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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 30, 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.*

### Membership Directory Update

This is your chance to update any contact information you'd like included in the 2023 NBA Membership Directory, which is published as a supplement to our Winter edition of Bison World magazine. Please have your updates to the NBA no later than this Friday, October 14th.

If you have had a change of address, phone, website, or email, or have updated your online profile in the last 12 months, please be sure to notify the NBA by emailing [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com), so we can update our internal records accordingly. If you'd like to check on your listing, please email [jim@bisoncentral.com](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com).

### NBA Holds Staff Retreat

National Bison Association staff gathered this week at the national office to strategize implementing the two-year strategic plan prepared on

May 3, 2022 by NBA staff and President Kremer.

The plan, which will be shared in the member's area of the website upon board approval, outlines the next two year's worth of projects and focus areas, which include improving bison economic literacy resources, bison liquidity, consumer outreach and education, and much more.





Staff also worked on 2023 Winter Conference planning and did an onsite walkthrough of the host hotel, the Westin Westminster. We are excited to share the beautiful space and delicious food with all of our members this January 18 - 21!

The group also enjoyed a tour of Rocky Mountain Natural Meats processing facility in nearby Henderson, CO. Thanks to Bob Dineen, Ace Ward and Cory Schmeling for the great tour.

## 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

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**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)

## NBA Bison Producer's App: HerdDogg Webinar #4 - Oct. 13th

The 4th webinar for using the Bison Producer's App is scheduled for October 13th at 4 pm MT. This is the last HerdDogg app tutorial in our series, though all can be watched in the Video Archives section of [bisoncentra.com](https://bisoncentra.com). This webinar will focus on the mobile app and how it can read ear tags, track location, monitor and alert to health issues, and much more. The tutorial is free and can be viewed live at <https://meet.google.com/nji-hoax-jps?hs=224>.

The National Bison Association created the innovative NBA Bison Producer's App, now available for both iOS and Android devices, for bison producers to track and analyze important herd data. The project aims to improve the overall performance of bison operations through better record keeping and analysis, with the producer's app providing a powerful tool to do so.

*The app is available at no charge to NBA members.*

The app's extensive features result in a very powerful herd management tool that literally fits in the palm of your hand. App features include animal photo ID, birth date, herd and tag ID, weight, gender, vaccination/dewormer schedule, North American Bison Registry animal history, notes for things like body condition, health, transfer history, animal test results, genetic/parentage information, calving rates, and more. Download the app and start tracking and analyzing your herd's performance today!

Web-based app: [app.herddogg.com](http://app.herddogg.com)

Google Play Store: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.herddogg.bisonapp>

Apple Store: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/herddogg/id1470531054>

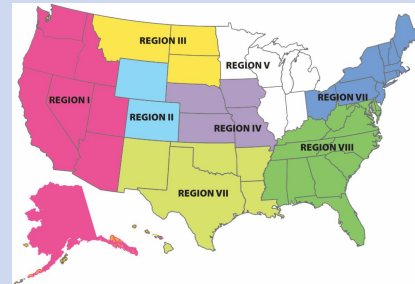
[Click here to access past](#) webinars

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## Last Day to Vote!

Elections are now underway for Regions I, III, V, and VII. Elections conclude today, September 30th.

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. Carrie 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](mailto:jim@bisoncentral.com).





## NBA Attends Rocky Mountain Bison Association Fall Ranch Tour

The National Bison Association's Karen Conley attended the Rocky Mountain Bison Association's Fall ranch tour and meeting, held at the famed Durham Ranch in Wright, Wyoming.

Conley reported that it was a very well-attended event that enjoyed lovely weather and a great program. The event featured pasture walks, a herd tour and more with ranch manager, Pat Thomson. The group also enjoyed a bison feast and lots of Rocky Mountain networking.

Conley is hosting an NBA booth at the Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup Arts Festival today in collaboration with the Center of Excellence for Bison Studies, educating attendees about all things bison.

Learn more about the Rocky Mountain Bison Association at <https://www.bisonranchers.com/>.

