

# American Humane Farm Program

## American Humane Certified™

### *Bison*

## Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool

### Introduction



The **American Humane Farm Program (American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards)** is the product of over 140 years of applied experience in farm animal welfare. Since its beginning in 1877, American Humane has had a long history with the humane treatment of farm animals. In its work to improve the treatment of working animals and livestock in transit, American Humane has been involved in almost every major advancement in improving the welfare of animals, including an instrumental role in the enactment of the 28 Hour Transportation Law. In 1916, the U.S. Secretary of War asked American Humane to help with the rescue of horses and other animals on the battlefields of World War I. The program that followed became Red Star Emergency Services program, which continues to this day to rescue and shelter animals involved in disasters throughout the country.

Given its history, it was natural that American Humane would create the first farm animal welfare audit program. In 2000, American Humane pioneered the first third party audit and certification program in the United States to encourage and support the humane treatment of animals used for food. Organized as the Free Farmed® certification program, the first **Animal Welfare Standards** were based on the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' **Welfare Standards**, the Federation of Animal Science Societies' **FASS Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching**, and the governing principles first developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) known as the "Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare":

- Freedom from hunger and thirst
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury, or disease
- Freedom from fear and distress
- Freedom to express normal behaviors

Since its origins, American Humane's farm animal welfare standards have been and continue to be a living document. The standards and the audit process are continually reviewed and updated, using the expertise of the Scientific Advisory Committee. This committee of internationally renowned animal scientists and veterinarians advances new science and regularly evaluates the standards to ensure that the American Humane Certified™ program incorporates the best and current knowledge of humane practices.

American Humane collaborates with institutions and organizations on independent research in animal behavior as well as new handling and housing applications. The program incorporates the practical, hands-on experience of farmers and ranchers, and ensures that new technology and knowledge from veterinarians and animal research experts are shared with producers. Third-party audits help to educate, encourage, and support producers in adopting humane practices. The program promotes clear, reasoned communication with consumers and retailers about the meaning and value of humanely raised food and the benefits not only to animals but also to people.

# Core Criteria

Items that are essential to the “Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare” are scored higher than other questions in the audit. “Core Criteria” are scored either 25 or 50 points and must be satisfactorily addressed in order to pass the audit. These items are listed below (refer to ***Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool*** following for full descriptions):

## **M1: Company Policy**

The Company Policy must be available to all workers, in their native language. This policy emphasizes and demonstrates that the company has made a commitment to providing an environment that promotes high standards of animal welfare. Along with this commitment, the company must have “zero tolerance” for any employee who willfully abuses animals, and a “whistle blower” policy protecting employees who report animal welfare issues. Personnel must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, the Company Policy.

## **M2: Employee Code of Conduct**

An Employee Code of Conduct must be available to all personnel, in their native language. Each worker has the responsibility for and is expected to contribute to upholding high standards of animal welfare at all times as they perform their own duties, and each also must be cognizant that the basic requirements such as adequate feed, water, lighting, environmental control, and biosecurity must be provided to the animals at all times. All personnel must report any incidences related to animal welfare that cause them concern. Workers must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, this Code of Conduct.

## **M11: Herd Health Plan**

A Herd Health Plan (HHP) must be available at the main office. The HHP must document the activities affecting animal health for the year’s cycle of production.

## **M17: Colostrum for Calves**

It is vital that each new-born calf receives adequate, quality colostrum from its dam, from another fresh cow, or from a frozen or dried colostrum source as soon as possible after birth, and no later than within the first 6 to 8 hours of life.

## **M20: Weaning in Ranch Settings**

Calves must be weaned with consideration given to limiting distress on the animals, for example, by weaning them into a familiar environment, by weaning in two stages, by using fence line weaning and plastic nose tabs, and/or by mixing them with heifers during the weaning process. Freshly weaned calves must never be transported- the vocalizations of freshly weaned calves must never be heard in a transport environment.

## **M22: Handling Aids**

Sticks and flags must be used only as benign handling aids (i.e., as extensions of the arm). Sticks must not be used for excessive hitting, beating, or poking the bison. Electric prods must not be used except where animal and/or human safety is in jeopardy and it is the means of last resort. Electric prods must not be carried by stock-keepers as a matter of course. Handlers must use tails gently if necessary to direct the animal’s movement.

## **M29: Non-Ambulatory (“Downer”) Bison**

Care must be taken to avoid causing unnecessary pain or distress to a sick or injured animal that is unable to move. Moving by means that can cause further physical or psychological damage is prohibited. *Refer to the North American Meat Institute (NAMI) guidelines for acceptable methods of moving non-ambulatory bison.*

## **M30: Care of Sick or Injured Animals**

Provisions must be made for the care of sick and injured animals. Any animal suffering from illness or injury must be treated without delay, and veterinary advice must be sought when needed. Ill or injured bison should be segregated from the herd only when necessary due to the nature of the illness or injury.

**M32: Identification**

Bison marking must be performed by trained personnel quickly, expertly, and with the proper equipment in a manner that avoids unnecessary pain and distress.

**M39: Producer Observations and Scoring**

Properly trained personnel must conduct health evaluations of the bison throughout the year. Records of these evaluations must be filed as part of the Herd Health Plan. Where scoring falls outside of the acceptable limits noted in the Herd Performance Parameters, records must document the actions taken and that subsequent scoring was within acceptable limits.

**M46: Monitoring of Air Quality for Enclosed Environments**

Where bison are housed in an enclosed environment, dust and ammonia must be maintained at acceptable levels. *Note: Provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer.* Inhalable dust must not exceed 10 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. Ammonia levels must be monitored by the producer and maintained ideally at less than 10 ppm, but should never exceed 25 ppm.

**M48: SOPs for Husbandry and Other Procedures**

Producers must use only approved, humane husbandry procedures accepted by the American Humane Certified™ program. Husbandry procedures must be performed at the earliest possible age. These practices must not be performed on sick or injured animals. All practices must be performed by designated, trained and competent personnel or the herd veterinarian using appropriate, well-maintained equipment. Practices must be performed in a way which minimizes suffering- including the use of local anesthetics and analgesics- and which optimizes recovery.

**M52: Euthanasia Policy**

A Euthanasia Policy must be available which includes provisions for humane, timely, and approved euthanasia performed by designated, trained, competent personnel or the veterinarian.

**FW1: Body Condition Score**

All bison, whether in ranch conditions or at the feedlot, must be fed a wholesome and appropriate diet for their age and species and in sufficient quantity to sustain full health and normal reproductive capability. Body Condition Score (BCS) must be assessed during regular observation periods such as weaning, 30 days post-weaning, 90 days before calving, at calving, and at the beginning of breeding season.

**FW3: Freshness of Feed**

Troughs must be kept clean and stale feed removed on a daily basis. Automatic feeding equipment must be kept clean, in good working order, and free of contaminants. All stored feed must be free of bird or rodent feces and vermin.

**FW6: Access to Water**

All bison, including calves older than 1 day and bison in confinement, must be provided with continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water each day, except when otherwise required by the attending veterinarian.

**E5: Environmental Safety**

There must be no physical features of the environment which cause recurring injuries to bison.

**E15: Ammonia**

When bison are kept in an enclosed environment, provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer as specified by Environmental Protection Agency and OSHA standards for particulates. Ammonia levels measured by the auditor should be less than 10 ppm but must not exceed 25 ppm.

### **E19: Summer/ High Heat Conditions**

For summer/ high heat conditions, a shaded area or water systems must be accessible to the bison to provide cooling and allow the bison the opportunity to thermoregulate. When bison show signs of moderate to severe heat stress, such as head bobbing or open-mouth panting, immediate remedial actions must be taken to provide relief. In extreme environmental conditions, emergency actions must be taken as detailed in the Emergency Response Plan in order to safeguard the health of the bison.

### **E24: Lying Area**

Bison must have access at all times to a lying area which is well-drained or well- maintained with dry bedding, and which is of sufficient size to accommodate all bison lying down together in normal resting posture. For floor or ground area and feeder space recommendations, see Supplement: Table 1 at the end of the *Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool*.

## **Core Auditor Evaluations**

(Note: see the *Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool* for full descriptions.)

### **E40: Electric Prod Use**

### **E41: Bison Exiting the Squeeze Chute**

### **E42: Vocalizations during Handling**

### **E43: Incidence of Bison Running into Gates or Fences**

### **E44: Incidence of Slips and Falls Score**

### **E45: Lameness/ Locomotion Score**

### **E46: Leg Condition Score**

### **E47: Coat Condition**

### **E48: Mud Score**

### **T16: Space Allowance during Transport**

During transport bison must have sufficient room per the FASS transportation space guidelines. Additional space must be provided to allow the bison to spread apart during hot weather. Bison must have sufficient head clearance to stand comfortably without touching the ceiling of the transport equipment. For partial loads, the transport vehicle must be sub-divided to account for the size of the group being transported.

### **T24: Slaughter**

The American Humane Certified™ program adheres to the *Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide* published by the North American Meat Institute Foundation for humane slaughtering and processing practices. Slaughter practices and facilities must be audited annually to demonstrate compliance with NAMI humane slaughtering and processing practices as part of this audit, unless audited by an outside audit group.

## **Pass/Fail Audit Items**

The following items must be satisfied in order to pass the audit. Failure of these items will result in failure of the audit, and may result in the farm or ranch being suspended from the program.

### **P/F 1: No Instances of Willful Acts of Abuse**

### **P/F 2: Body Condition Score**

### **P/F 3: Lameness/ Locomotion Score**

# Audit Scoring

## Score Process

There are 133 audit items for 1416 total points possible on the **Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool for Bison**. 31 audit items, totaling 900 points, are related to Core Criteria items on this audit- these Core Criteria questions have score values of 25 or 50 points. In order for a farm or ranch to be certified by the **American Humane Certified™** program, each site must meet an audit score of 85% based on the score of Total Points Achieved versus Total Points Achievable score and must correct all non-conformances. Additionally, there are 3 Pass/Fail audit items. These three audit items **MUST** be addressed satisfactorily in order to pass the audit.

Since not every audit item may apply to every farm or ranch, some items will be considered Not Applicable (NA). It is necessary to remove these NA questions from the overall count. An example of this process has been provided below:

| a.) Total Points Possible        |       |        | b.) Total NA's        | c.) Adjusted Points Achievable        | d.) Total Points Achieved        | Overall Audit Percentage                |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Items                            | Value | Points | Example               | Example                               | Example                          |   |
| 5                                | 50    | 250    | (core)                | 250                                   | 250                              |   |
| 26                               | 25    | 650    | (core)                | 650                                   | 650                              |   |
| 30                               | 10    | 300    | 1 @ 10                | 290                                   | 290                              |   |
| 72                               | 3     | 216    | 4 @ 3                 | 204                                   | 201                              |   |
| <b>A.) Total Points Possible</b> |       |        | <b>B.) Total NA's</b> | <b>C.) Total Points Achievable</b>    | <b>D.) Total Points Achieved</b> | <b>D./C. = Overall Audit Percentage</b> |
| <b>=1416</b>                     |       |        | <b>=22</b>            | <b>= A.-B.<br/>=1416-22<br/>=1394</b> | <b>=1391</b>                     | <b>Example=<br/>1391/1394=99%</b>       |

**Step 1-** Count the Total Points Possible for all items on the scored **Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool**.

**Step 2-** Count the number of Total Not Applicable (NA) audit items. Subtract the Total NA's from the Total Points Possible for all items. This will give you the Adjusted Points Achievable for the audit.

**Step 3-** Count up the Total Points Achieved in the audit. These are the audit items that were in conformance.

**Step 4-** Divide the Total Points Achieved by the adjusted Total Points Achievable to find the Overall Audit Percentage.

- Each site must have an Overall Audit Percentage of 85% or above, all non-conformances must be corrected, and each of the Pass/Fail items must be addressed satisfactorily in order for a site to pass the audit.

## Non-Conformances

All welfare issues identified with a loss of points during an audit are discussed in the exit interview by the auditor and will be described on the **Non-Conformance Report**. The **Non-Conformance Report** will list out the non-conformances found by the auditor and must be signed by both the manager and auditor. All corrective actions agreed upon at the exit interview must be corrected even if your farm or ranch receives certification.

## Corrective Action Plan

A Corrective Action Plan is submitted online to American Humane within 10 days of the Non-Conformance Report date. The Corrective Action Plan describes the items identified through the audit process and the corrective actions that will be taken by the producer.

## Corrective Action Completion

The Corrective Action Plan is completed within 90 days and a Corrective Action Completion form is submitted online with supporting documentation. Producers are subject to a re-audit at the discretion of the American Humane Certified™ program after plan completion. Variances are permitted through submission to the American Humane Certified™ program and upon approval. Producers are encouraged to report to the American Humane Certified™ program on their progress on corrective actions throughout the correction period.

Farm or ranches in the American Humane Certified™ program are expected to maintain high welfare standards throughout the term of their certification. If it is determined after an audit that a farm or ranch in the American Humane Certified™ program has fallen out of compliance, the farm or ranch is immediately suspended from the program. Suspended farm or ranches must verify correction of the non-conformances and pass a new audit before being reinstated. The American Humane Certified™ program reserves the right to perform spot checks at any time during the certification period.



**American Humane Certified™  
Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool  
Bison**

➤ Auditor note: the following information should be completed in full (unless N/A) and reported to the American Humane Certified™ program with submission of the audit.

