

# Global Animal Partnership's 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Pilot Standards for Bison v1.0



## About the 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Program

The 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Program assesses the level of welfare of animals on-farm, during transport, and at slaughter.

Through its very design as a multi-tiered program, the 5-Step® Program promotes continuous improvement in animal agriculture; engages a broad spectrum of producers; allows for wider product selection for greater consumer options; provides more detailed information about the level of welfare of farm animals; and informs consumers about the production systems they may choose to support.

Each set of tiered standards—from Step 1 to Step 5+—has its own requirements that must be met before certification to that particular Step level is assigned. As the standard-setter, Global Animal Partnership (GAP) does not conduct audits nor make Step-rating certification decisions. Authorized, third-party certification companies perform the audits and issue Step certificates, as appropriate. As such, producers, consumers, and retailers alike can be confident that Step ratings are fair, accurate, and free of conflict of interest.

## About the 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Pilot Standards for Bison

The 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Pilot Standards for Bison was issued on 31 May, 2016. The development process included consultation with a group of bison industry representatives and producers, guidance from animal welfare scientific experts and veterinarians, an extensive public consultative process, and review and approval by the GAP Board of Directors.

After three (3) certification cycles, the pilot standards will be reviewed and revised based on key learnings, as well as any new, relevant scientific findings. The post-pilot review and revision process will again involve guidance from scientific experts and producers, and public comment, before the draft revision is presented to the Board of Directors for final review and approval. Thereafter, the standards will be reviewed and revised according to the protocol outlined in the GAP Pilot Policy Manual.

At any time throughout the above-mentioned period, GAP may amend or clarify parts of the standard as issues with implementation arise, new technologies become available, or new scientific findings are made.

## About Global Animal Partnership







GAP, a nonprofit charitable organization founded in 2008, brings together farmers, scientists, ranchers, retailers, and animal advocates—a diverse group with the common goal of wanting to improve the welfare of animals in agriculture.

For more information, contact us at [info@globalanimalpartnership.org](mailto:info@globalanimalpartnership.org) or 877.427.5783 (+1.202.540.9880 if calling from outside the United States).

## Program Overview

The marketing claims in this Program Overview apply to every animal species GAP has standards for, while the descriptions of the system and management highlights are specific to each species. The GAP standards focus on animal welfare and are designed to only make an animal welfare claim. Having the GAP animal welfare rating claim gives consumers a consistent message across species and helps with a general understanding of the system of production.

Bison farming/ranching is growing rapidly, but is still considered a relatively new, niche industry. In North America, there are two types of bison raised – plains bison and woods bison and in Europe there is the European bison. These grazing animals are largely undomesticated and are handled infrequently especially given their wild temperament. Given this unique set of circumstances, little research on bison exists (whether that is research on health, nutrition or animal welfare) and because many of the management practices conducted on other species are not performed on bison, only three step levels are appropriate for this species. Generally, bison raised in Step 1 systems live on pasture but can be removed to feeder pens for growing and finishing. There is no Step 2 or Step 3 level for bison. In Step 4 systems, bison live continuously on pasture. There is no Step 5 level for bison. Bison raised to meet Step 5+ standards spend their entire life on the same operation, and are slaughtered on-site.

| Step Level  | Marketing Claims                          | Description of System   | Management Highlights   |
|---|---|---|---|
|    | No crowding                               | Bison in Step 1 systems may live part of their life in a feeder pen.                              | Bison live on pasture for part of their life but can be removed to feeder pens for growing and finishing. The feeder pens are designed to give bison a clean and dry place to lie and are outfitted with scratching posts.  |
|    | Enriched environment                      | There is no Step 2.   |   |
|    | Enhanced outdoor access                   | There is no Step 3.   |   |
|   | Pasture centered                          | Bison live continuously on pasture.   | Bison live on pasture throughout their life. Pasture includes access to rangeland, grassland, planted pastures, managed pastures, wooded areas, harvested crop areas, and any other land where bison have access to vegetation. Removal from pasture to feeder pens for growing and finishing is not permitted and no physical alterations are allowed at Step 4 or higher. |
|  | Animal centered; no physical alterations  | There is no Step 5.   |   |
|  | Animal centered; entire life on same farm | Bison live continuously on pasture and are slaughtered at a mobile or on-farm slaughter facility. | Bison live on pasture throughout their life. They spend their entire lives on the same operation, and are field harvested and/or slaughtered at a mobile or on-farm slaughter facility.   |

## How to Read these Standards

Standards applicable to a Step level are designated with a ● symbol in the corresponding Step column.