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## A Small Fish in a Big Pond

*NBA Blog, by Jim Matheson*

A small fish in a big pond. OK, maybe not the best analogy for a bison – the largest land mammal in North America, but hear me out... Last week the National Bison Association (NBA) made our annual pilgrimage to Washington, DC, for our “legislative roundup,” in which our delegation of bison producers, marketers, tribal members, and staff lobby the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Congress to create a more even playing field for our small sector of American agriculture.



Our delegation was a very diverse mix of 15 bison stakeholders from across our industry representing us, which the USDA leadership and staff on the Hill seemed to really appreciate and respond to. Everyone in the group was professional, polite, and participatory in our meetings on a topic of genuine interest to all that met with us – the American bison! We are very small fish in a rather large pond, given that we process less than 0.2% of what the beef industry processes in the US in a typical year, for example, and have just 0.5% of the volume of live animals. You'd think that bison would not be a priority for these public servants. That was not our experience in the slightest. We were welcomed at each meeting with good questions and conversation all focused on this animal that we are all committed to restoring. Equally important, we had follow up action items from just about every meeting, which allows us to stay top of mind to these decision makers while educating them about bison.

Of course, this solid relationship with law and policy makers did not happen overnight. For the past twenty years, the NBA has doggedly forged allies and solid working relationships throughout USDA and Congress. Of course, it doesn't hurt that we're there representing the National Mammal of the United States! My predecessor, Dave Carter, deserves a lot of credit for seeing the need to build these relationships and forging partnerships throughout his career that stand today. We're now seeing the fruits of our efforts. We had agency administrators join us for over half of our USDA meetings, and members of congress themselves – not just their legislative aide – stop in and visit with our group in person. That's no small feat, and I truly believe it's our professionalism, uniquely American

product and collaborative approach that gains Washington's attention now more than ever.

[Read more.](#)

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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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## **1400 Bison gathered for 57th Custer Buffalo Roundup**

***From The Rapid City Journal***

Amid warm fall weather, about 20,000 people gathered Friday morning atop two hills in Custer State Park to watch 1,400 bison stir a cloud of dust. Horse riders and trucks drove the herd towards the corrals for the 57th annual Governor's Buffalo Roundup.

Several spectators said they waited more than two hours in a long vehicle line that stretched through the park's wildlife loop to see the roundup, a now long standing tradition at the state park that brings in first-time and returning visitors from around the world and states.

Larry Poss, 63, of Larchwood, Indiana, attended the roundup this year for the third time. "Love the bison. I think the animals are so intriguing, they've been around here for millions of years," Poss said.

One couple came to watch the roundup as part of their 40th wedding anniversary celebrations. Ann Ernst, 67, and Bill Ernst, 70, said they traveled from Ferguson, Missouri to watch the bison. Ann said it's always been on her bucket list.

About 60 riders helped herd the bison towards the corrals in the southern portion of the park. Crowds filled the two viewing areas flanking the corrals to watch the animals. Just before 10 a.m., less than 100 of the beasts crested a hill. A cloud of dust rose from the remaining herd that followed, which joined the stragglers on their path to the corrals.

Rob Foiles, 28, of Watertown helped herd the bison with his horse Cookie. He had watched the roundup before, and said "I gotta be the guy on the horse running, chasing buffalo, crackin' a whip."

Read [more](#)

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## **Celebrating 150 years of Manitoba ag history**

*From farm.com*

"Agriculture in Manitoba has evolved through the hard work and innovation of those who have come before us and by those who continue to lead us today, and being able to reflect on the previous 150 years gives us an opportunity to bring forward the lessons of history," Bill Campbell, president of KAP, [said in a statement](#). "Throughout the past 150 years, agriculture has defined Manitoba's people and has been the backbone of the province's economy. This story pays tribute to the voices and forces that have shaped Manitoba itself."

The 18-chapter book covers multiple topics like supply management, the Red River Agricultural Association, which was the precursor to KAP, and how Manitoba was home to the first bison ranch in Canada.

It was in 1966 that Bill Lenton, a Miami, Man., farmer who passed away in 2004, went to the U.S. to purchase horses and came back with five bison.

"He shouldn't have been allowed to go to auction sales. He just continued to go down and bring back more," Gail Reichert, Bill's daughter, says in an excerpt from the book. "He believed in the animal and he believed in the meat product."