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>AUDITOR:</b>  | <b>AUDIT DATE:</b><br>From:                      To:                 | <b>AUDIT SCORE:</b>   |
| <b>LICENSE HOLDER:</b>   |  |   |
| <b>PRODUCER:</b>   | <b>LICENSE MANAGER:</b>  |   |
| <b>Address:</b>  | <b>Email:</b>  |   |
| <b>City:</b>   | <b>Office #:</b>   |   |
| <b>State:</b>  | <b>Cell #:</b>   |   |
| <b>ZIP:</b>  | <b>Alt #:</b>  |   |
| <b>Country:</b>  | <b>Fax #:</b>  |   |
| <b>AUDIT RANCH/LOT LOCATION:</b>                               |  |   |
| <b>NAME:</b>   | <b>MANAGER:</b>  | <b>STOCKPERSON:</b>   |
| <b>Address:</b>  | <b>Email:</b>  | <b>Email:</b>   |
| <b>City:</b>   | <b>Office #:</b>   | <b>Office #:</b>  |
| <b>State:</b>  | <b>Cell #:</b>   | <b>Cell #:</b>  |
| <b>ZIP:</b>  | <b>Alt #:</b>  | <b>Alt #:</b>   |
| <b>Country:</b>  | <b>Fax #:</b>  | <b>Fax #:</b>   |
| <b>BISON SUPPLIER:</b><br><i>(if purchasing for finishing)</i> | <b>TRANSPORTER:</b><br><i>(and description of transport vehicle)</i> | <b>DESTINATION:</b><br><i>(if sold &amp; describe if customer/ processor)</i> |
| <b>NAME:</b>   | <b>NAME:</b>   | <b>NAME:</b>  |
| <b>Address:</b>  | <b>Address:</b>  | <b>Address:</b>   |
| <b>City:</b>   | <b>City:</b>   | <b>City:</b>  |
| <b>State:</b>  | <b>State:</b>  | <b>State:</b>   |
| <b>ZIP:</b>  | <b>ZIP:</b>  | <b>ZIP:</b>   |
| <b>Country:</b>  | <b>Country:</b>  | <b>Country:</b>   |
| <b>Contact:</b>  | <b>Contact:</b>  | <b>Contact:</b>   |
| <b>Contact #:</b>  | <b>Contact #:</b>  | <b>Contact #:</b>   |

**SITE DATA:***(Audited location only)***MAIN PREMISES****Type of Housing:***(grass-fed/ feedlot/ other as described)***Type of Unit:***(cow-calf/ finisher/ reared calves sold/ finished bison sold/ other as described)***Audited Housing Space (ft<sup>2</sup>):****Audited Grazing Space (acres):****Audited Feedlot Space (acres):****FOR MAIN PREMISES ONLY:****Calves Bought:****Calves Sold:****Stockers Bought:****Stockers Sold:****Finished Stock:****Total Number of Bison:****SECONDARY PREMISES***(where used)***Type of Housing:***(grass-fed/ feedlot/ other as described)***Type of Unit:***(cow-calf/ finisher/ reared calves sold/ finished bison sold/ other as described)***Audited Housing Space (ft<sup>2</sup>):****Audited Grazing Space (acres):****Audited Feedlot Space (acres):****FOR SECONDARY PREMISES ONLY:****Calves Bought:****Calves Sold:****Stockers Bought:****Stockers Sold:****Finished Stock:****Total Number of Bison:***For more locations, provide the same details as above for other sites on a separate attached piece of paper.***(optional) Name of Producer Group if under Forward Contract:****List of Other Quality Assurance Programs:**

## Audit Notes

- *The American Humane Certified™ standards are written to cover facilities in varying geographic and temperature regions and facilities utilizing different systems. Therefore, not all sections in these standards apply to every facility. Ranchers must comply with any local, state or federal mandates for handling and processing bison that affect the environment or safety of their product.*
- *If an outside company is used for other processes such as marking/ identification or transportation, documentation must be available showing that the individuals are properly trained in these areas. This can be accomplished through training documents and/or the Certificate of Conformances.*
- *If the auditor observes willful acts of abuse towards the animals during the course of the audit, s/he must suspend the audit and notify the manager, their audit company, and the American Humane Certified™ program immediately. An investigation will be made to assess the incident and to determine whether remedial actions are required. If the incident is determined to be severe, the producer may be placed on probation from the program. Producers who are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies which to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue, and the site must pass a follow-up audit. (See also “Pass/Fail Auditor Observations” at the end of the audit.)*
- *Auditor note: unless noted otherwise, for each audit item select all boxes that apply regardless of whether the audit item is marked “Yes” or “No.” For any audit item marked “No”, provide reasons in the “Notes” section.*

# Office Records/ Management

A high degree of caring and responsible management and husbandry is vital to ensure good animal welfare. Managers and stockman must be thoroughly trained, skilled, and competent in animal husbandry and welfare and must have a good working knowledge of their system and the livestock under their care.

The following records and documentation must be made available to the auditor at the time of the audit. These are to be maintained in the form of a Farm Manual. Ranches may use their own forms for records or they may use the template forms that are provided on the American Humane Farm Program website at: <http://www.humaneheartland.org/ourstandards>.

## Company Policy & Employee Code of Conduct

|    |  | Selection   | Score |
|----|--|---|-------|
| M1 | <p><b>Company Policy</b><br/>The Company Policy must be available to all personnel, in their native language. Personnel must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, the Company Policy, which must include as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis of the company’s commitment to providing an environment which promotes high standards of animal welfare;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The implementation of a “zero-tolerance” policy which states that willful acts of abuse towards the animals will not be tolerated and, upon the discretion of the company, these actions are grounds for immediate dismissal. Acts of abuse include but are not limited to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o beating the bison,</li> <li>o slamming gates on the bison,</li> <li>o using any type of prod inappropriately (on sensitive areas of the animal) and/or using the electric prod when neither the welfare of the animal or of the handler is in immediate jeopardy,</li> <li>o using electronic immobilization for any reason,</li> <li>o driving the animals atop one another, and</li> <li>o goading or dragging a downer animal;</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The implementation of a “whistle blower” policy that protects employees who report animal welfare issues.</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /25   |
| M2 | <p><b>Employee Code of Conduct</b><br/>An Employee Code of Conduct must be available to all personnel, in their native language. Personnel must sign and date that they have been provided a copy of, and that they understand their responsibilities under, this Code of Conduct, which must include as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All personnel are expected to handle the bison in a positive and compassionate manner at all times;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Each worker has the responsibility for and is expected to contribute to upholding high standards of animal welfare at all times as they perform their own duties;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In addition to the worker’s assigned duties, each also must be cognizant that the basic requirements such as adequate feed, water, and environment must be provided to the bison at all times, and a supervisor must be notified if any of these basic necessities are lacking; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All personnel have access to the <b>Animal Welfare Incident Report</b> or a similar company document or company protocol (such as an 800 number) for reporting incidences. Personnel must complete and submit this document or otherwise report whenever they observe incidences related to animal welfare that cause them concern.</li> </ul>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /25   |



## Office Records & Documentation

|                  |  |  |                   |
|------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| <p><b>M3</b></p> | <p><b>Records of Production</b><br/>           Comprehensive production records must be available for at least one year in electronic, graphic, or tabular form, recording performance parameters including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Animal movement logs (incoming and outgoing stock);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers and animal IDs of mortalities (with reasons stated, if known) and date;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers and animal IDs of cull bison (with reasons stated) and date; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers and animal IDs of downer bison and date.</li> </ul>   | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/10</b></p> |
| <p><b>M4</b></p> | <p><b>Site Checklists</b><br/>           Records must be available for at least one year for each site with the following information for all bison previously and currently maintained on that site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers of calves bought and calves sold;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers of stockers bought and stockers sold;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Numbers of finished stock;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Total square feet of bedding/ loafing area where applicable;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Number of free-stalls or bedded (loafing) area where applicable;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Total square feet available to livestock where applicable;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Total grazing acres available where applicable; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Site capacity in relation to age, weight, feeding and drinking, and bedding space.</li> </ul>  | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/10</b></p> |
| <p><b>M5</b></p> | <p><b>Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)</b><br/>           SOPs must be available in regularly updated, comprehensive written instructions, in workers' native language as necessary, relating to daily, weekly, and monthly activities and procedures. Examples include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Protocols for routine inspections of animals;</li> <li>○ Protocols for routine inspection, maintenance and cleaning of equipment;</li> <li>○ Any biosecurity protocols (e.g. maintaining fences, checking rodent bait, etc.);</li> <li>○ SOPs for Calves &amp; Weaning;</li> <li>○ SOPs for Handling;</li> <li>○ SOPs for Care &amp; Handling of Sick or Injured Animals;</li> <li>○ SOPs for Identification;</li> <li>○ SOPs for transportation;</li> <li>○ SOPs for slaughter; and</li> <li>○ Any additional procedures to maintain compliance with any applicable local, state, and federal regulations.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: mark "Yes" if SOPs for miscellaneous activities and procedures are available; mark "No" if they are not.</i></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/10</b></p> |

|           |   |  |            |
|-----------|---|--|------------|
| <b>M6</b> | <p><b>Emergency Response Plan</b><br/>An Emergency Response Plan must be available at the main office. This plan must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contingency plans and precautions to cope with severe events/ emergencies in order to safeguard the welfare of the animals, and the procedures to be followed by responsible personnel in the event of severe events/ emergencies such as fire, floods, storms or other severe weather, extreme heat or cold, interruption of power or water, interruption of supplies, etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Procedures to ensure that responsible individuals (and alternates, if necessary) can be notified. This should include primary and alternate contact numbers for the individual(s) responsible for reacting to emergencies, i.e. stockpersons/ managers, family members, and/or owner as appropriate.<br/><i>Note: it is recommended to provide contact numbers for at least three responsible stockpersons and/or family members when possible, and a "telephone tree" to ensure that all responsible parties may be contacted if necessary.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Note: The ERP should also include emergency contact information and numbers, i.e. site address and site plans and other relevant information, contacts for fire department, local utilities, etc.</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b> | <b>/10</b> |
|-----------|---|--|------------|

### Nutrition, Lighting, & Herd Health Plans

|           |   |  |            |
|-----------|---|--|------------|
| <b>M7</b> | <p><b>Nutrition Plan</b><br/>A Nutrition Plan must be available at the main office. This plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Certification or proof that the diet has been developed in consultation with a qualified bison nutritionist OR in consultation with the herd veterinarian or other qualified individual using commercially mixed feed.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Demonstration that the diet conforms to the following requirements (such as a letter from the qualified nutritionist/ other qualified individual or other evidence which confirms the following): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The diets for each age group have been developed in accordance with the nutritional guidelines provided by the most recently published National Research Council (NRC) standards;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Feedstuffs do <u>not</u> contain ruminant-derived protein sources with the exception of milk and milk products;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Growth hormones/ growth promoters including but not limited to beta agonists are not used as additives to the feed in the <u>stated formulation</u> for the <u>stated producer</u>; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In-feed antibiotics or anti-parasitic agents are not used in the <u>stated formulation</u> for the <u>stated producer</u>, except and unless for permitted therapeutic reasons as prescribed by the attending veterinarian and as documented in the Herd Health Plan.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b> | <b>/10</b> |
|-----------|---|--|------------|

|            |   |   |           |
|------------|---|---|-----------|
| <b>M8</b>  | <p>The Nutrition Plan must also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specifications for a diet that is adjusted as appropriate to the age and breed of the bison in order to promote balanced nutrition. In all cases, nutritional maintenance through feeding of quality forage, mineral concentrates, etc. must be provided as necessary to maintain good health.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bison must not be maintained in an environment that is likely to predispose them to nutrient deficiency. Managers must be aware of any mineral deficiencies to correct these as appropriate.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specifications that changes in the type and quantity of feed must be introduced gradually in order to limit the risks of digestive problems such as acidosis.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Adult bison must be provided with a supplemental source of fiber as necessary to promote rumination. The fiber must be of such quality and length as to stimulate rumination and help avoid acidosis by aiding in proper digestion.</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b> |
| <b>M9</b>  | <p>The Nutrition Plan must also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Feed records that have been retained for at least one year, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identification of feed mill and whether major or minor source of feed; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Feed constituents/ feed concentrates (minerals/amino acids, etc.) used at each site.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A written record of the feed ingredients, and the inclusion rate of compound feeds and feed supplements;</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Records from the feed supplier with a statement of compliance that feed ingredients meet all FDA requirements for feed safety.</li> </ul>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b> |
| <b>M10</b> | <p><b>Lighting</b><br/> Adequate lighting, whether natural or artificial, fixed or portable, must be available to enable bison and facilities/equipment to be thoroughly inspected at any time.</p>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b> |

|            |  |   |            |
|------------|--|---|------------|
| <b>M11</b> | <p><b>Herd Health Plan</b><br/> A written Herd Health Plan (HHP) must be available at the main office. This plan must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Certification or proof that the HHP has been developed in consultation with the herd veterinarian: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The herd veterinarian must sign and date the HHP; and</li> <li>○ The HHP must annually updated;</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Records of vaccination protocols and any vaccinations;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Records of treatment protocols and any treatments, including:</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identification of the animal(s);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The type of treatment and reason for the treatment;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dates of treatment;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The types/route of administration and quantities of medications used;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Details of the therapeutic use, defined as treatment, prevention and control, as allowed by current laws, of any antibiotics (including ionophores), antiparasitics, and antifungals, which includes the requirements that antibiotics, antiparasitics, and antifungals must only be used therapeutically as prescribed by the herd veterinarian;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Therapeutic use must be for individual animals OR for specific groups of animals only when specified by the herd veterinarian through determination that the entire group is at high risk of contracting disease;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Therapeutic use is in conformance with the latest edition of the FDA <b><i>Judicious Use of Antimicrobials for Beef Cattle Veterinarians</i></b> and complies with withdrawal periods;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Records of any surgical procedures;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tolerance levels for overall herd performance;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Causes of morbidity and mortality where known; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Targets for other aspects of herd health.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Livestock and poultry must not be implanted or injected with any growth hormone/ growth promoter or fed antibiotics (except ionophores) or fed beta-agonists for the purpose of boosting growth or feed efficiency.</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: Treatment must never be withheld to maintain an antibiotic-free production policy. Animals must be given appropriate treatment, including antibiotics, if prescribed by the flock veterinarian, regardless of antibiotic-free production policy.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/25</b> |
|------------|--|---|------------|

