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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 23, 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.



Washington D.C. Roundup a Success

Monday and Tuesday this week, a delegation 15 bison producers and marketers, members of the InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC) and NBA Staff met with top officials at USDA, including agency administrators at some meetings, to discuss

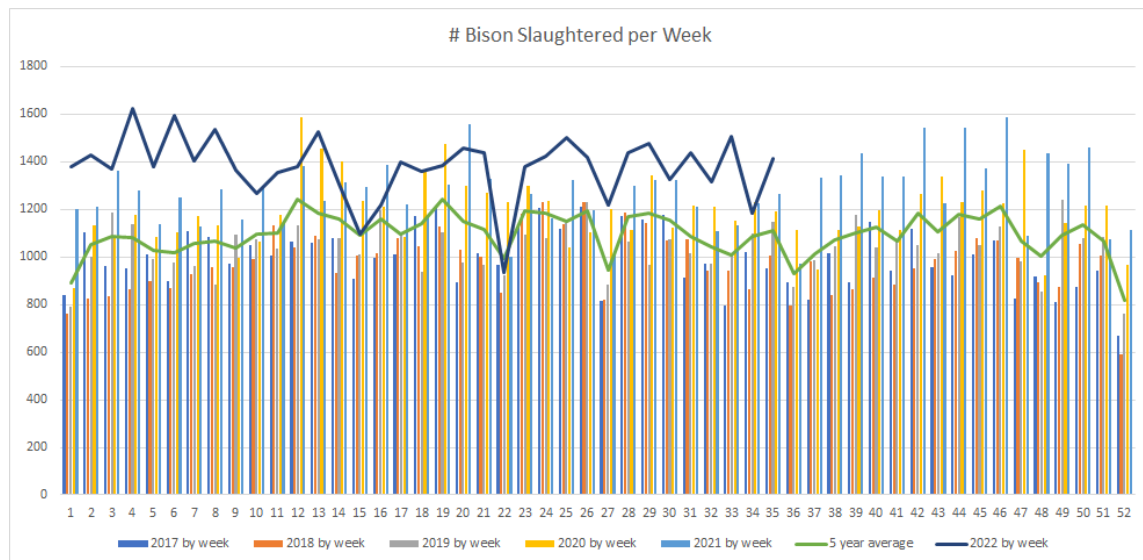
how the NBA can support the USDA in its many efforts supporting policies that benefit and include bison producers. "It was really great to see USDA responding so well." Jim Matheson, NBA Executive Director.

The group also met with the U.S. Trade Representative's office to discuss regulatory issues impacting the bison industry. The second day was 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, the Indian Buffalo Management Act bill (H.R.2074), and more.

"It was a very interesting and action packed two days. Really good meetings with folks there. They seem really interested in hearing from us," Chad Kremer, NBA President.

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

See all of the NBA's briefing papers that they supplied to USDA and Congress [here](#).



2022 Bison Slaughter Trending Higher than 5 Year Average

For the month of August, prices of bison cuts were steady to slightly higher and pounds of bison were mostly steady when compared to July. Canadian bison imports were 35 percent higher and actual slaughter numbers were 30 percent higher than July totals.

To access the full report [click here](#).

Each month the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) compiles independently reported data from bison slaughter locations, big and small. Accuracy in the report is important for farmers, producers and other agricultural businesses to evaluate market conditions, identify trends, make purchasing decisions, monitor price patterns, evaluate transportation equipment needs and accurately assess movement.

For 100 years, AMS has provided free, unbiased price and sales information to assist in the marketing and distribution of farm commodities.

Encourage more small and very small slaughter locations to report so there is a more accurate representation of bison slaughter.

Registration Open for Third Regenerative Field Day in Illinois

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

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



**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)



[Click to Register](https://mccd.me/BisonWorkshop)



National Bison Partner in Climate Smart Commodities Grant

The USDA is investing up to \$2.8 billion in selected projects under the first Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities funding pool. 14 projects were selected with approximate funding ceilings from \$70M - \$95M.

A proposal was created through South Dakota State University and partners, including the National Bison Association. The project is entitled "The Grass is Greener on the Other Side: Developing Climate-Smart Beef and Bison Commodities." The approximate funding ceiling is an extraordinary \$80,000,000.