In the example below, the standard is required for each Step level, applicable to the species - for bison, this includes Step 1, 4 and Step 5+:

| STANDARD          |   | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|-------------------|---|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|                   |   | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>1.1 Source</b> |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 1.1.3             | Breeding outside of the genus <i>Bison</i> is prohibited.   | ●          |   |   | ● |   | ●  |
|                   | <b>i</b> [1.1.3]: While beefalo or cattalo have some bison genetics, they are not included as part of these standards and cannot be marketed as Step-rated. |            |   |   |   |   |    |

The **i** symbol prefaces additional information provided to aid in the understanding of the standard.

This example illustrates that the standard is only applicable to Step 1:

| STANDARD           |   | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|--------------------|---|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|                    |   | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>2.7 Weaning</b> |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 2.7.1              | <b>M</b> The average weaning age of the herd must be at least 7 months. | ●          |   |   |   |   |    |

Also, the **M** indicates the standard is considered a major non-conformance when the standard is not met (see Section 4 Non-conformances and the GAP Pilot Policy Manual for more details).

## Terminology

The bison industry uses unique terminology to describe various stages of production and farming practices. Sometimes these terms vary from region to region. In this set of standards, the following terms will be used:

**Operation:** farm or ranch raising bison (see definition under Program Requirements 3.d.)

**Feeder pens:** pens with little to no vegetative cover used to grow and finish market animals (also known as dry lots, feedlots, finishing pens, backgrounding pens, holding facility, pen corrals, confinement system, field lots).

**Corral:** a pen attached to a chute used to work animals where bison are held temporarily.

**Market Animals:** any animal selected for slaughter; includes calves, yearlings, 2yr olds, backgrounders, feeders, finishers.

**Calf:** nursing animal, up to 10 months old

**Yearling:** a young animal between the first and second January after its birth

**2yr Old:** an animal between the second and third January after its birth

**Cow:** female breeding animal

**Bull:** male breeding animal

**Replacement stock:** heifers and young bulls selected for breeding but are not yet used for breeding

**Bison:** refers to both breeding and market animals

***Please note there is a glossary at the back of this document that provides more detailed definitions of other terms used in the standards.***

## Program Requirements

The following applies to each operation applying for certification to Global Animal Partnership's 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Pilot program for Bison.

### 1. General

- a. The standards in this document are requirements.
- b. The operation must have read the standards and prepared for audit or they cannot be certified.
- c. Certification is for a 15-month period, which allows for animals and operations to be assessed seasonally during subsequent re-certifications. For example an operation initially audited in February would have its second audit in May the following year, allowing for livestock management to be assessed under different climatic and management conditions.
- d. Each operation must follow a chain of custody program that is also maintained by the processor and any further processor that will be using a Step-rating label. The chain of custody program can be developed and implemented by an affiliated group (e.g. a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity) or created with the aid of external consultation. Details on chain of custody requirements are shown in Section 9 of the GAP Pilot Policy Manual v1.0 and also in Section 7.6 of this standard.
- e. The GAP Pilot Policy Manual v1.0 is a companion document to the standards, and details additional program requirements and terms of certification beyond what is included in the standards (see [www.globalanimalpartnership.org/the-5-step-program/our-standards/](http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org/the-5-step-program/our-standards/)). See also Section 7, Additional Standards Documents below.
- f. No standard in this document supersedes governmental regulations or laws, whether local, regional, state, provincial, territorial, federal, national, or other.
- g. In addition to the Terminology Section on page 4, a glossary defining specific terms and terminology used in these standards is located at the end of this document.

### 2. Applications

- a. Each operation is required to complete a 5-Step® application each certification cycle.
- b. Each operation must identify all sites (either owned, leased, and/or shared) used to raise animals and all animals on the operation (including non-Step-rated animals) on their 5-Step® application.
- c. Applications, as well as this document and the GAP Pilot Policy Manual, can be downloaded at [www.globalanimalpartnership.org/the-5-step-program/our-standards/](http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org/the-5-step-program/our-standards/) or by contacting your GAP-accredited Certifier.

### 3. Audit and Certification

- a. Each operation must be audited once every certification cycle. A certification cycle is 15-months.
- b. Given this is a pilot standard, and given the length of time to raise bison, at the initial audit, any animals on-site that the operation has sourced from other operations are eligible for certification without requiring an audit of the source farm(s) (i.e. the purchased animals will be grandfathered into the Program at the time of the initial audit). All grandfathered animals from this initial audit must be inventoried at the time of the initial audit so that they are not disqualified at subsequent audits.