|                   |  |  |                   |
|-------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| <p><b>M12</b></p> | <p>The Herd Health Plan must also include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Management plans for the prevention of physical maladies;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Although foot problems are rare in extensively raised bison, attention must be given to the condition of the feet of breeding bison depending on their pasture or pen conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If a problem is identified, a foot care plan must be implemented as specified in the HHP, using methods that are appropriate to the condition or the animals and the individual ranch,</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Action plans for the mitigation/ prevention of recurring injuries to suggest that there is a common cause and that is attributable to physical features of the environment or handling procedure;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Practical measures that are in place to prevent or control external and internal parasitic infestations;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Procedures to be followed in the event of an outbreak of abnormal behavior, including appropriate and immediate changes in the system of management. If abnormal behavioral activities develop repeatedly and inhibit normal functioning of the animal in any particular pen, a program of modification and enrichment must be agreed upon together with the herd veterinarian. This excludes the repeated rubbing of brushes designed for that purpose. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>For observation purposes the following possible repetitive abnormal behavioral patterns may include repeated rubbing in the absence of disease, tongue rolling/aerophagia, bar biting/chewing, pica (licking/chewing solid objects), eating soil/sand/dirt, navel sucking, ear sucking, urine drinking, and/or persistent bellowing. Observations are made over an extended period of time.</i></li> <li>○ <i>Excessive mounting within feedlots may be indicative of Buller Steer Syndrome (BSS). In this case the buller steer must be removed from the pen. and</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The program adopted and followed for the prevention and control of organisms that cause food safety concerns.</li> </ul> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/10</b></p> |
| <p><b>M13</b></p> | <p><b>Herd Performance Parameters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tolerance limits for herd performance must be established. The herd must be continually monitored for herd performance parameters including: production diseases, infectious diseases, and injury as a result of housing/ husbandry/ and handling. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>This includes, for example: metabolic disorders (hypocalcaemia, hypomagnesaemia, ketosis, displaced abomasum, laminitis, bloat, acidosis), septicemia, enteritis, problems at calving, repetitive physical injury, respiratory diseases, body condition, and/or non-ambulatory animals.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The causes of morbidity and mortality where known and other aspects of herd health: all sudden deaths, disease outbreaks, and incidences where bison are humanely euthanized must be recorded and investigated in consultation with the herd veterinarian when necessary.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Where any herd performance parameter falls below the tolerance limits established by the producer and the herd veterinarian in the Herd Health Plan, or if the numbers of casualty or culled animals exceeds the parameters in the HHP, the veterinarian must be informed and management practices adjusted or a program of mitigation adopted until the problem has been resolved.</li> </ul>  | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/10</b></p> |

## Biosecurity Plans

|                   |   |  |            |
|-------------------|---|--|------------|
| <p><b>M14</b></p> | <p><b>Biosecurity Plan, Structural /Access</b><br/>           The structural biosecurity plan must be available and include as a minimum the maintenance of perimeter fencing for the exclusion of other livestock.</p> <p>For off-range facilities, such as feedlots, structural biosecurity must include policies and procedures for the exclusion of unapproved visitors and the management of approved visitors.</p>  | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p>/3</p>  |
| <p><b>M15</b></p> | <p><b>Biosecurity Plan, Operational</b><br/>           The operational biosecurity plan must be available and include as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Biosecurity precautions that are taken to prevent the introduction of disease when new animals are brought to the cow/calf operation. This should include control methods/ health certificates/ or quarantine of the new animals away from other bison for 15 to 30 days or other time by instruction of the herd veterinarian:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Managers must be provided appropriate treatment and vaccination records by vendors when new stock is brought onto the site,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Isolation facilities must be provided to observe and test new animals before integration with the rest of the herd, and/or the new stock must be appropriately treated (for endo/ectoparasite control), and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hired bulls must only be used when no alternative is available. The hired bull must be screened for its potential disease status prior to its introduction; and</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Protocols to avoid cross-contamination (such as shovels not used for both manure and feed, etc.).</li> </ul> <p>For off-range facilities, such as feedlots, structural biosecurity must include policies and procedures which include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of pest control methods and protocols such as baiting and trapping;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bulk feed and emergency water sources are covered and protected, and other potential attractants of pests, rodents, mold, etc. are removed;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Facility/ equipment cleaning/sanitizing protocols and schedules; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Restrictions on access of domestic or wild animals.</li> </ul> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p>/10</p> |
| <p><b>M16</b></p> | <p><b>Waste Disposal Plan</b><br/>           Each location must maintain a Waste Disposal Plan which detail protocols for the safe and proper disposal of medical waste, sharps, carcasses, and other waste that poses a potential threat to animal and human health and safety.</p>  | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p>/10</p> |

## SOPs for Calves & Weaning

|                   |  |  |                   |
|-------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| <p><b>M17</b></p> | <p><b>Colostrum for Calves</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> It is vital that each new-born calf receives adequate, quality colostrum from its dam, from another fresh cow, or from a frozen or dried colostrum source as soon as possible after birth, and no later than within the first 6 to 8 hours of life.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Only where the circumstance calls for intervention, <u>and</u> when the stockperson's safety is secure, the following actions must be taken. <i>Note: It can be difficult if not impossible to get to calves in the herd, so the following provisions should only be used in the rarest of circumstance and with extreme regard to the animal handler's safety:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The calf must be given access to colostrum within the first eight hours of its life and continue to suckle for 24 hours.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> When suckling of the cow is not possible, sufficient colostrum must be provided manually. It is recommended that, as an average, approximately 6 quarts of colostrum should be administered by stomach tube, or bottle or bucket over the first 24 hours to each calf (1.5 quarts in 4 feeds).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> For a further 48 hours, each calf should receive approximately 6 quarts of colostrum/whole milk daily in at least two feeds.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Records must show that purchased calves have received colostrum as set out above.</li> </ul> | <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A         </p> | <p><b>/25</b></p> |
| <p><b>M18</b></p> | <p><b>Thermal Environment</b></p> <p>Proper precautions must be taken to prevent and manage hypothermia in young calves. <i>While healthy young calves can tolerate low air temperatures, newborn animals, calves that have been transported or deprived of food, and sick calves are all particularly susceptible to hypothermia.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hypothermia and additional stress must be avoided in well-ventilated, unheated buildings by the use of thick, dry bedding and by preventing drafts.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sick individuals must be provided artificial heat if ambient conditions warrant.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If calving on pasture, pastures must provide cows with a dry calving environment and access to natural or artificial shelter as weather conditions dictate.</li> </ul>   | <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A         </p> | <p><b>/3</b></p>  |
| <p><b>M19</b></p> | <p>Where there is a high risk of infectious disease, consideration must be given to the individual quarantining of calves for the initial rearing period up to as much as 5 weeks.</p>   | <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A         </p> | <p><b>/3</b></p>  |
| <p><b>M20</b></p> | <p><b>Weaning in Ranch Settings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Calves must not be weaned earlier than 3 months of age. It is recommended that calves be allowed to suckle for up to 6 months of age.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Calves must be weaned with consideration given to limiting distress on the animals, for example, by weaning them into a familiar environment, by weaning in two stages, by using fence line weaning and plastic nose tabs, and/or by mixing them with heifers during the weaning process.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Calves must be weaned and vaccinated no sooner than 30-45 days prior to being transported.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <u>Freshly weaned calves must never be transported- the vocalizations of freshly weaned calves must never be heard in a transport environment.</u></li> </ul>   | <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A         </p> | <p><b>/25</b></p> |

## SOPs for Handling

|            |   |   |            |
|------------|---|---|------------|
| <b>M21</b> | <p>Bison must be handled quietly at all times, and efforts must be made to accustom/familiarize the bison to contact with stockpersons (handlers).</p> <p>At no time are the bison to be yelled at or screamed at. Bison must be handled with the least amount of force needed. In all cases care, must be taken to avoid unnecessary pain or distress.</p>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>M22</b> | <p><b>Use of Handling Aids</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sticks and flags must be used only as benign handling aids (i.e., as extensions of the arm).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sticks must not be used for excessive hitting, beating, or poking the bison.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <u>Electric prods must not be used except where animal and/or human safety is in jeopardy and it is the means of last resort.</u></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Electric prods must not be carried by stock-keepers as a matter of course.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <i>Note: See "P/F1" below also.</i></p>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/25</b> |
| <b>M23</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bison must not be driven unless the exit or the way forward for the lead animal is clear.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bison must not be rushed or run along alleyways, passageways, or through gateways.</li> </ul>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>M24</b> | <p>A bison-handling unit must be available, comprised of a collecting system and a method of restraint, appropriate to the type, temperament, and numbers of stock to be managed.</p>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>M25</b> | <p><b>Use of Restraints</b></p> <p>Bison must not be closely restrained (i.e. tethered or stanchioned) except in the following circumstances, and then for not more than 4 hours. Bison must not be deprived of water for more than 2 hours and sooner if the bison are outside and/or if conditions are hot. Close restraint is permitted only for the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For the duration of any examination, routine test, blood sampling, veterinary treatment.</li> <li>○ While they are being fed.</li> <li>○ For the purpose of marking, washing, or weighing.</li> <li>○ While facilities are being cleaned.</li> <li>○ During artificial insemination.</li> <li>○ During hoof-trimming.</li> <li>○ Awaiting loading for transportation.</li> </ul>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>M26</b> | <p><b>Immobilization of Bison</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tranquilizers (chemical immobilizations) may be used only when mechanical restraint is not an option (such as to immobilize an aggressive animal), and are only to be administered by the herd veterinarian and only at his or her discretion.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tranquilizers must not be used in any situation where the animal may injure itself, such as near open water, on steep slopes, etc.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The animal must be closely monitored until it has recovered and is no longer at risk of injury to itself or from other individuals.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <u>Electric immobilization is not permitted for use under any situation.</u></li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>M27</b> | <p><b>Use of Dogs</b></p> <p>Dogs, including working dogs, must be properly trained, must not cause injury or distress to bison, and must be kept under control at all times.</p>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |



## SOPs for Care & Handling of Sick or Injured Animals

|                   |   |  |                   |
|-------------------|---|--|-------------------|
| <p><b>M28</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All efforts must be made to ensure the rapid diagnosis, immediate treatment, and optimized recovery for any sick or injured animal.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If an animal does not respond to treatment, it must be humanely euthanized.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If an animal is in severe, uncontrollable pain, it must be humanely and immediately euthanized.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No live animal may leave the site unless it can walk unassisted, except as noted below.</li> </ul>  | <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A         </p> | <p><b>/3</b></p>  |
| <p><b>M29</b></p> | <p><b>Non-Ambulatory (“Downer”) Bison</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Care must be taken to avoid causing unnecessary pain or distress to a sick or injured animal that is unable to move. Moving by means that can cause further physical or psychological damage is prohibited. <i>Refer to the North American Meat Institute guidelines for acceptable methods of moving non-ambulatory bison.</i></li> </ul> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>Non-ambulatory animals (and ambulatory animals) must not be moved by hoisting by chain, dragging, or lifting without complete body support-</u> doing so is considered a willful act of abuse. See P/F1 also.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The use of hip-lifters is permitted only for emergency, short-term assistance. Bison must not be left unattended when hip-lifters are in use.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hind-leg hobbles (“splitters”) may be used only when necessary to prevent bison from becoming non-ambulatory.</li> </ul> <p><i>Medical breakthroughs in the treatment of bison have made it possible to assist downer bison to regain health and productivity.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Where the herd veterinarian determines that a downer animal may be successfully moved with limited levels of pain and distress, that the downer is a good candidate for treatment, and if stockperson safety is not compromised, the animal may be humanely transported from the site to a medical facility using approved methods.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the herd veterinarian determines that an animal cannot be moved with limited levels of pain and distress, or the downer is not a good candidate for treatment, or if the safety of the stockperson is in question, then it must be euthanized humanely and immediately.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The transportation, treatment or euthanasia of the animal must be documented in the health care records in the American Humane Certified™ Farm Manual.</li> </ul> <p><i>Refer to UC Davis “Care for the Downer Cow” for additional recommendations.</i></p> <p><i>Reference: Stull, Berry, Reynolds, and Payne. 2008. Care for the Downer Cow. (Small placard published by U C Davis.)</i></p> | <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A         </p> | <p><b>/50</b></p> |

|            |   |  |            |
|------------|---|--|------------|
| <b>M30</b> | <p><b>Care of Sick and Injured Animals</b><br/>Provisions must be made for the immediate and appropriate care of sick and injured animals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Any animal suffering from illness or injury must be treated without delay, and veterinary advice must be sought when needed.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the animal does not respond to treatment or is in severe pain or suffering, and the veterinarian determines that the animal is unlikely to recover, that animal must be euthanized humanely and immediately.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Only where necessary due to the nature of the illness or injury, and for the optimal recovery of the animal and the well-being of the herd, bison may be segregated from the rest of the herd: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If used, hospital/ isolation pens must be maintained in a clean condition and be of a size which is appropriate for the age, size, and breed of the animal.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Animals in hospital pens must be able to stand up, turn around, lie down, rest, and groom themselves without hindrance.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <u>Water and feed must be readily accessible even to non-ambulatory animals.</u></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Urine and feces from hospital pens for sick and injured animals must be disposed without the risk of spreading infection to other stock.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pens must be constructed to facilitate effective cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and the possible removal of a carcass from the area.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Animals must be kept in isolation only for as long as needed to ensure the individual's recovery or the health of the rest of the herd.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b> | <b>/25</b> |
|------------|---|--|------------|