Lenton's contributions to the bison sector are still felt today.

He founded the Manitoba and National Bison Association, and the Bill Lenton award is presented annually to a top bison producer in Canada.

Read [more](#)

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## **Family bison farm in northeastern Ontario celebrates 50 years**

*From The CBC*

Pierre Bélanger bought one female bison 50 years ago. Today, his family's herd near the northern Ontario town of Earleton is more than 400 animals strong.

As family farms continue to disappear across Canada, his three children have played an active role in the business.

"We spent a lot of time and effort structuring it and making it so that they could have a reasonable lifestyle, living with the bison and continuing to grow this herd," Bélanger said.

"We actually are naive enough to think we can make it for another 100 years and have a family farm that lasts with it."

In 1972, Bélanger was a member of the CANO artist co-operative based in Sudbury. The progressive rock band of the same name became an iconic fixture for Franco-Ontarian culture.

The co-operative bought a farm in Earleton and turned it into a commune. While most of the artists eventually returned to Sudbury, where their audiences were, Bélanger stayed at the farm.

"I had purchased one bison because we felt we should do something with the farm," he said.

"And it turned out that I like the animal as much as I like humans, and so I stayed behind and it just grew. We bought more animals, more bison, and just developed a love for the animal."

That farm became Bison du Nord, which supplies bison meat to butchers and restaurants across Ontario. Today, it has one of the largest bison herds in the province.

Read [more](#)

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## **Bison country is changing — and not for the better. But the future is unwritten**

*From The LA Times*

For the second time in two years, I found myself staring down a herd of bison.

It was a gorgeous morning at Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota, home to vast grasslands pockmarked by prairie dog burrows and cavernous badlands carved by the Little Missouri River and its tributaries. I was joined by friends with whom I'd also [hiked the Tetons](#) last summer. Far from our homes in cities and suburbs, we were again confronted by the question of how to handle the massive horned beasts whose homeland we were passing through.

Were we really in danger? Probably not, as long as we didn't get too close or antagonize the herd. But were we a tiny bit nervous as we scurried along the trail, peeking back over our shoulders to make sure the bison weren't following us? Absolutely.

Today there are roughly half a million bison, up from fewer than 1,000 in 1900. It's a conservation success story — and a reminder of the scars the United States continues to inflict on the natural world, and on the nation's Indigenous inhabitants.

As my friends and I explored the Dakotas last week, hiking and camping and visiting historic sites, we were bombarded with reminders of those scars — and of the difficult-but-vital work of making amends and building a better future.

Read [more.](#)

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## **Competitive Grants Program Website Established for South Dakota State University**

*SDSU Center of Excellence for Bison Studies*

The Bison COE supports an annual grants competition to fund research and outreach projects. In its first year (2021), over \$300,000 in funding was generously provided by the National Buffalo Foundation and awarded to support eight projects.

The competitive grant program has enabled the Bison COE to expand its research network, folding in well over 20 researchers and scientists into the bison community. This growth is expected to continue, with the selection of the next round of competitive grants currently underway.

The selected projects are diverse in their focus to substantially contribute to a growing knowledge base of bison ecology, marketing, production, management, herd health, and cultural relevance needed by the bison industry.

Projects are expected to be completed within one to three years. We look forward to continuing to share more about these projects as they progress and also anticipate that members of these research teams will participate in bison industry conferences and meetings for years to come.

Read [more](#)

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

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

Currently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) considers bison (*Bison bison*) a non-amenable, “exotic” species. This designation has been applied because bison were first considered a native wildlife game species under states’ laws (i.e. public trust doctrine circa 1700s) and most wildlife laws pre-date agricultural laws (see *Geer vs. Connecticut*, 161 U.S. 519, 1896: 529–530) and (Byrd et al., 2015). However, in 1979, the Supreme Court decision in *Hughes vs. Oklahoma* (441 U.S. 322, 1979) declared that wildlife were subject to federal regulation under the commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution, because wildlife inherently move between states. State fish and wildlife agencies are still the de facto regulatory authority for setting bag limits and harvest quotas for each region. In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln established the U.S. Department of Agriculture to promote U.S. agriculture. Shortly thereafter, this agency became the regulatory authority for food safety. However, the food safety mission was fundamentally at odds with the original agricultural promotion mission. The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) of 1906 stipulates that products made entirely from wild game product are not “meat” and, therefore, are not amenable to mandatory FSIS inspection (P.L. 113-79, 2014).