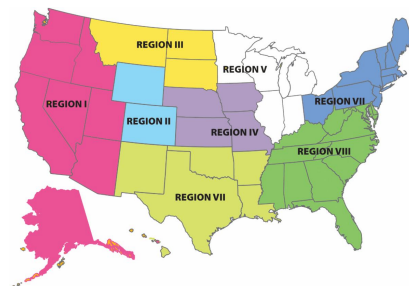
This project will create market opportunities for bison and beef producers who utilize

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

More specific details will come in the upcoming weeks. We are so excited for the opportunity to support our members and the regenerative practices they employ!

NBA Regional Director Elections Close September 30th

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



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

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

The regions up for election and the states included are:

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

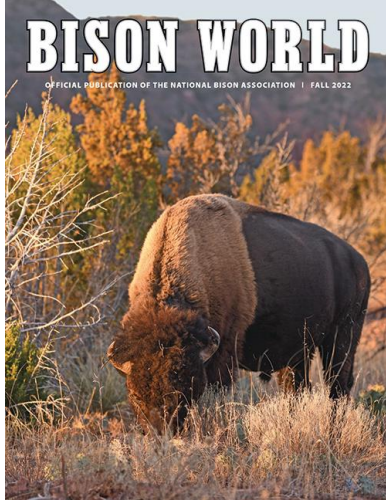
Per the NBA bylaws, all regional directors shall have been active or lifetime members of the Corporation for at least two years and must have registered for and attended at least one general membership meeting or another NBA-sponsored event during the two immediately preceding years."

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

Advertising Opportunities in the Winter Issue of Bison World

Production will soon be underway on the Winter 2023 issue of the Bison World magazine. This issue will also include our annual Membership Directory.

Various advertising options are available within the Winter magazine pages, from 1/8 page to full page.




Lifetime and Active NBA members will enjoy discounted rates as part of their membership perks, and contract holders will receive a 5% discount for pre-paid advertising. Karen can work with you to tailor an advertising campaign that fits your budget and targets your message!

The advertising space reservation deadline is October 10, with final materials due by November 1. Editorial submissions and suggestions are welcome at any time but are subject to the same deadline for the Winter issue.

For more information about editorial submissions or advertising your ranch, business or events, contact Karen@bisoncentral.com or call (605) 381-3738.

Editor's Note: The following news stories were distributed by organizations not affiliated with the National Bison Association. They may not reflect the opinions or the positions held by the NBA on matters such as genetic integrity, animal management, and other issues.



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South Dakota-led beef and bison project among many climate-smart ag initiatives funded by USDA

From Ag Week/ Jeff Beach

One of the huge climate-smart agriculture grants recently announced by the federal government will go to help beef and bison producers be more sustainable and will be led by South Dakota State University.

As part of nearly \$3 billion in funding announcements, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will put about \$80 million over five years into the SDSU led project, called The Grass is Greener on the Other Side: Developing Climate-Smart Beef and Bison Commodities.

Read [more](#)

Are bison amenable or non-amenable? How does the definition of bison affect harvest systems and quality of meat and

carcasses?

By Jeff M. Martin, SDSU Center of Excellence for Bison Studies, and Amanda Blair, Professor and SDSU Extension Meat Science Specialist.

Since the early 1990s, various attempts have been made to convert bison to an amenable species — under the purview of the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) instead of under the regulatory jurisdiction of wildlife game meat of the U.S. Department of Human and Health Services Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

This is largely an issue that directly and immediately affects the private sector of the bison management system (BMS), but there would also be indirect effects on three additional sectors of substantial influence for bison management, including: Tribal, non-profit conservation NGOs, and public agencies (Martin et al., 2021). While there may be some considerable benefits to classifying bison as an amenable species (e.g. increased number of commercial facilities approved to receive and slaughter bison), there are also considerable consequences that may outweigh potential benefits.

Of primary concern are issues relating to wide selection options for stakeholder harvest systems — mobile field harvest versus conventional stationary abattoir. This is an important point, while ante-mortem inspection is currently voluntary for USDA inspection, it is not mandatory – effectively allowing for culturally significant traditional and ceremonial kills on tribal lands to occur without inspection and allowing for bison hunts to occur without inspection.

Changing bison to an amenable species would compel inspection at every harvest type with limited exceptions (Byrd et al., 2015: 352). Moreover, small meat plants (i.e. less than 25 employees) that are either state-only inspected or custom-exempt-only would lose their competitive place in the market (Byrd et al., 2015). While the USDA FSIS allows for field harvest to be inspected (U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service, 2021), there are few official exotic animal establishments with proper authorization (9 C.F.R. § 352, 1985: 3) to process bison, therefore, USDA FSIS non-amenable field inspection is difficult to execute for bison.