## SOPs for Identification

|     |  |   |     |
|-----|--|---|-----|
| M31 | Where neckbands, tail-bands, ear tags, leg-bands, or RFIDs are used for identification purposes, they must be fitted with care and adjusted as required to avoid unnecessary pain or distress (for example by being too tight, etc.)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /3  |
| M32 | <p>Bison marking must be performed by trained personnel quickly, expertly, and with the proper equipment in a manner that avoids unnecessary pain and distress.</p> <p><u>The following methods of identification are NOT permitted for use in bison identification:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Brands, jaw-brands, and ear-notching.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Any surgical alterations for identification, such as ear-splitting, wattling (cutting strips of skin from the animal), etc.</li> </ul> <p>Livestock markers for the temporary marking of livestock (i.e., crayons, chalk, and paints) must be especially developed for that purpose and must be non-toxic.</p> <p>_____ Method(s) of identification used.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /25 |

## Records of Stockperson Training

*The continuing education of personnel who have day-to-day contact with the bison is one of the most important ways to ensure behaviors that support and promote animal welfare. It is important to have documentation confirming personnel training in aspects of herd welfare appropriate to the level of operation.*

|     |   |   |     |
|-----|---|---|-----|
| M33 | <p><b>Training Documentation</b><br/> <i>Note: applies to all training in this section "Records of Stockperson Training"</i></p> <p>Stockpersons must be provided training at orientation, as well as yearly updates/ refresher courses (and opportunities for continuing education and professional development) and specialized training in aspects of animal welfare appropriate to the level of operation. For all training of personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training must be presented in the workers' native language as necessary.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training may include videos, manuals, classroom settings, online instruction, etc. as appropriate.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training <u>must</u> include review of the company SOPs and 'hand's on' experience and evaluations.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training must include review of the <b>American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards</b>.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training must clearly define what is expected of each stockperson so that each is fully aware of their duties and responsibilities.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training records must be signed by both the trainer and the trainee, and include the training topic and training date, i.e. orientation, yearly update/ refresher course, specialized training, etc.</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /10 |
|-----|---|---|-----|

|            |   |   |            |
|------------|---|---|------------|
| <b>M34</b> | <p><b>Training for All Stockpersons</b><br/> Prior to being given responsibility for the welfare of livestock, all stock persons must be properly trained. As a minimum, the training program for all stockpersons in direct contact with the animals must include the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training and validation in the safe, correct and approved methods of bison handling and use of bison-handling units in a manner which minimizes unnecessary stress to the bison, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understanding the behavioral characteristics of bison and the likely stress factors that bison may be subjected to, how bison react towards other bison, towards man, and to strange noises, sights, sounds, and smells;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Using visual fields (i.e. bison have a wide field of vision but have a blind spot behind them, which handlers should avoid entering) and flight zones (an imaginary area which if handlers enter will make the animal want to move away. Handlers control an animal's movement by understanding the flight zone);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lighting (as bison prefer to move from the dark into the light); and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> When and how to use such things as sticks and other implements;</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Knowing the normal behavior of bison and of the herd and to recognize the signs that indicate good health and welfare so that in the eventuality of an impending problem arising they are able to recognize it at the earliest stages;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recognizing readily apparent behavioral actions of the bison which indicate an inability of the animals to thermoregulate (such as heavy panting and head-bobbing) and the actions that must be taken to provide relief to the bison, especially when immediate actions are required;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Having a basic knowledge of what constitutes proper nutrition in bison;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Having knowledge of normal body conditions in bison and the necessary steps to be taken if problems arise;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recognizing the signs of abnormal behavior and fear;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recognizing deviations from normal bison activity;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understand the physical and environmental requirements for bison throughout each season and especially during breeding, calving, weaning, etc.;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Having a basic knowledge of the signs of common diseases, illnesses, and injuries and knowing when either direct action is required or when the responsible personnel must be notified; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Knowing the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency, i.e. the Emergency Response Plan.</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/10</b> |
|------------|---|---|------------|

|                   |   |  |                   |
|-------------------|---|--|-------------------|
| <p><b>M35</b></p> | <p><b>Specialized Training of Stockpersons</b><br/> Documentation must be available for the training of stockpersons who are responsible for performing specialized duties, with emphasis on animal welfare, minimizing pain and distress to the animals, and optimizing health. Specialized training includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The specific training in routine monitoring of individual cow health; recognizing unusual conditions or behaviors; recognizing signs for the early detection of injuries and lameness, sickness, and disease and the appropriate and timely remedial actions to be taken, either by the direct action of the stockperson or through the notification of the responsible personnel;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific training for personnel responsible for any equipment which impacts animal welfare, such as crowd gates, squeeze chutes, restraining equipment, downer handling equipment, etc., including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> proper use of the equipment,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> performing routine maintenance to ensure that the equipment is kept in good working order,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> recognizing common signs of malfunction, and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> knowing actions to be carried out in the event of equipment failure;</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understanding the fundamental principles of bison breeding and genetics;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training in the processes during breeding, particularly the selection of suitable bulls, semen, and embryos for use in heifers;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training in procedures for calving and the care of the newborn calf;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training in the functional anatomy of the normal foot, and its care and treatment; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training in the functional anatomy of the normal teat and udder.</li> </ul> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/10</b></p> |
| <p><b>M36</b></p> | <p><b>Further Training</b><br/> Prior to performing procedures that have the potential to cause suffering (e.g. injections, oral-dosing, foot-trimming, identification, etc.), the stockperson must be able to demonstrate to the trainer that they are proficient in performing those procedures, with emphasis on animal welfare, minimizing pain and distress to the animals, and optimizing recovery wherever possible. Further training includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific training in recognizing cull and downer cows, determining whether an animal needs to be euthanized and who is responsible for making the decision, and determining whether transport of downers is appropriate;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific training and certification of the approved stockpersons' proficiency in approved techniques for euthanasia;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific training and certification in approved husbandry procedures and protocols; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training in the proper methods of marking/ identifying bison in a manner that avoids unnecessary pain and distress.</li> </ul>   | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/10</b></p> |
| <p><b>M37</b></p> | <p><b>Training of Outside Workers</b><br/> Workers outside of the ranch's control, such as foot trimmers, transport companies, etc., must be familiar with and conform to all requirements in these standards related to their duties, including but not limited to approved handling and moving of bison including downers, the permissible use of tranquilizers if needed, approved protocols for the transport of bison, and performing their duties proficiently and in a manner that minimizes undue stress to the animals etc. Outside workers must be held to the same standards of humane care as company personnel.</p> <p>Documentation must be available confirming the qualifications of any outside employees, such as training records, a Certificate of Conformance, etc.</p>  | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/10</b></p> |

## Inspections of Livestock

|            |  |   |            |
|------------|--|---|------------|
| <b>M38</b> | <p>Daily inspections encompass the monitoring of animals' body condition and feed/water consumption; signs of lameness; condition of the coat and leg; cleanliness of the animals; and any signs of disease. All bison must be inspected and monitored regularly to confirm animal health and for the early detection of injuries and early signs lameness, sickness, and disease so that appropriate and timely actions may be taken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> For housing, managers must inspect their livestock including all facilities (i.e. calving areas, hospital pens, bull pens, etc.) at least daily.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> For open range or pasture, efforts must be made to track the location of the herd and check on its condition not less than once per week or more often during extreme weather, or as soon as possible after a severe weather event such as a blizzard.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> During calving, more frequent inspections must be performed as necessary, including inspections of heifers for signs of impending parturition.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Weather conditions must be taken into account when determining frequency of monitoring during calving season, i.e. for inclement weather, rates of inspections must increase.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> It is recommended that first calf heifers be kept in separate pastures from the adult cow herd.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Records must be kept on file for a minimum of one year of the following circumstances at a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> records of mortalities, including the date, the age of the animal and the cause if known; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> records of culls, including the date, the age of the animal and the reason for culling.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <u>Carcasses must be removed away from live animals as soon as practical after discovery, and disposed of promptly thereafter.</u></li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The stockperson performing the inspections must proceed in a careful, deliberate manner to avoid frightening the animals unnecessarily, and must follow a path that allows them to see each animal.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> During inspections or at any other time, if the stockperson observes any animal which appears to be behaving in an unusual manner, the stockperson must immediately notify the responsible personnel who will determine whether remedial actions are required.</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/10</b> |
|------------|--|---|------------|

|                   |   |  |                   |
|-------------------|---|--|-------------------|
| <p><b>M39</b></p> | <p><b>Producer Observations and Scoring</b><br/> Records must be on file for a minimum of one year showing that properly trained personnel have performed the following health observations and scoring, at least monthly for feedlots and twice per year for ranches (unless noted otherwise below), and including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Body Condition Scoring (FW1): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Body Condition Score (BCS) must be assessed during regular observation periods such as weaning, 30 days post-weaning, 90 days before calving, at calving, and at the beginning of breeding season.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Special observations must be made for bison coming from winter conditions to spring.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bison Exiting the Squeeze Chute;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizations During Procedures;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Slips and Falls Scoring;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lameness/ Locomotion Scoring;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Leg Condition Scoring;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Coat Condition Scoring; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mud Scoring.</li> </ul> <p>These records must be filed as part of the Herd Health Plan. Where scoring falls outside of the acceptable limits noted in the Herd Performance Parameters, records must document the actions taken and that subsequent scoring was within acceptable limits.</p> <p><i>Note: Specifications for sample size and performance criteria are listed in the 'Environment' section.</i></p> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: Where scores have been identified be outside of acceptable parameters, records must show that a program of corrective action was implemented and maintained until scores returned to acceptable levels.</i></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/25</b></p> |
| <p><b>M40</b></p> | <p>When welfare issues are noted during inspections, i.e. when herd performance data are outside of the limits defined in the HHP, then the rate of inspections must be increased until parameters return to acceptable levels.</p>   | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/10</b></p> |

## Inspections & Maintenance of Equipment

|                   |   |  |           |
|-------------------|---|--|-----------|
| <p><b>M41</b></p> | <p><b>Equipment Inspections and Maintenance</b><br/>         Stockpersons must inspect all equipment on which the livestock rely on a daily basis, such as water troughs and feeding facilities and whether the equipment is manual or automatic. Stockpersons must also perform routine, scheduled maintenance as defined in the SOPs. Where a defect is found (whether on inspection or at any other time):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> It must be rectified immediately; or</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the defect cannot be rectified immediately, the stockperson must follow the measures as specified in the SOPs or take other actions as necessary in order to safeguard the animals from suffering unnecessary pain or distress as a result of the defect. These measures must be maintained until the defect has been rectified.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Routine maintenance must be performed per the equipment manufacturer's recommendations.</li> </ul>   | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p>/3</p> |
| <p><b>M42</b></p> | <p><b>Inspections and Maintenance of Water Systems</b><br/>         Water systems must be inspected and maintained daily to confirm that clean, fresh water is readily available to the bison:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water availability must be checked daily;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water delivery must be monitored to make sure water is provided at all times; that is, the water delivery system must keep pace with the demand of the maximum number of bison who are able to drink at the same time;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All water sources must be checked for contaminants such as elevated levels of feed, algae, manure, nitrates, pathogens, etc.; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Samples of water must be taken and recorded periodically to ensure that water quality is acceptable for bison. <i>State or local water quality requirements must be followed.</i></li> </ul>  | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p>/3</p> |
| <p><b>M43</b></p> | <p><b>Inspections and Maintenance of Water in Range/Pasture Conditions</b><br/>         In addition to the above, where bison are kept primarily on pasture:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> During the winter, the water source must be kept clear of ice;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The area around the water troughs must be managed to avoid excessive wetting and, if necessary, water troughs must be placed on concrete aprons to limit mud or sodden ground;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Periodic review of streams and ponds must be done and corrected where deemed incompatible with the animals' ability to stay hydrated;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The potential contamination of rivers, ponds, or streams with bison feces must be considered; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Local, state, and federal laws regarding bison access to running or still water resources must be followed.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: The type of terrain and the weather conditions will dictate where water resources must be located. Wherever possible, troughs and gateways must be sited away from the bottom of slopes and dips in the ground. This will ensure better drainage and will allow areas of deep mud to be avoided. If necessary, troughs should be placed on concrete aprons.</i></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p>/3</p> |



|                   |   |  |                   |
|-------------------|---|--|-------------------|
| <p><b>M44</b></p> | <p><b>Inspections and Maintenance of Auxiliary Power Supply:</b><br/>Where the bison are dependent on either mechanical ventilation or electricity for water and feed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> An auxiliary power supply (such as a standby generator), must be available and tested and maintained at least yearly or per manufacturer recommendations.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The auxiliary power supply must have sufficient capacity to operate critical equipment such as fans, water pumps, and lights for at least 24 hours.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: An auxiliary power supply is not required on ranches where the bison are not dependent on either mechanical ventilation or electricity for water and feed. For these settings only, this item should be marked "N/A."</i></p>                 | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/><input type="checkbox"/> No<br/><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/3</b></p>  |
| <p><b>M45</b></p> | <p><b>Ventilation &amp; Environmental Controls for Indoor Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maximum and minimum temperatures must be monitored daily.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ventilation equipment must be checked daily and maintained for proper operation.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ventilation rates must be monitored daily, and adjustments made in order to maintain minimum ventilation requirements and to maintain air quality parameters.</li> </ul>  | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/><input type="checkbox"/> No<br/><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/10</b></p> |
| <p><b>M46</b></p> | <p><b>Monitoring of Air Quality for Enclosed Environments</b><br/>Where bison are housed in an enclosed environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ammonia levels, measured monthly at the height of the animals at multiple locations in the house, are ideally less than 10 ppm but in any case must not exceed 25 parts per million.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Inhalable dust must not exceed 10 mg/m<sup>3</sup>.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If a monthly test result exceeds either limit, a program of mitigation must be adopted with records kept, and testing must be performed weekly until level return to acceptable limits.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer.</i></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/><input type="checkbox"/> No<br/><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/25</b></p> |
| <p><b>M47</b></p> | <p><b>Inspections and Maintenance of Fencing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All fencing must be regularly inspected and maintained and be free of sharp projections, protuberances, and other surfaces that may cause injury to the animals.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Electric fences must be designed, installed, used, and maintained so that contact with them does not cause more than momentary discomfort to the bison.</li> </ul>  | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/><input type="checkbox"/> No<br/><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/3</b></p>  |