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).

Read [more](#)

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### **Bison herds feed need for tradition in northern Michigan** *From The Detroit News*

Interlochen – On the drive up U.S.-31 into Traverse City, people expect to see strip malls and a view of Grand Traverse Bay once they crest a big hill.

But they don’t expect a field full of bison.

The animals have been a fixture of the area for nearly 60 years. The herd is owned by Oleson’s Food Stores, a local grocery chain where bison meat is a centerpiece item.

The Oleson’s bison aren’t alone. Other family operations are popping up, re-establishing an ecological tradition from a time when they roamed as far east as New York and the Carolinas.

I wanted to find out what farming bison in Northern Michigan actually looks like. Luckily, I happen to know a farmer.

David Kirby is my now-retired high school physics teacher. He’s been maintaining a herd of bison near Lake Leelanau for about eight years now.

Kirby, as we called him in school, began farming bison as a passion project on century-old farmland in his neighborhood. He and his wife bought it to prevent a subdivision from



going in near their home.

David Kirby's bison stand behind a fence at his Leelanau County ranch.

Read [more.](#)

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## **Hot commodity: Thieves target meat by the truckload**

*From meatingplace.com*

With the retail price of meat products projected to rise at the historic rate of about 10% in 2022, the theft of truckloads of meat also has picked up.

Police in Grand Island, Neb., are investigating the theft last week of more than \$277,000 worth of fresh beef at JBS, KOLN-TV in Lincoln reported. Police said a fraudulent carrier company signed up for a load of beef and was dispatched to JBS. The thieves drove away with the beef but never made it scheduled destinations in Maryland and New York, according to the report.

In separate incidents, after more than \$100,000 worth of pork was stolen from a JBS plant in Ottumwa, Iowa, another 37,000 pounds of product from an unnamed company disappeared in the early morning hours of Sept. 17 in York, Neb. Also gone were the refrigerated trailer and the truck it was hooked up to, according to local media reports.

Read [more.](#)

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## **White House aims to boost health, end hunger by 2030**

*From Meatingplace.com*

The White House this week unveiled its new strategy for improving the health of Americans and reducing food insecurity ahead of its Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health, which got underway today.

President Joe Biden announced a goal of ending hunger and increasing healthy eating and physical activity by 2030 so fewer Americans experience diet-related diseases. Among the initiatives are proposals to develop a front-of-packaging labeling scheme and update the nutrition criteria for the "healthy" claim on food packages.

The initiative also calls for facilitating sodium reduction in the food supply by issuing longer-term, voluntary sodium targets for industry, and assessing additional steps to reduce added sugar consumption, including potential voluntary targets.

The White House is proposing to increase access to free and nourishing school meals, provide summer benefits to more children and expand Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program eligibility to more underserved populations.

It also wants to work with Congress to pilot coverage of medically tailored meals in Medicare, test Medicaid coverage of nutrition education and other nutrition supports, and expand Medicaid and Medicare beneficiaries' access to nutrition and obesity counseling.

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 LFP 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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## **Revealing the Genome of the Common Ancestor of All Mammals**

### ***From UC Davis News***

Every modern mammal, from a platypus to a blue whale, is descended from a common ancestor that lived about 180 million years ago. We don't know a great deal about this animal, but the organization of its genome has now been computationally reconstructed by an international team of researchers. The work is published Sept. 30 in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Our results have important implications for understanding the evolution of mammals and for conservation efforts," said Harris Lewin, distinguished professor of evolution and ecology at the University of California, Davis, and senior author on the paper.

The researchers drew on high-quality genome sequences from 32 living species representing 23 of the 26 known orders of mammals. They included humans and chimps, wombats and rabbits, manatees, domestic cattle, rhinos, bats and pangolins. The analysis also included the chicken and Chinese alligator genomes as comparison groups. Some of these genomes are being produced as part of the Earth BioGenome Project and other large-scale biodiversity genome sequencing efforts. Lewin chairs the Working Group for the Earth BioGenome Project.