Read [more](#)

Grand Canyon wildlife managers relocate 58 bison to 2 states

From KTAR News

PHOENIX – Dozens of bison in the Grand Canyon were moved to new homes in other states recently in continuing efforts to safely reduce the herd, park officials said.

Last week, National Park Service wildlife managers arranged for 58 bison at the Grand Canyon North Rim to be sent to the Intertribal Buffalo Council in South Dakota, the agency said in a press release Monday.

Some of the animals remained in South Dakota on Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe land while the rest were taken to Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma.

Read [more](#)

There are ‘forest ninja bison’ in Grand Canyon National Park, and that’s a problem

From The Arizona Daily Sun

The bison in Grand Canyon National Park have developed some unusual behavioral adaptations. Their anomalous way of life enough has earned them a new nickname: “forest ninja bison.”

According to Grand Canyon wildlife biologist and bison project leader Miranda Terwilliger, the nickname came from a cadre of skilled volunteers who had assisted a herd management operation in 2021. While tracking bison through the ponderosa forests of Grand Canyon's Kaibab Plateau, the volunteers found that the area's bison were remarkably stealthy. In defiance of common sense, the mammoth animals — often weighing in excess of a thousand pounds — moved through the forest more quietly than a mouse.

"They can walk through incredibly dense, dead and down wood and not make a single sound," Terwilliger said. "And they get one whiff of you and they're gone."

The astonishing slyness of these forest ninja bison struck Terwilliger when she witnessed it firsthand.

Read [more](#).

Grizzly Bear And Young Bison Fight It Out In Yellowstone National Park

From Whiskey Riff

I'm tired just watching this...

Yellowstone National Park is home to absolutely incredible sights, from beautiful mountain landscapes to erupting geysers, while supporting an ecosystem of some of nature's coolest animals.

And while we sometimes like to pretend those animals cohabitate and get along like Winnie The Pooh, the reality is very, very different.

Take this video for example, which shows an excruciatingly tiring fight between a young bison and a grizzly bear.

Captured by Michael Daus of Wyoming, it shows a far from fully-grown bison displaying the raw power and will to survive inside each one of these beasts.

But unfortunately for the bison, he was up against one of the greatest killing machines ever put on planet Earth.

There were times where it looked like the bison was going to get away, even putting the grizzly on the defensive for a second, but it turned out to be fruitless.

While we don't see the final result, there's almost no escaping when a grizzly decides your time is up. The video ends with a completely exhausted bison near the edge of a stream with the grizzly still attacking.

I think we can guess how this one ends.

Nothing like a vicious nature video to humble you and help you realize our place in the food chain if we had to just fight it out...

Read [more](#)

Tour of bison farm set for Sept. 28 in Waterford

From The Sun Journal

WATERFORD — The University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District plans to offer a tour of a bison farm from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28.

Doretta and Ted Colburn, owners of Beech Hill Farm & Bison Ranch at 630 Valley Road in Waterford, will talk about this former dairy farm turned bison and vegetable operation, according to a news release from the South Paris-based district.

Attendees can learn about the unique needs of raising bison, how the Coburns have incorporated sustainability into their farm, and lessons they've learned. Frozen bison meat will be available for purchase on site.

Registration is required; a sliding scale program fee of \$15 per family is optional. Registration and payment information are available online at oxfordcountyswcd.org/workshops.

For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Chantelle Hay at the Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District at 207-744-3111 or oxfordcountyswcd@gmail.com.

Read [more](#)

Iowa Seeks Nominations for Local Food and Farm Program Advisory Council

From NPR

A pristine tallgrass prairie in northern Missouri is home to hundreds of wildflower species and birds.

Herds of cattle help keep these 3,000 acres a sanctuary for diverse plants and wildlife — just by wandering around and munching on a tallgrass buffet. The cows eat invasive cool season grasses, while their hoof traffic pounds seeds into the ground.

“You got that benefit from the grazing side of things, but also I think one of the things that people don't really look at is the hoof traffic benefit,” said Kent Wamsley, the grasslands and sustainable agriculture manager at Dunn Ranch Prairie.

The Nature Conservancy owns this prairie land and entered into contracts three years ago with two local ranchers. It allows them to graze their cattle on the conservancy's land for a few months out of the year, while the ranchers' pastures rest. The partnership has worked so well that the conservancy will offer to renew the contracts for another three years.