# SOPs for Husbandry and Other Procedures

Note: All local and/or state regulations must be followed.

|                   |  |  |                   |
|-------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| <p><b>M48</b></p> | <p><b>Husbandry Procedures</b><br/>         Where necessary, producers must use only approved, humane husbandry procedures accepted by the American Humane Certified™ program. <u>Husbandry procedures must be performed at the earliest possible age.</u> These practices must not be performed on sick or injured animals. All practices must be performed by designated, trained and competent personnel or the herd veterinarian using appropriate, well-maintained equipment. Practices must be performed in a way which minimizes suffering and optimizes recovery which may include the use of local anesthetics and analgesics as recommended by the herd veterinarian.</p> <p>➤ Auditor note: Check only the boxes that are applicable:</p> <p><u>Teat Removal:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Removal of supernumerary teats is not permitted unless their presence interferes with the suckling of the regular teats. In these cases, removal of supernumerary teats must be performed within 4 months under local anesthesia.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> If removal of supernumerary teats is necessary for calves or heifers older than 4 months of age, the procedure must be performed under local anesthesia by a veterinarian.</p> <p><i>Note: The removal of supernumerary teats is a rare procedure for bison.</i></p> <p><u>Disbudding/Dehorning:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>Disbudding/ dehorning of bison is not permitted.</u></p> <p><u>Castration:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>Castration of bison is not permitted.</u></p> <p><u>Surgical Procedures:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Surgical procedures such as caesarian sections must be performed by a qualified veterinarian under anesthesia.</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/25</b></p> |
| <p><b>M49</b></p> | <p>Induction of parturition must not be used as a routine management procedure, but is only permissible per a veterinarian’s recommendation.</p>   | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/3</b></p>  |
| <p><b>M50</b></p> | <p>Non-veterinarians performing per rectum pregnancy detection must have received appropriate training.</p>  | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/3</b></p>  |
| <p><b>M51</b></p> | <p>Calving aids must only be used to assist a delivery and not to produce a calf as quickly as possible. Before any type of calving aid is used, the cow must be examined to ensure that the calf is of a size where natural delivery can be reasonably expected without causing undue pain and distress to either the dam or the offspring, and where the safety of the attending stockperson is not compromised.</p>   | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/3</b></p>  |

## Euthanasia Policy

The Euthanasia Policy includes provisions for routine euthanasia (culls). Euthanasia and disposal of carcasses must be consistent with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

|   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>M52</b></p> | <p><b>Euthanasia Policy</b><br/> A Euthanasia Policy must be available which includes provisions for humane and timely euthanasia. This policy must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Only properly trained personnel or the herd veterinarian are to perform euthanasia. <i>A trained handler should demonstrate proper use of the euthanasia equipment to the auditor.</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training records which identify: the names of the stockpersons who have undergone training; the name of the trainer; the specific method(s) of euthanasia covered in the training; confirmation that the trainees' competence in performing the procedure was validated by the trainer, including proper techniques and proper use of any equipment; and the date(s) that the training occurred.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Procedures stating that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o If there is any doubt as to whether euthanasia is required: the veterinarian or properly trained personnel must be called at an early stage to advise whether treatment is possible; OR</li> <li>o If the veterinarian or properly trained personnel determine that an animal is in severe, uncontrollable pain, then the animal must be promptly and humanely euthanized to prevent further suffering.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> For euthanasia equipment: records showing that equipment has been maintained per the manufacturer's recommendations and that it is stored securely, protected from the elements, and kept clean.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The approved methods of euthanasia that are to be used for each age group of animals and under what circumstances. These methods must be approved by, and comply with, the latest edition of the American Veterinary Medical Association's <b><i>AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals.</i></b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Procedures stating that the persons performing euthanasia must verify that each animal has been properly euthanized through the absence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Breathing for five minutes;</li> <li>o A heartbeat for five minutes; and/ or</li> <li>o A corneal reflex (a blinking reflex upon touching the eye)</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If the animal is not successfully euthanized, the same method or an alternate method must be performed immediately.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Logs stating the reason for euthanasia, the date, the competent personnel performing the euthanasia, identifications of the animals euthanized, and the procedure used.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Procedures for the prompt, proper disposal of carcasses, and records of the name of the outlet through which all such carcasses are disposed, unless carcasses are disposed of on-site, in which case records must be kept of the disposal method. Disposal must meet all state, local, and/or federal regulations.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Nothing stated here is intended to discourage the prompt diagnosis and appropriate treatment of any ill or injured animal.</u></b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> No<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A </p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>/50</b></p> |
|---|--|--|---|

# On-Site/ Food & Water

Livestock must have freedom from hunger, thirst, and malnutrition by ready access to fresh water and a diet designed to maintain full health and promote a positive state of well-being. Feed and water must be distributed in such a way that livestock can eat and drink without undue competition.

## Food

|            |  | Selection   | Score      |           |   |           |          |   |      |                                  |   |      |   |   |            |  |   |          |                                     |   |      |                  |   |           |                             |   |     |                                |   |       |  |   |     |
|------------|--|---|------------|-----------|---|-----------|----------|---|------|----------------------------------|---|------|---|---|------------|--|---|----------|-------------------------------------|---|------|------------------|---|-----------|-----------------------------|---|-----|--------------------------------|---|-------|--|---|-----|
| <b>FW1</b> | <p><b>Body Condition Score</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All bison whether in ranch conditions or at the feedlot must be fed a wholesome and appropriate diet for their age and species and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity so that they sustain full health and normal reproductive capability over their maximum foreseeable lifespan.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bison must have daily access to food, unless otherwise required by a veterinarian.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 98% of bison and calves must have a BCS of 3 or above on a 9-point scale. (There must be less than 2% with a BCS less than 3.)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Note: Any animal with a BCS of less than 3 must be under individual treatment and nutritional care in order to bring BCS back to acceptable levels.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Note: See "P/F2" below also.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 95% of bison and calves must have a BCS of 7 or less on a 9-point scale. (There must be less than 5% with a BCS of 8 or 9.)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Note: any animal with a BCS of 8 or 9 must have a documented nutrition plan in concert with the nutritionist and veterinarian in order to bring BCS back to acceptable levels.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u><i>Note: Body Condition Score is considered a Core Criterion as evidence of animal health. Unacceptable BCS at the site may result in probation from the American Humane Certified™ program.</i></u></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 10px 0;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Score</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Appearance</th> <th style="width: 70%;">Condition</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td>emaciated</td><td>skeletal</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td>poor</td><td>very thin with bony protuberance</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td>thin</td><td>thin fat cover cut off for certification, under fails</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td>borderline</td><td>light fat cover over ribs, muster, hip</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td>moderate</td><td>light fat cover over all body parts</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td>good</td><td>medium fat cover</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td>very good</td><td>frame fat cover is balanced</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td>fat</td><td>fat deposits, tailhead, dewlap</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td>obese</td><td>excessive fat deposits, tailhead, etc.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Auditor note: Record all bison and calves with BCS less than 3 or greater than 7 and compare to the total number of bison and calves.</i></li> </ul> <p>_____ Percentage of bison and calves with BCS of 3 or above.<br/>         _____ Percentage of bison and calves with BCS of 7 or less.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Auditor note: See "P/F 2" below also.</i></li> </ul> | Score   | Appearance | Condition | 1 | emaciated | skeletal | 2 | poor | very thin with bony protuberance | 3 | thin | thin fat cover cut off for certification, under fails | 4 | borderline | light fat cover over ribs, muster, hip | 5 | moderate | light fat cover over all body parts | 6 | good | medium fat cover | 7 | very good | frame fat cover is balanced | 8 | fat | fat deposits, tailhead, dewlap | 9 | obese | excessive fat deposits, tailhead, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /50 |
| Score      | Appearance   | Condition   |            |           |   |           |          |   |      |                                  |   |      |   |   |            |  |   |          |                                     |   |      |                  |   |           |                             |   |     |                                |   |       |  |   |     |
| 1          | emaciated  | skeletal  |            |           |   |           |          |   |      |                                  |   |      |   |   |            |  |   |          |                                     |   |      |                  |   |           |                             |   |     |                                |   |       |  |   |     |
| 2          | poor   | very thin with bony protuberance                      |            |           |   |           |          |   |      |                                  |   |      |   |   |            |  |   |          |                                     |   |      |                  |   |           |                             |   |     |                                |   |       |  |   |     |
| 3          | thin   | thin fat cover cut off for certification, under fails |            |           |   |           |          |   |      |                                  |   |      |   |   |            |  |   |          |                                     |   |      |                  |   |           |                             |   |     |                                |   |       |  |   |     |
| 4          | borderline   | light fat cover over ribs, muster, hip                |            |           |   |           |          |   |      |                                  |   |      |   |   |            |  |   |          |                                     |   |      |                  |   |           |                             |   |     |                                |   |       |  |   |     |
| 5          | moderate   | light fat cover over all body parts                   |            |           |   |           |          |   |      |                                  |   |      |   |   |            |  |   |          |                                     |   |      |                  |   |           |                             |   |     |                                |   |       |  |   |     |
| 6          | good   | medium fat cover                                      |            |           |   |           |          |   |      |                                  |   |      |   |   |            |  |   |          |                                     |   |      |                  |   |           |                             |   |     |                                |   |       |  |   |     |
| 7          | very good  | frame fat cover is balanced                           |            |           |   |           |          |   |      |                                  |   |      |   |   |            |  |   |          |                                     |   |      |                  |   |           |                             |   |     |                                |   |       |  |   |     |
| 8          | fat  | fat deposits, tailhead, dewlap                        |            |           |   |           |          |   |      |                                  |   |      |   |   |            |  |   |          |                                     |   |      |                  |   |           |                             |   |     |                                |   |       |  |   |     |
| 9          | obese  | excessive fat deposits, tailhead, etc.                |            |           |   |           |          |   |      |                                  |   |      |   |   |            |  |   |          |                                     |   |      |                  |   |           |                             |   |     |                                |   |       |  |   |     |

|            |  |   |            |
|------------|--|---|------------|
| <b>FW2</b> | <b>Feeder Space</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Feed availability and feeder space must be provided such that bison do not need to compete for food. See Supplement: Table 1 at the end of this audit tool for Feeder Space recommendations.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Extra trough space must be made available if a restricted diet is applied.</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/10</b> |
| <b>FW3</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Troughs must be kept clean and stale feed removed on a daily basis.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Automatic feeding equipment must be kept clean, in good working order, and free of contaminants.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All stored feed must be free of bird or rodent feces and vermin.</li> </ul>                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/25</b> |
| <b>FW4</b> | Non-feed items/products (such as herbicides and pesticides, chemicals, machinery oil, etc.) must not be stored in the feed mixing or ingredient and supplement storage areas.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>FW5</b> | Control practices must be in place to minimize access to poisonous plants and unsuitable feedstuffs.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |

## Water

|            |   |   |            |
|------------|---|---|------------|
| <b>FW6</b> | <b>Access to Water</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All bison, including calves older than 1 day and bison in confinement, must be provided with continuous access to an adequate supply of clean, fresh drinking water each day, except when otherwise required by the attending veterinarian.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The availability of water, which includes the flow rate of the water delivery systems, must meet the demands of the herd: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> at least 10% of the herd must be able to drink at any one time;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> the line of animals waiting to drink at water stations must be no more than three animals deep; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> water tanks, troughs, etc. must be full when not being used, and must not completely drain when bison are drinking.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Waterers must be placed at a height appropriate to the size and age of the bison.</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/50</b> |
| <b>FW7</b> | For housing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bison must have access to water at all times.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All waterers must be kept clean, and watering equipment is designed, constructed, placed, and maintained so that contamination of the animals' water is minimized.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water troughs must not leak resulting in wetting/fouling of the bedded areas.</li> </ul> <p><i>The area surrounding water tanks, troughs, etc. should be on concrete where possible.</i></p>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>FW8</b> | When bison are kept primarily on pasture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Clean, fresh water must always be available, and must meet the requirements for 'Access to Water' noted above.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> During winter, the water supply must be kept clear of ice.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The area around the water troughs must be managed to avoid excessive wetting/ sodden ground and mud.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Local, state, and federal laws regarding bison access to running or still water resources must be followed.</li> </ul> <p><i>If necessary, water troughs should be placed on concrete aprons to limit mud or sodden ground.</i></p>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>FW9</b> | <b>Emergency Water Supply</b> Provisions must be in place to ensure an emergency supply of suitable drinking water in case normal supplies fail (e.g., due to freezing, drought, power failure, well malfunction, etc.) for at least 24 hours.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/10</b> |

# On-Site/ Environment

The environment in which livestock are kept must take into account their welfare needs and provide the best husbandry approaches; must meet all industry standards and governmental regulations; must be designed to protect them from physical and thermal discomfort, fear, and distress; and must allow them to perform their natural behaviors. All equipment and fixtures must be selected, installed, and maintained to optimize the well-being of the livestock. The animals must be protected from pain, injury, and disease, and their environment must be conducive to good health.

