so proud that during a difficult public health crisis Cherokee Nation business and government leaders could come together to not only address immediate challenges, but also make long term investments like the new 1839 Cherokee Meat Co.," Warner said.

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## USDA Launches Loan Assistance Tool to Enhance Equity and Customer Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26, 2022 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) launched a new online tool to help farmers and ranchers better navigate the farm loan application process. This uniform application process will help to ensure all farm loan applicants receive equal support and have a consistent customer experience with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) regardless of their individual circumstances.

"USDA recognizes more must be done to ensure all customers have equal access to our programs and services," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "The Loan Assistance



Tool is another example of USDA taking accountability and ensuring we update our existing systems, processes, and policies to make them equitable for all customers. The tool will help loan applicants better understand the application process and gather the needed documents before the process even begins.”

USDA experiences a high rate of incomplete or withdrawn applications, particularly among underserved customers, due in part to a challenging and lengthy paper-based application process. The Loan Assistance Tool is available 24/7 and gives customers an online step-by-step guide that supplements the support they receive when working in person with a USDA employee, providing materials that may help an applicant prepare their loan application in one tool.

Farmers can access the Loan Assistance Tool by visiting [farmers.gov/farm-loan-assistance-tool](https://farmers.gov/farm-loan-assistance-tool) and clicking the ‘Get Started’ button. From here they can follow the prompts to complete the Eligibility Self-Assessment and start the farm loan journey. The tool is built to run on any modern browser like Chrome, Edge, Firefox, or the Safari browser, and is fully functional on mobile devices. It does not work in Internet Explorer.

The Loan Assistance Tool is the first of multiple farm loan process improvements that will be available to USDA customers on farmers.gov in the future. Other improvements and tools that are anticipated to launch in 2023 include:

- A streamlined and simplified direct loan application, reduced from 29 pages to 13 pages.
- An interactive online direct loan application that gives customers a paperless and electronic signature option, along with the ability to attach supporting documents such as tax returns.
- An online direct loan repayment feature that relieves borrowers from the necessity of calling, mailing, or visiting a local Service Center to pay a loan installment.

[Read more.](#)

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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.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity Technical Assistance**

*From USDA-AMS*

USDA’s Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity- Technical Assistance Program (MPPTA) ensures that participants in [USDA’s Meat and Poultry Supply Chain](#) initiatives have access

full-range technical assistance (TA) to support their project development and success. These supply chain initiatives—including the [Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant \(MPIRG\) Program](#) and the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP)--support the growth of domestic processing capacity and the ability of independent facilities to serve more customers in more markets.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is investing up to \$25 million to establish a nationwide MPPTA network of support focusing on four key areas, or scopes:

- Federal Grant Application Management: Navigating federal grants processes and procedures, from pre-award applications processes through post-award grant management compliance;
- Business Development and Financial Planning: Business and financial planning resources, market intelligence, and project/concept feasibility analyses;
- Meat and Poultry Processing Technical and Operation Support: Advice and resources to support the operational needs—including workforce development--of processing plant development and utilization; and
- Supply Chain Development: Support for the development and maintenance of successful supply chain and marketing relationships—between suppliers, processors, distributors, and customers.

What does the MPPTA Offer?

- Access to technical experts from across industry, academia and state and federal government.
- Focused content for diverse stakeholders, including family-owned, rural, minority-owned, Native American and Tribal-owned businesses, and other underserved entities seeking to build or expand meat and poultry processing and supply chain capacity.
- General assistance with navigating USDA grant application and award processes, and successful post-award grant management
- One-one-one advising, including project and proposal reviews tailored to the specific needs of diverse stakeholders, from small and very small processors and new enterprise startups to organizations developing regional concepts and established mid-sized processing companies.
- Educational resources, events, and webinars covering topics of interest for meat and poultry processing enterprises of all types.

[Read more.](#)

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## **Cleveland Metroparks Zoo welcomes three female bison**

*From Spectrum News 1*

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's family continues to grow. This week, the zoo welcomed three new bison to its mix.

The zoo said all three females came from the Minnesota Zoo. Their names are Blue, 6 years old; Grun, 2 years old; and Topaz, 5 months old.

Bison are the largest mammal in North America, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior. The average female bison weighs up to 1,000 pounds and can be up to 4 to 5 feet. Males can weigh up to 2,000 pounds and reach 6 feet tall.

While they can be big, they can also run pretty fast. On average, they can run up to 35 mph.

Yellowstone National Park is the only area bison have roamed freely since prehistoric times, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior. They can live up to 20 years old.

[Read more.](#)

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**'Very scary': Cowboys capture Bison that escaped from veterinarian's**

## property in Belton

BELTON, Texas (KWTX) - Central Texas cowboys on horseback on Tuesday afternoon helped authorities in the city of Belton, corral, tranquilize, and capture a loose bison.

"It was pretty tough because he kept beating us into brush," said cowboy Joe Draper. "We couldn't get him to come out to where we could actually get a shot and get him roped and get him captured."

Paul Romer, a spokesperson with the City of Belton, told KWTX the animal, which belongs to a local rancher, escaped from a veterinarian's office on E. 6th Ave. at about 7:30 a.m. Tuesday.

It happened near the busy downtown area and "we're grateful it didn't go near a school bus," Romer said, "I've been working in Belton for 10 years now and nothing like this has ever happened. Thank goodness nobody got injured on the interstate. It was very scary to have this animal on the loose."

[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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## District burger joint Bubba's Texas Burger Shack serves plates from under the highway

*From Community Impact*

From icehouse to casual burger joint to Houston staple, Bubba's Texas Burger Shack has evolved alongside the city it calls home.

Originally located on the old Westheimer Road, the shack moved to its current abode on Westpark Drive in 1985, serving drinks with the occasional burger. Five years into its relocation, then-owner Bubba Gilliam sold the restaurant to one of its regular customers, Richard Reed.

Now, the former dive bar is run by another generation: Reed's daughters, Erin Fisher and Allison Boyd, with family friend Matt McCracken. The trio have taken charge of Bubba's, seeing the eatery through what they said have been the best and worst times of its history.

The dive was unique early on for the inclusion of bison beef in its burger patties. The meat is sourced from just outside Rapid City, South Dakota, through 777 Bison Ranch, they said.

When paired with a 27-ingredient spice blend, the burgers are one of a kind, Fisher said.

[Click to Read More.](#)

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

- 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 - 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
- 2/11/2023 - 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



- 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](mailto: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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