The reconstruction shows that the mammal ancestor had 19 autosomal chromosomes, which control the inheritance of an organism's characteristics outside of those controlled by sex-linked chromosomes, (these are paired in most cells, making 38 in total) plus two

sex chromosomes, said Joana Damas, first author on the study and a postdoctoral researcher at the UC Davis Genome Center. The team identified 1,215 blocks of genes that consistently occur on the same chromosome in the same order across all 32 genomes. These building blocks of all mammal genomes contain genes that are critical to developing a normal embryo, Damas said.

Read [more](#)

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## USDA Assists Farmers, Ranchers, and Communities Affected by Hurricane Fiona

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to aid recovery efforts for farmers, ranchers and residents affected by Hurricane Fiona. USDA staff in offices across the country are ready to respond with a variety of program flexibilities and other assistance to producers and communities in need....

Disaster assistance for agricultural operations:

USDA offers a full suite of disaster assistance programs to help producers recover after disasters.

Livestock and perennial crop producers often have limited risk management options available, but there are several disaster programs for them. Key programs offered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) include:

- The [Livestock Indemnity Program](#) and the [Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybee and Farm-raised Fish Program](#) reimburses producers for a portion of the value of livestock, poultry and other animals that were killed or severely injured by a natural disaster or loss of feed and grazing acres.
- The [Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program \(NAP\)](#) is available through the local Farm Service Agency. This risk protection includes crop production loss and tree loss for certain, eligible crops. Producers who suffer losses and are signed up for NAP are asked to report crop damage to their local FSA office, respectively, within 72 hours of discovering damage and follow up in writing within 15 days.
- The [Tree Assistance Program](#) provides cost share assistance to rehabilitate or replant orchards and vineyards when storms kill or damage the trees, vines or bushes. NAP or Federal Crop Insurance often only covers the crop and not the plant.
- The [Emergency Conservation Program](#) and [Emergency Forest Restoration Program](#) can assist landowners and forest stewards with financial and technical assistance to restore damaged farmland or forests.

It is also critical that producers keep accurate records to document damage or loss and to report losses to their local USDA Service Center as soon as possible.

Additionally, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can provide financial resources through its [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) to help with immediate needs and long-term support to help recover from natural disasters and conserve water resources. USDA can also assist local government sponsors with the cost of recovery efforts like debris removal and streambank stabilization to address natural resource concerns and hazards through the [Emergency Watershed Protection Program](#).

On farmers.gov, the [Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool](#), [Disaster-at-a-Glance fact sheet](#) (PDF, 1.4 MB) and [Farm Loan Discovery Tool](#) can help producers and landowners determine program or loan options. For assistance with a crop insurance claim, producers and landowners should contact their [crop insurance agent](#). For FSA and NRCS programs, they should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#).

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) [is already providing assistance to those communities affected](#) in Puerto Rico through household distribution of [USDA Foods](#),

which provides nutritious, high-quality foods 100% grown and produced on farms in the U.S. FNS is standing by to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), states and local authorities, to provide additional [emergency nutrition assistance](#) to people in need.

To learn more, visit [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

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## **RMA Webinar: Whole Farm Revenue Protection, Micro Farms** *From New York Ag Connection*

Join the Risk Management Agency (RMA) for a special virtual presentation covering the ins and outs of the Whole Farm Revenue Protection and Micro Farm programs.

RMA subject matter experts will provide an in-depth look at these policies and answer agents questions. These events kick off the Whole Farm Revenue Protection and Micro Farm Road Show with in-person and virtual events across the country.

The first virtual program is Oct. 4 at 11 a.m. Eastern. Join the meeting at <https://bit.ly/3BUYdEi>

The second virtual program is Oct. 6 at 4 p.m. Eastern. Join the meeting at <https://bit.ly/3Rkz23W>

[Click to read more](#)

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## **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!

- 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
- 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
- 11/17/2022 - 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.

Click Here for NBA Calendar of  
Events

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