## Sites

|    |  | Selection   | Score |
|----|--|---|-------|
| E1 | A written or electronic copy of the current <b>American Humane Certified™ Animal Welfare Standards for Bison</b> must be available on-site as a reference for all stockpersons.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /3    |
| E2 | <p><b>Biosecurity, Structural/Access</b><br/>Structural biosecurity must be demonstrated at a minimum through proper maintenance of perimeter fencing for the exclusion of other livestock.</p> <p>For off-range facilities such as feedlots, structural biosecurity must be demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Any physical methods (i.e. secured or restricted access to facilities, signs posted at facility entrances, etc.) for the exclusion of unapproved visitors;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Signs posted at the facility which provide instructions and information for approved visitors regarding biosecurity procedures; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Logging of all approved visitors. Offsite personnel are not permitted on the site except by approval from site managers, and unless appropriate precautions have been taken to prevent contamination between sites.</li> </ul>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /3    |
| E3 | <p><b>Biosecurity, Operational</b><br/>For off-range facilities such as feedlots, operational biosecurity must be demonstrated at a minimum by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The maintenance of pest and predator control methods such as baiting and trapping;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If appropriate, the protection of bulk feed and emergency water sources, and the removal of other potential attractants of pests, rodents, and predators; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Evidence that facility/ equipment cleaning protocols and schedules are being followed.</li> </ul>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /10   |
| E4 | <p><b>Emergency Contact Information</b><br/>Emergency Contact Information, in worker's native language as necessary, must be available at the main office. This must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency contact information and numbers, i.e. fire department, local utilities, etc. and site address;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Primary and alternate contact numbers for the notification of individual(s) responsible for reacting to emergencies, i.e. stockpersons/ managers, family members, and/or owner as appropriate. <i>Note: it is recommended to provide contact numbers for at least three responsible personnel and/or family members when possible, and a "telephone tree" to ensure that all responsible parties may be contacted if necessary; and</i></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Procedures to be followed by those discovering an emergency such as fire, floods, storms or other severe weather, interruption of power or water, etc., and contingency plans and precautions to cope with emergencies in order to safeguard the welfare of the animals.</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /3    |

## Environmental Safety

|                   |  |  |                   |
|-------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| <p><b>E5</b></p>  | <p><b>Environmental Safety</b><br/>There must be no physical features of the environment that cause recurring injuries to bison.</p> <p><i>Injury is defined as damage severe enough for the formation of granular scar tissue that is to an extent significantly greater than would be caused by accidental bumps and scratches. Excessive occurrence of the following may be indicators of a poor environment: neck calluses; knee and/or hock swellings/calluses; teat/udder injuries; broken tails; hematomas; chronic scar tissue; soft hooves; interdigital infections; laminitis; abscesses; and/or bruised soles.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pens and fenced pastures to which livestock have access must be designed, constructed, maintained and regularly inspected to ensure that there are no features that are likely to cause injury or distress to the animal.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The interior of any building, including the floor and all internal fittings/surfaces to which livestock have access, must be designed, constructed, maintained, and regularly inspected to ensure that there are no sharp edges or protrusions likely to cause injury or distress to the animal.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> This includes the provisions of adequate and safe holding and handling facilities (whether indoors or outdoors) as well as to transportation vehicles. Particular attention must be paid to handling pens.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Floors must be made of non-slip material or must be maintained to reduce the risk of slipping (sand, mats, or other materials are applied when necessary).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Floors must not be so rough as to cause hoof damage.</li> </ul> <p><i>Lesions and wounds on animals, along with lameness, are indicators of building conditions that need immediate remediation. See also "Lameness/ Locomotion Score" below.</i></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/><input type="checkbox"/> No<br/><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/25</b></p> |
| <p><b>E6</b></p>  | <p>Except where preservatives with an insecticidal role are used, bison or calves must not come into contact with toxic fumes from chemicals.</p>  | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/><input type="checkbox"/> No<br/><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/3</b></p>  |
| <p><b>E7</b></p>  | <p>All electrical installations must be inaccessible to bison, well insulated, safeguarded from rodents, properly grounded, and regularly tested for stray voltage.</p>  | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/><input type="checkbox"/> No<br/><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/3</b></p>  |
| <p><b>E8</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Alleyways, passages, or gateways must be maintained in order to prevent injury to the animals.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Passages such as gates or alleys must be of such a design and width, and so constructed, to allow two animals to pass freely (except in chutes or races).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Chutes and races must be designed to prevent balking and permit bison to move smoothly through the system in a single line.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Care must have been taken to minimize, and ideally exclude, the number of blind alleyways in the buildings, in order to avoid the incidences of bullying by dominant animals.</li> </ul>  | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/><input type="checkbox"/> No<br/><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/3</b></p>  |
| <p><b>E9</b></p>  | <p>Internal surfaces of housing and pens must be made of materials which can readily be cleansed and disinfected or easily be replaced when necessary.</p>   | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/><input type="checkbox"/> No<br/><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/3</b></p>  |
| <p><b>E10</b></p> | <p>Where used, euthanasia equipment must show no obvious signs of neglect (i.e. rust, dirt and grime) and must be stored in a secure location protected from the elements.</p>   | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/><input type="checkbox"/> No<br/><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/3</b></p>  |

## Auxiliary Power Supply

|     |   |   |     |
|-----|---|---|-----|
| E11 | <p><b>Auxiliary Power Supply:</b><br/>Where bison rely on mechanical ventilation or electricity for water or feed, an auxiliary power supply, such as a standby generator, must be available and functional.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Auditor note: a stockperson must demonstrate that the auxiliary power supply is available and functional.</li> <li>➤ Auditor note: An auxiliary power supply is not required on ranches or other settings where the bison are not dependent on either mechanical ventilation or electricity for water and feed. For these settings only, this item should be marked "N/A."</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /10 |
|-----|---|---|-----|

## Thermal Environment & Ventilation

|     |   |   |     |
|-----|---|---|-----|
| E12 | <p>Select only as applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bison are kept in pasture or range conditions with features that allow relief during severe thermal swings.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> When bison are kept in partially roofed units they must be provided with effective shelter from the wind and a dry, comfortable lying area.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The thermal environment within buildings that house bison must not be so hot or so cold as to cause distress.</li> </ul> <p>➤ Auditor note: the bison must not show signs of either heat or cold stress.</p>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /10 |
| E13 | <p>For all bison, an assessment of their surrounding environmental temperature and air movement (drafts) must be undertaken, taking into account breed hardiness, age of stock, foreseeable climatic conditions, and natural shelter/shade.</p>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /3  |
| E14 | <p>For all shelters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Effective ventilation must be provided, permitting air movement at low velocity while avoiding drafts and ingress of rain and snow.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ventilation must achieve a relative humidity below 80% when ambient conditions allow.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Where necessary, there must be a system to provide adequate ventilation to remove the moisture produced by the stock and to reduce the number of airborne pathogens being passed from animal to animal.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Where a ventilation system is used, a professional must be consulted as necessary to determine adequacy of design and to rectify ventilation problems, including modifications to the ventilation rates and/or equipment.</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /10 |
| E15 | <p><b>Ammonia and Dust in Enclosed Environments</b><br/>When bison are kept in an enclosed environment, provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer as specified by Environmental Protection Agency and OSHA standards for particulates. Specifically, ammonia levels measured by the auditor in enclosed locations must not exceed 25 ppm.</p> <p>➤ Auditor note: for all enclosed locations, ammonia levels are to be measured at the height of the animals. <u>List location and result of ammonia test in the "Notes" below.</u></p>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /25 |



## Wind Breaks, Sun Shade, & Sprinklers

|     |   |   |     |
|-----|---|---|-----|
| E16 | <p>Bison kept on pasture/ range grazing conditions must be provided with shelter, shade, and windbreaks to allow them the opportunity to thermoregulate and to mitigate welfare risks in adverse weather.</p> <p><i>Shelter, shade, and windbreaks can be provided by geographical features such as well-drained hills and canyons, natural vegetation such as shrubs and tree belts, or manmade structures that are strategically placed to block prevailing winds.</i></p>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /3  |
| E17 | <p>All facilities must provide bison with the opportunity to properly thermoregulate. Bison must be provided with adequate space to perform behavioral adjustments important to thermoregulation and have access to facilities or natural shelters or barriers.</p> <p><i>A one- or two-sided structure with a roof can provide shelter to bison during periods of intense cold. Structures should be built with the open sides facing south or east (depending on prevailing winds) to maximize effects of solar radiation during the winter.</i></p>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /3  |
| E18 | <p>When bison are kept confined in partially roofed units (open fronted shed, covered feeding areas, etc.) they must be provided with effective protection from the wind and a comfortable, dry lying area.</p>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /3  |
| E19 | <p><b>Summer/ High Heat and Humidity Conditions</b></p> <p>For summer/ high heat conditions, a shaded area must be accessible to the bison and to provide cooling and allow the bison the opportunity to thermoregulate, and water systems must be considered for providing cooling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Artificial or natural shade must be provided or animals must be allowed access to buildings.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sunshades must be provided for open pastures in regions where heat and humidity can be extreme.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In all circumstances but especially in feedlots, bison must be monitored for signs of heat stress, especially the heavier animals. <u>When bison show signs of moderate to severe heat stress, such as head bobbing or open-mouth panting, immediate remedial actions must be taken to provide relief.</u></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In extreme environmental conditions, emergency actions must be taken as detailed in the Emergency Response Plan in order to safeguard the health of the bison.</li> </ul> <p>See “Additional Considerations for Feedlots” also.</p> <p><i>Bison not conditioned to extreme conditions may suffer heat stress and die. The provisions of shade can make a difference under extreme conditions. During periods of extreme heat the use of water can assist in preventing heat stress through evaporative cooling. Bison can also be cooled by water cannon, sprinklers or other appropriate devices.</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /25 |
| E20 | <p><b>Winter/ Cold or Wet Conditions</b></p> <p>For winter/ cold or wet conditions, shelters and windbreaks must be provided to the bison to mitigate wind chill and hypothermia and allow the bison the opportunity to thermoregulate.</p> <p><i>Windbreaks can consist of natural tree belts, fences, or manmade structures that are strategically placed to block prevailing winds. Natural geographic features such as hills or canyons may be used in pasture range grazing conditions.</i></p> <p><i>Windbreaks are recommended in mounded south-sloping feedlots in the northern part of the U.S. A 10 ft. minimum is the recommended height and can cut wind speed by half for 150 ft. downwind, or a 13 ft. windbreak can cut the wind speed in half for 200 ft. downwind. Windbreaks can also serve as snow control during the winter months.</i></p>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /10 |

|     |   |   |     |
|-----|---|---|-----|
| E21 | <p><b>Additional Considerations for Feedlots</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Open dirt feedlots must be mounded to provide dry resting areas for bison and must meet EPA Standards for control of dust.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> During periods of prolonged wetness, mud must be managed so the depth of mud in the loafing area is not excessive or cause for difficult travel by bison to and from feeding and watering areas. Mud over ankle depth must not be allowed to persist for long periods.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bison, especially heavier animals, must be continuously monitored for signs of heat stress during period of extreme heat and humidity, and must be provided with immediate relief as needed. <u>When bison show signs of moderate to severe heat stress, such as head bobbing or open-mouth panting, immediate remedial actions must be taken to provide relief.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Auditor note: Mud must not be deeper than the top of the hoof (or about 4 inches.)</li> <li>➤ Auditor note: If any animals are displaying signs of moderate to severe heat stress, the manager must be notified and remedial actions must be taken immediately.</li> <li>➤ Auditor note: The feedlot must be provided with adequate shade and shelter as noted in the rest of this section.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /10 |
|-----|---|---|-----|

## Lighting

|     |   |   |    |
|-----|---|---|----|
| E22 | The daytime light levels must be bright enough to allow facilities and animals to be inspected and workers to perform their duties without additional portable lighting (such as a flashlight, portable lamp, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /3 |
| E23 | Adequate lighting, whether fixed or portable must be available to enable the bison to be thoroughly inspected at any time.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /3 |

## Lying Area/Space Allowances

|     |   |   |     |
|-----|---|---|-----|
| E24 | <p><b>Lying Area</b></p> <p>Bison must have access at all times to a lying area which is well-drained or well-maintained with dry bedding, and which is of sufficient size to accommodate all bison lying down together in normal resting posture. For floor or ground area and feeder space recommendations, see Supplement: Table 1.</p>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /25 |
| E25 | A building or pen must provide adequate space such that all bison at all times have sufficient freedom of sideways movement to be able to groom themselves without difficulty, and sufficient room to lie down and freely stretch their limbs and to rise. For floor or ground area and feeder space recommendations see Supplement: Table 1.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /10 |
| E26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hard-surfaced pens must be made from materials that are impervious to water and urine.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Surfaces must be slip resistant (grooved or scored) but not abrasive to bison's feet. Diamond grooves are preferred with a depth x length of 0.5 inches x 4 inches.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hard-surfaced pens used for resting, recovery, or calving must be properly bedded with moisture-absorbent bedding or rubber mats.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bedding must be maintained in a dry and reasonably clean condition.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Manure-handling systems must be considered when using hard-surfaced flooring: Floors must be scraped daily or otherwise cleared of manure.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable hard floors include grooved or unfinished concrete, partial concrete slats, plastic covered expanded metal, or rubber mats.</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /3  |

|            |   |   |            |
|------------|---|---|------------|
| <b>E27</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Open-housed growing bison must be grouped according to size and age.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Where bison are maintained in feedlots, open feedlots must be sloped to promote proper drainage away from resting/loafing areas, water supply, feed troughs/bunks, and fence lines. See Supplement: Table 1 for space and slope. <i>Note: space and slope will change with drier or wetter climates, the seasons, and different soil types.</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> All local, state, and federal environmental regulations must be adhered to. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/10</b> |
| <b>E28</b> | The space allowance for bison housed in groups must be calculated in relation to the whole environment, the age, sex, live weight, and behavioral needs of the stock, taking account of the presence or absence of horns and the size of the group.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Every animal must have sufficient access to water and feed, a resting area.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Bison must remain reasonably clean. (See E48 "Mud Score")   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>E29</b> | Precautions must be taken to prevent injury when mixing bison.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>E30</b> | Special holding areas must be available for use during calving season, especially for first calf heifers or cows experiencing calving problems.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |

### Calving Environment

|            |  |   |            |
|------------|--|---|------------|
| <b>E31</b> | Pens or lots used for calving must have a bedded resting area, of such a size and with close access to a means of restraint (e.g., chute, head gate) as to permit a person to safely attend the cows and their calves.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Cows must have free access to water; and<br><input type="checkbox"/> Cows that are ready to give birth must be kept separate from the rest of the herd and from other species of livestock. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/10</b> |
| <b>E32</b> | Where used, the heating and ventilation of a building (including insulation) must ensure that the air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative humidity, and gas concentrations are kept within limits which are not harmful to calves.<br><p>➤ <i>Auditor note: This is confirmed by no evidence of condensation, no odor issues, and no visible dust.</i></p>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/10</b> |
| <b>E33</b> | Where used, the dimensions of holding areas or indoor accommodations must be in conformance with Supplement: Table 1.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>E34</b> | Where used, internal surfaces of indoor calving and hospital pens must be constructed of materials which can be easily cleaned.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |

### Bull Pens

|            |  |   |            |
|------------|--|---|------------|
| <b>E35</b> | Where used,<br><input type="checkbox"/> Bull pens must be sited to allow the bull sight, sound, and odor of other bison and general farm activity.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Individual accommodation for an adult bull of average size must include a bedded sleeping area and loafing area as noted in the Supplement: Table 1 at the end of the audit tool.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Bull pens must be safe for the stockpersons tending them. Adequate restraining facilities and an escape route for stockpersons must be provided.<br><input type="checkbox"/> The service area must have a non-slip surface. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/10</b> |
|------------|--|---|------------|

## Handling & Treatment Facilities

|     |  |   |    |
|-----|--|---|----|
| E36 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All handling facilities such as veterinary facilities and loading ramps must have non-slip flooring and must be constructed of materials that are easily cleaned.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Where used, internal walls of hospital boxes must be smooth and impervious to water and must be made of materials that are easily cleaned.</li> </ul>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /3 |
| E37 | <p><b>Alleyways and Gates</b><br/>Alleyways and gates must be designed and operated so as not to impede the movement of bison.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Alleyways and gates must be free from protrusions or other hazards which have the potential to injure the animals.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> When operating gates and catches, effort must have been made to reduce excessive noise which may cause distress to the animals, and if necessary, noise reduction mechanisms have been fitted to gates.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gates must open and swing smoothly, and close securely.</li> </ul>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /3 |
| E38 | <p><b>Squeeze Chutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hydraulic or manual restraining (squeeze) chutes must be properly adjusted for the size of the bison.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Regular cleaning and maintenance of all working parts is imperative to proper working of the system and safety of the bison and handlers.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Hydraulic restraint systems must have their pressure relief valves adjusted to avoid excessive pressure applied to bison during restraint: The pressure level setting of the squeeze chutes must be set so that it automatically stops squeezing before the animals show any signs of distress such as bellowing, straining, or difficulty breathing.</li> </ul>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /3 |
| E39 | <p><b>Loading Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Loading facilities must provide a ramp of no more than 20% incline.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Loading ramps and tail boards must be fitted with fences or rails to prevent the bison from slipping and falling off.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ramps may be of concrete or earth and, where concrete, are fitted with appropriately designed and spaced foot cleats, stair-steps, or other flooring surface that prevents slipping.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A loading bay and/or ramp must have been provided, and must be well lit to enable animals to walk straight into or out of the vehicle on a level or slight gradient.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: It is generally recommended that solid sides are used in races, chutes, crowding pens, and loading ramps to avoid distraction and balking in bison. Solid sides provide the greatest advantages where there are many distractions, such as vehicles, equipment, and people.</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /3 |

## Auditor Evaluations of Livestock

➤ Auditor note: Unless noted otherwise, score all animals.

|     |   |   |     |
|-----|---|---|-----|
| E40 | <p><b>Electric Prod Use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Handlers must not carry electric prods as a matter of course, and electric prods must not be used in the crowd pen.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 98% or more of the bison must have been moved through the system without the handlers using an electric prod.</li> </ul> <p>➤ Auditor Note: electric prods must only be used as a method of last resort when animal or handler health or safety is in jeopardy.</p> <p>➤ Score one group as it is being moved.</p>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /25 |
| E41 | <p><b>Bison Exiting the Squeeze Chute</b></p> <p>Bison must be exiting the chute calmly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 90% or more of the bison must be observed to exit the chute at a walk or a trot.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 98% or more of the bison must not fall when exiting the squeeze chute.</li> </ul> <p>Note: The pressure level setting of the squeeze chutes must be set so that it automatically stops squeezing before the animals show any signs of distress such as bellowing, straining, or difficulty breathing.</p> <p>Note: Bars should not be closed against the animal's face. It should be possible to put fingers between the squeeze and the body. The animal should not be caught in the gate.</p> <p>➤ Auditor Note: score one group of bison as they are being moved through the squeeze chute. Score similar to a horse's gait for walks, trots, and runs. The animal is considered to 'fall' if its body touches the ground.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /25 |
| E42 | <p><b>Vocalizations During Handling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No more than 3% of the bison may vocalize within one second in direct response to being caught or upon entry to the squeeze chute or a restraining device.</li> </ul> <p>Note: If more than 3% vocalize, the chute or restraining device must be adjusted accordingly. This does not include vocalizations caused by a procedure, or vocalizations in response to the animal being touched on the head or ear.</p> <p>➤ Auditor Note: score one group of bison as they are being moved through the squeeze chute or are being restrained.</p>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /25 |
| E43 | <p><b>Incidence of Bison Running into Gates or Fences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No more than 1% of the bison are observed to run into gates or fences.</li> </ul>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /25 |
| E44 | <p><b>Incidence of Slips and Falls Score</b></p> <p>The incidences of slips and/or falls in traffic areas and handling area must be evaluated and scored per the method NAMI "Scoring of Slipping and Falling" (including the size of the sample set.) During handling in squeeze chute facility, loading trucks, or sorting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The incidence of falls (where the animal's body touches the ground) must not exceed 1%.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The incidence of slips must not exceed 3%</li> </ul> <p>➤ Auditor Note: score one group of bison as they are being moved.</p>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | /25 |

|                   |   |  |                   |
|-------------------|---|--|-------------------|
| <p><b>E45</b></p> | <p><b>Lameness /Locomotion Score</b><br/>Lameness/ Locomotion Score must be scored for heavy, market-ready animals (cows and bulls):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 95% of the herd must have a Lameness /Locomotion (L/L) Score 1 or 2 on a 5-point scale:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The animal walks with a normal gait.</li> <li>2. The animal walks with normal gait but back is slightly arched.</li> <li>3. A lame animal is still fully mobile and can keep up with the herd but is walking with obvious limp.</li> <li>4. The animal is no longer able to keep up with the herd but is still mobile and walking with an obvious limp.</li> <li>5. The animal walks with great difficulty and is not able to keep up with the herd.</li> </ol> <p><u>Note: Lameness/ Locomotion Score is considered a Core Criterion as evidence of animal health. Unacceptable L/L may result in probation from the American Humane Certified™ program. See “P/F 3” below also.</u></p> <p>➤ Auditor note: Score all market-ready animals using sample with 95% confidence and 5% margin of error.</p> <p>_____ Percentage of the herd with L/L score of 1 or 2.</p> <p>➤ Auditor Note: See “P/F3” below also.</p> <p><i>“Keeping up with the herd” is assessed when the cows are moved as a group from one location to another.</i></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/><input type="checkbox"/> No<br/><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/25</b></p> |
| <p><b>E46</b></p> | <p><b>Leg Condition Score</b><br/>Leg Condition Score must be scored in confined feeding situations:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 98% of the herd must have a Leg Condition Score of 0 or 1 on a 0 - 3-point scale:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0 – No hair loss on hock</li> <li>1 – Hock hair loss only</li> <li>2 – Leg swelling but smaller than a baseball (cannot exceed 2% of the herd)</li> <li>3 – Severe leg swelling larger than a baseball or open cuts with oozing (animals in this condition MUST be under the care of the herd veterinarian.)</li> </ol> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Bison with leg conditions must be under treatment per the direction of the herd veterinarian in the Herd Health Plan.</p> <p>➤ Auditor note: score all bison.</p> <p><i>Reference: W.K. Fulwider, et al. <b>Influence of Free-Stall Base on Tarsal Joint Lesions and Hygiene in Dairy Cows.</b> Journal of Dairy Science, V.90 pp.3560-6.</i></p>   | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/><input type="checkbox"/> No<br/><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/25</b></p> |
| <p><b>E47</b></p> | <p><b>Coat Condition</b><br/>98% of the bison must have no bald spots on their coat.</p> <p><i>Bald spots may be indicative of external parasites such as lice and ringworm. Affected animals must be treated without delay.</i></p>  | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br/><input type="checkbox"/> No<br/><input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> | <p><b>/25</b></p> |

|            |  |  |            |
|------------|--|--|------------|
| <b>E48</b> | <p><b>Mud Score</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 90% of the bison must have a Mud Score of 1 - 2 out of 4, scored using the Temple Grandin <b>Cattle Mud Score</b> for scoring:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean animal with some mud on feet and ankles.</li> <li>2. Mud on legs above the knees. Sides and belly are clean.</li> <li>3. Belly of the animal has mud caked on it. Sides are clean.</li> <li>4. Belly and sides of the animal has mud caked on them.</li> </ol> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 95% of calves must have a Mud Score of 1 - 2 using the same scoring.</p> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: Mud must be scored for all bison and calves. Record all bison and calves that do not have acceptable mud scores and compare to the total group size.</i></p> <p>_____ Percentage of bison with mud score of 1-2 out of 4.<br/> _____ Percentage of calves with mud score of 1-2 out of 4.</p> <p><i>Reference: Temple Grandin. 2011. <b>Audit Form- Welfare of Cattle in Feedlots (Updated July 2011)</b>. Accessed December 12, 2011.<br/> <a href="http://www.grandin.com/beef.feedlot.welfare.form.html">http://www.grandin.com/beef.feedlot.welfare.form.html</a></i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>N/A</b> | <b>/25</b> |
|------------|--|--|------------|

# Transport

➤ Auditor note: This section must be scored for all audits.

## Transport SOPs

Animal transport systems must be designed and managed to ensure that animals are not caused unnecessary distress or discomfort. The transport of animals must be accomplished in the shortest time possible and handling must be kept to an absolute minimum. Personnel involved in transport, including outside employees, must be thoroughly trained and competent in their duties and must use appropriate equipment and vehicles.

|           |   | Selection   | Score     |
|-----------|---|---|-----------|
| <b>T1</b> | All individuals involved in the handling and transport of bison, including outside employees, must be trained and knowledgeable about bison behavior and animal welfare and in the proper protocols for transport, i.e. the Transport SOPs. This must be demonstrated through Certificates of Conformance (COCs) and documentation of appropriate training.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b> |
| <b>T2</b> | <b>Transport SOPs</b><br>The producer shall maintain Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Transport. The Transport SOPs as a minimum must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> address steps that are taken to protect the animals during periods of inclement weather; and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> outline protocols and contingency plans to be taken in the event of an emergency, such as vehicle break-down, accidents, road closures, etc.</li> </ul>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b> |
| <b>T3</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> All animals must be examined and shown to be fit and healthy for transport.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The following animals must not be transported, except in emergencies or for approved medical treatment:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Animals that are unable to walk unassisted or stand on all four limbs.</li> <li>○ Fatigued, sick, or injured animals unless approved by the veterinarian for movement to a treatment facility.</li> <li>○ Pregnant cows that are expected to give birth within 21 days (unless for short distances and where special consideration has been made).</li> <li>○ Unweaned and newly-weaned (within 10 days) calves and their dams.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b> |
| <b>T4</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bison must not be kept in holding areas for more than 12 hours prior to loading.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Feed and water must be available up to 4 hours prior to loading.</li> </ul>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b> |