“We're getting great benefit from the cows in the early season months, getting on the fescue and grazing that,” said Wamsley. “They're getting great benefit at that time of stockpiling some stuff, giving some rest on some of their pastures.”

According to the Missouri Department of Conservation, one-third of the state used to be covered in native prairie; today less than 0.5% of that prairie remains. As conservationists work to restore grassland in the Midwest, it's clear that it is not enough to simply fence off the land.

Read [more](#)

Video Series Highlights What to Know When Working with Farm Programs

From ATTRA

The Center for Rural Affairs (CFRA) completed a series of 12 videos on working with federal farm conservation programs that is [available on YouTube](#).

The videos introduce programs like CSP and EQIP, and help producers understand the information they will need to work with their local USDA Service Center and with program administrators.

The videos are available in both English and Spanish, and they complement a series of fact sheets that CFRA published on the same topics.

[See it here.](#)

Minnesota Beginning Farmer Tax Credit

Applications must be received by October 3, 2022.

A tax credit for the sale or lease of land, equipment, machinery, and livestock in Minnesota to beginning farmers is available through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Rural Finance Authority. Qualifying applicants can include individuals, trusts, or qualified pass-through entities renting or selling land, livestock, facilities, buildings or machinery used for farming in Minnesota to a beginning farmer. Three levels of credits are available:

5% of the lesser of the sale price or fair market value of the agricultural asset up to a maximum of \$32,000

10% of the gross rental income of each of the first, second and third years of a rental agreement, up to a maximum of \$7,000 per year

15% of the cash equivalent of the gross rental income in each of the first, second or third year of a share rent agreement, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per year.

Read [more.](#)

Western SARE Professional + Producer Grant

Proposals are due November 3, 2022.

Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) is accepting proposals for its Professional + Producer Grant. This program involves an agricultural technical advisor (main applicant) and collaboration of at least three producers in implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture.

Projects must integrate research and education aiming to advance the three components of sustainable agriculture- environmental, economic, and social- and use innovative educational outreach to disseminate new knowledge to producers and other agricultural stakeholders.

The maximum grant is \$75,000 over a one- to three-year time period.

Read [more.](#)



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Save the Date!

- 9/24/2022 - Rocky Mountain Bison Assn. Fall Ranch Tour - WY
- 9/26/2022 - Owl Creek Bison Complete Dispersal Auction - OH
- 10/15/2022 - 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
- 10/28/2022 - Wisconsin Bison Producer's Association Fall Meeting - WI
- 11/02/2022 - Maxwell Wildlife Refuge Annual Auction - KS
- 11/05/2022 - Custer State Park Annual Buffalo Auction - SD
- 11/09/2022 - Antelope Island State Park Bison Webcast Auction - Online
- 11/14/2022 - TNC Joseph H. Williams Tallgrass Prairie Preserve Auction - Online
- 11/17/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 11/19/2022 - Coyote Trail Buffalo Ranch Simulcast Production Auction - SD
- 11/25/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Bison Fundamentals - MN
- 11/26/2022 - Minnesota Bison Association Legends of the Fall Sale - MN
- 11/27/2022 - Rocking P Ranch Simulcast Production Auction - SD
- 12/01/2022 - Kansas Buffalo Association Sale - KS
- 12/01/2022 - Western Bison Association Meeting and Show/Sale - UT
- 12/06/2022 - Northern Range Buffalo Consignment Simulcast Auction - Online
- 12/15/2022 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 1/02/2023 - Prairie Legends Bison Webcast Auction - Online
- 1/07/2023 - Turner Bison Exchange Prairie Performance Simulcast Auction - SD
- 1/17/2023 - Jack Auction Group Video Auction - Online
- 1/18/2023 - NBA Winter Conference - Westminster, CO
- 1/21/2023 - NBA Gold Trophy Show and Sale - Denver, CO
- 2/02/2023 - Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Winter Conference - SD
- 2/04/2023 - Dakota Territory Buffalo Assn. Simulcast Auction - SD
- 2/11/2023 - Dakota Dynamite Buffalo Sale Simulcast Auction - SD
- 2/24/2023 - Beltway Bison Consignment Auction - PA
- 3/09/2023 - Eastern Bison Association Winter Conference and Auction - PA

Please visit <https://bisoncentral.com/calendar/> for details and more up-to-date events. If you have a bison event coming up that's not listed, please send the details to jim@bisoncentral.com and the NBA will post the event on its website at no charge.

[Click Here for NBA Calendar of Events](#)

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