## Loading & Transport of Animals

|           |   |   |           |
|-----------|---|---|-----------|
| <b>T5</b> | Stock-keepers must know the behavioral characteristics of animals and how to handle animals during loading and unloading, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Using visual fields (i.e. bison have a wide field of vision but have a blind spot behind them, which handlers should avoid entering) and flight zones (an imaginary area which if handlers enter will make the animal want to move away. Handlers control an animal's movement by understanding the flight zone);</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Lighting (as bison prefer to move from the dark into the light); and</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> When and how to use sticks and other implements.</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b> |
| <b>T6</b> | Handlers must use only the minimal amount of force necessary to maintain control of the animals and ensure the welfare of the animals and of the handlers. When the welfare of the handler or of the animals is in jeopardy, sticks or electric prods may be used on the hindquarters of animals capable of moving, and only on bison over the age of six months. Electric immobilization is not permitted for any reason.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b> |



|            |   |   |            |
|------------|---|---|------------|
| <b>T7</b>  | Noise levels, sudden movements, and flashes of light must be minimized during loading and transport.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>T8</b>  | Every effort must be made to ensure that journeys are completed without unnecessary delays, that drivers are familiar with the route and are aware of any potential traffic problems, and that they plan their journey accordingly.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>T9</b>  | Bison must be loaded and unloaded using suitable and adequately-sized ramps, bridges, gangways, or mechanical lifting gear, operated so as to prevent injury or unnecessary suffering to any animal.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>T10</b> | Ramps, bridges, gangways, and loading platforms must have a fence or rail on each side that is of sufficient strength, length and height to prevent any animal from falling or escaping; and is positioned so that it will not result in injury.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>T11</b> | Loading and transport equipment must be kept in good repair and is free of projections and gaps that are of a size whereby the animal could become trapped.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>T12</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> The flooring of the loading and transport equipment must be constructed to prevent slipping.<br><input type="checkbox"/> The incidences of slips and or falls that occur during the loading and unloading process must be recorded and scored. Where slips or falls occur in excess of 1%, measures must be taken to mitigate the problem.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>T13</b> | Animals which are ambulatory, that is, capable of walking unassisted, must not be suspended by mechanical means, nor lifted or dragged by the head, horns, legs, or tails.  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>T14</b> | Non-ambulatory animals:<br><input type="checkbox"/> May be moved from the site only if a veterinarian determines that the animal can be successfully treated at a medical facility; and<br><input type="checkbox"/> Must be moved or hoisted in containers or slings in which their bodies are fully supported and which cause no pain or distress to the animal.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>T15</b> | The transportation of any animal to a facility for medical treatment must be documented in the health care records in the American Humane Certified™ Farm Manual.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |
| <b>T16</b> | <p><b>Space Allowance in Transport</b></p> <p>During transport:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Bison must have sufficient room for all individuals. Space per animal must be provided in conformance with the transportation space guidelines in the latest edition of the <b>FASS Ag Guide</b> . <input type="checkbox"/> Additional space must be provided to allow the bison to spread apart during hot weather. <input type="checkbox"/> Bison must have sufficient head clearance to stand comfortably without touching the ceiling of the transport equipment. <input type="checkbox"/> For partial loads, the transport vehicle must be sub-divided to account for the size of the group being transported. <p><i>References:</i><br/> Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS). 2010. <i>Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching</i>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Table 5-2, p. 53.<br/> NAMI Foundation. 2012. <i>NAMI Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines &amp; Audit Guide</i>.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/25</b> |
| <b>T17</b> | Transport vehicles must provide adequate ventilation while avoiding drafts.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b>  |

|            |  |   |           |
|------------|--|---|-----------|
| <b>T18</b> | For transport during cold weather, bison must be protected from drafts and the ingress of rain and snow.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b> |
| <b>T19</b> | <p>For transport during hot weather:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Where possible, animals must be transported at night or in the coolest part of the day.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Animals must be protected from direct sunlight.<br><input type="checkbox"/> The transport vehicle must be equipped with a means to provide effective ventilation.<br><input type="checkbox"/> The transport vehicle must have air-conditioning and/or the animals must be regularly sprayed with water to help them keep cool.<br><input type="checkbox"/> The transport vehicle must not be kept stationary or parked in the sun for long periods. If it is unavoidable for the transport vehicle to be kept stationary, care must be taken to park the vehicle in shade, and inspections of the bison must be increased as necessary to ensure the animals are not showing signs of heat stress. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b> |
| <b>T20</b> | Bison must be inspected immediately after loading and thereafter a minimum of every 4 hours, or more often during inclement weather. If any animal shows signs of distress including cold or heat stress, immediate remedial action must be taken.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b> |
| <b>T21</b> | If an animal goes down in transport and cannot be successfully treated, it must be humanely euthanized on the spot or upon arrival at a medical facility per American Humane Certified™ standards.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b> |
| <b>T22</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Where mortalities during transport are traceable to a single cause, prompt action must be taken to prevent further deaths, injury, or suffering from occurring.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Where high levels of transport mortality (in excess of 1%) from any single source in any three-month period occur, a veterinary investigation must be performed, mitigating actions taken as necessary, and the results reported to the American Humane Certified™ program.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b> |
| <b>T23</b> | All loading and transport equipment must be cleaned and disinfected after the completion of transport.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/3</b> |

## Slaughter

|            |  |   |            |
|------------|--|---|------------|
| <b>T24</b> | <p>The American Humane Certified™ program adheres to the <b>Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide</b> published by the North American Meat Institute Foundation for humane slaughtering and processing practices.</p> <p>Slaughter practices and facilities must be audited annually to demonstrate compliance with NAMI humane slaughtering and processing practices as part of this audit, unless audited by an outside audit group.</p> <p>Where slaughter practices and facilities are audited for compliance to NAMI by an outside audit group, documentation must be available which: identifies the auditor and audit group, name and location of slaughter facilities, the date of the audit, and the results of the audit including any non-conformances, the corrective action that was taken, and the date of completion of the corrective action.</p> <p><i>Complete the following to confirm compliance with NAMI humane slaughtering and processing practices:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Name of auditor and audit group: _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Name and location of slaughter facility: _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Date of annual audit: _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Results of audit: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <b>/50</b> |
|------------|--|---|------------|

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> List all non-conformances, corrective actions, and corrective action completion dates: _____<br><i>The NAMI animal handling guidelines are available at: <a href="http://animalhandling.org">http://animalhandling.org</a>.</i> |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|

## Pass/Fail Auditor Evaluations

|             |   |   |    |
|-------------|---|---|----|
| <b>P/F1</b> | <p><b>No Instances of Willful Acts of Abuse</b><br/> Throughout the course of the audit, the auditor must not have observed any personnel committing willful acts of abuse, which include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Beating the bison or breaking tails;</li> <li>○ Slamming gates on the bison;</li> <li>○ Using the any type of prod inappropriately (on sensitive areas of the animal);</li> <li>○ Using the electric prod when neither the welfare of the animal or of the handler is in immediate jeopardy;</li> <li>○ Using electronic immobilization for any reason;</li> <li>○ Driving the animals atop one another; and</li> <li>○ Goading or dragging a downer animal.</li> </ul> <p>➤ <i>Auditor note: this item has no point value:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>A mark of “Yes” indicates that the auditor <u>did NOT observe</u> willful acts of abuse by personnel towards the animals.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>A mark of “No” indicates that the auditor believes that willful acts of abuse towards the animals have been committed. The auditor must document the incident observed and s/he must inform company management, their audit company, and the American Humane Certified™ program immediately. Upon the discretion of the American Humane Certified™ program, the audit may be suspended. See below.</i></li> </ul> <p>➤ <i><u>Willful acts of abuse are severe non-conformances and will not be tolerated.</u> An investigation will be made to assess the incident and to determine whether remedial actions are required. The American Humane Certified™ program reserves the right to place the producer on probation from the program if the incident is determined to be severe. Producers who are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies which to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue, and the site must pass a follow-up audit prior to being reinstated in the program.</i></p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No | /- |
|-------------|---|---|----|

|      |  |   |    |
|------|--|---|----|
| P/F2 | <p><b>Body Condition Score</b><br/>At a minimum, at least 98% of the herd MUST have a Body Condition Score (BCS) of 3 or above on a 9-point scale. See FW1: "Body Condition Score" above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Auditor note: this item has no point value: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mark "Yes" to this item if 98% or more of the herd have a BCS of 3 or above on a 9-point scale.</li> <li>➤ Mark "No" to this item if less than 98% of the herd have a BCS of 3 or above on a 9-point scale, and see below:</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <u>It is a severe non-conformance for a bison operation to maintain more than 2% of the herd with unacceptably low BCS scores.</u> If this occurs, an investigation will be made to access the circumstances for the low BCS scores and the corrective actions that the producer proposes to take. The American Humane Certified™ program reserves the right to place the producer on immediate probation, or in extreme cases, suspension from the program. Producers who are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies which to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue. The bison operation must pass a follow-up audit, which at the program's discretion will include an acceptable threshold for BCS that must be met prior to the bison operation being reinstated.</li> </ul>     | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No | /- |
| P/F3 | <p><b>Lameness/ Locomotion Score</b><br/>At a minimum, at least 95% of the herd MUST have a Lameness/ Locomotion (L/L) Score of 1 or 2 on a 5-point scale. See E45: "Lameness/ Locomotion Score" above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Auditor note: this item has no point value: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mark "Yes" to this item if 95% or more of the herd have an L/L of 1 or 2 on a 5-point scale.</li> <li>➤ Mark "No" to this item if less than 95% of the herd have an L/L of 1 or 2 on a 5-point scale, and see below:</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <u>It is a severe non-conformance for a bison operation to maintain more than 5% of the herd with unacceptable L/L scores.</u> If this occurs, an investigation will be made to access the circumstances for the low L/L scores and the corrective actions that the producer proposes to take. The American Humane Certified™ program reserves the right to place the producer on immediate probation, or in extreme cases, suspension from the program. Producers who are placed on probation must implement changes to the management, training, and company policies which to the satisfaction of the American Humane Certified™ program affectively remedy the issue. The bison operation must pass a follow-up audit, which at the program's discretion will include an acceptable threshold for L/L that must be met prior to the bison operation being reinstated.</li> </ul> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> No | /- |

# Audit Completion

To be signed at the end of the on-site audit:

Information in the completed *Animal Welfare Standards Audit Tool* and attached *Non-Conformance Report* and Farm Manual documentation is complete, correct, and has been verified by the auditor. All corrective actions agreed upon at the exit interview must be corrected even if the site receives certification.

---

Ranch Owner / Manager

---

Date

---

Auditor

---

Date

# American Humane Certified™ Notification of Non-Conformance



Form to be filled out by Auditor and signed at the exit interview. One copy should be left with Producer and one copy should be retained for American Humane.

Auditor: \_\_\_\_\_

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Producer Name:                                      |              |
| Farm Name:  | Building ID: |
| On Farm Contacts:<br>Manager<br>Caregiver<br>Others |              |
| Cell Phone:   | Email:       |

The following non-conformances were found during the American Humane Certified™ audit on \_\_\_\_\_. Within 10 days, you must submit a Corrective Action Plan that includes the corrective action to be taken, and the person responsible for the correction, and the date the correction will be completed. After correction, submit a Corrective Action Completion Report with supporting documentation to the American Humane Certified™ program. Documentation may include pictures, copies of daily reports, training records, veterinary health plan adjustments, etc. Producers/ managers are encouraged to submit progress reports as corrective actions are taken. All corrections must be made within 90 days and reports should be submitted electronically.

Notes should include each non-conformance item (for example: FW3, H12) and details of infraction. Attach additional pages as needed.

Auditor signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I, the undersigned, agree to submit a Corrective Action Plan within 10 days. All corrections will be made within 90 days. I will submit a Corrective Action Completion Report and agree to additional audits to maintain certification.**

Producer signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Supplement

**Table 1. Floor or Ground Area and Feeder Space Recommendations for Bison**

| Area or space <sup>a, b, c</sup>  | Calves<br>(400 to 800 lb)<br><br>(ft <sup>2</sup> ) | Finishing Bison<br>(800 to 1200 lb)<br><br>(ft <sup>2</sup> ) | Bred heifers<br>(800 lb)<br><br>(ft <sup>2</sup> ) | Cows<br>(1000 lb)<br><br>(ft <sup>2</sup> ) | Cows<br>(1300 lb)<br><br>(ft <sup>2</sup> ) | Bulls<br>(1500 lb)<br><br>(ft <sup>2</sup> ) |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| Floor or ground area  |   |   |  |   |   |  |
| Open lots (no barn)   |   |   |  |   |   |  |
| Unpaved lots with mound (includes mound space)  | 150-300   | 250-500   | 250-500  | 200-500                                     | 300-500                                     | 500  |
| Mound space, 25% slope  | 20-25   | 30-35   | 30-35  | 40-45                                       | 40-45                                       | 50-60  |
| Unpaved lot, 4-8% slope, no mound   | 300-600   | 400-800   | 400-800  | 350-800                                     | 350-800                                     | 800  |
| Paved lot, 2-4% slope   | 40-50   | 50-60   | 50-60  | 60-75                                       | 60-75                                       | 100-125                                      |
| Barns (unheated cold housing)   |   |   |  |   |   |  |
| Open front with lot   | 15-20   | 20-25   | 20-25  | 20-25                                       | 25-30                                       | 40   |
| Enclosed, bedded pack   | 20-25   | 30-35   | 30-35  | 35-40                                       | 40-50                                       | 45-50  |
| Enclosed, slotted floor   | 12-18   | 18-25   | 18-25  | 20-25                                       | 22-28                                       | 30   |
|   | (in)  | (in)  | (in)   | (in)  | (in)  | (in)   |
| Feeder space when fed   |   |   |  |   |   |  |
| Once daily  | 18-22   | 22-26   | 22-26  | -----                                       | -----                                       | -----  |
| Twice daily   | 9-11  | 11-13   | 11-13  | -----                                       | -----                                       | -----  |
| Free choice grain   | 3-4   | 4-6   | 4-6  | -----                                       | -----                                       | -----  |
| Self-feed roughage  | 9-10  | 10-11   | 11-12  | -----                                       | -----                                       | -----  |
| Feeder space when fed   |   |   |  |   |   |  |
| Once daily, limited feed access   | -----   | -----   | -----  | 24-30                                       | 26-30                                       | 30-36  |
| Twice daily, limited feed access  | -----   | -----   | -----  | 12-15                                       | 12-15                                       | -----  |
| High concentrate diet, ad libitum   | -----   | -----   | -----  | 5-6   | 5-6   | -----  |
| High forage diet, ad libitum  | -----   | -----   | -----  | 12-13                                       | 13-14                                       | -----  |
| <sup>a</sup> Primarily based on MWPS (1987) and adapted from <i>Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching</i> , FASS (1999).<br><sup>b</sup> Values are on a per animal basis in a pen environment.<br><sup>c</sup> In favorable (e.g., dry) climates, area accommodations may be less than indicated in this table. |   |   |  |   |   |  |