- c. At re-certification, any animals purchased by that operation must come from a Step-rated source farm if they are going to be marketed as Step-rated. GAP realizes that this is a brand new standard and it takes time for Step-rated animals to get to market, so GAP is allowing back verification for these pilot standards. This applies to all stages of production.
- d. In order for the certifier to determine how many audits to conduct, the term “operation” is used, and is defined as a single ranch or farm of single (i.e. bison cow-calf only) or multiple stages of production (i.e. bison cow-calf-finisher), that meets all of the following criteria:
  - i. all staff and animals are under the direct supervision\* of the main farm/ranch/feedlot/finishing site;
  - ii. the main farm/ranch/feedlot/finishing location owns all of the animals; and
  - iii. the main farm/ranch/feedlot/finishing location owns, rents or leases all the land and/or buildings where the animals are kept.

*\*Direct supervision is defined as being when an employee of the main certified farm business is responsible for the animals on the farm/ranch/feedlot that is at a separate location to the main farm. If the person responsible for the management and care of the animals at a separate location to the main certified farm business is a contract farmer and not an employee, then that site is a separate operation – even if there is routine oversight from an employee of the main operation.*
- e. Operations must have bison on-site in order to be audited.
- f. If the operation has multiple locations, each location that raises a different stage of production must be audited as part of the certification process.
  - i. For example, Ranch A’s home ranch is a bison cow-calf operation and also has 1 feeder location located 10 miles away. The feeder location is under direct supervision by the home ranch, and animals and property are all owned by Ranch A. In this example, the farm is considered one operation, requiring one audit but both sites need to be observed because they each raise a different stage of production.
  - ii. However, if Ranch A’s feedlot also contract finishes, or buys in bison from other ranches, then at the initial audit animals currently on-site will be eligible per the phase-in period (see bullet 3.b. for further details). At the next certification cycle, each of the ranches supplying bison to Ranch A’s feeder location must also be audited if those bison are to be marketed as Step-rated.
- g. If the operation has multiple sites raising the same stage of production, then 50% of the locations must to be audited as part of the certification process.
  - i. For example, Ranch B is a bison cow-calf operation with ranches in both Colorado and Nebraska. For the winter months only, Ranch B moves bison cow-calf pairs to Colorado; the rest of the year Ranch B uses the home ranch in Nebraska, and BLM land that borders the north side of the ranch. All sites and staff are under the direct supervision by the home ranch, animals are owned by the home ranch, and the Colorado ranch is leased by the home ranch. In this example, the ranch is considered 1 operation. In the initial audit, the home ranch would need to be audited plus either the Colorado or the BLM land would need to be observed as part of a single audit. At re-certification, the home ranch would need to be audited plus either the Colorado ranch or BLM land (whichever one was not observed during the initial audit; and 50% of 2 locations is 1 location) would need to be observed as part of a single audit.
- h. If bison marketed as Step-rated are not raised on a single operation for their entire life, with different stages of production being managed by different operations, each operation must submit a completed 5-Step® application and be audited and certified prior to marketing any product as Step-rated. (See also bullet 6.b. below regarding initial audits).
- i. At the time of audit, the person(s) responsible for managing the operation and/or an animal caretaker must be present. A designated representative affiliated with an operation may also be present at the time of the audit.
- j. Each operation applying for 5-Step® certification is responsible for ensuring that all required records and documents are available at the time of audit, and that all applicable standards are met, including actions that may be contracted or managed by another entity (e.g. transport, predator control).
- k. All applicable standards, including those that may be controlled or managed by, or contracted to, another (e.g. a transporter; a producer group, co-operative, or marketing entity; slaughter facility), will be assessed for compliance by the certification company and incorporated into its overall assessment of the operation prior to the final Step determination.

- l. GAP supports the use of video or other electronic monitoring. Use of video technology is not a requirement but can be used in place of certain observations. Please refer to GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0 for additional details about how this must be conducted.
- m. Auditors do not make Step-rating determinations nor provide consultative service to producers on meeting standards requirements. Step-rating determinations are made by reviewers or other agents of authorized certification companies.
- n. If a standard has not been met for all animals on the operation at the time of audit, a Step-rating will not be assigned until evidence is provided confirming that the standard has been met.
- o. If in a particular situation or circumstance, a standard as written might compromise the welfare of the animals in the producer's care, the producer should contact their certifier to discuss applying to GAP for a deviation.

#### 4. Non-conformances

- a. If an operation fails to meet a standard, it will be considered a non-conformance. There are three categories of non-conformance: minor, major and critical.
- b. If an operation receives a repeat non-conformance at the time of the next audit – the designation of minor, major and critical impacts the certification decision (see Section 5 Repeat Non-conformances in GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0).

In the example below, the **M** indicates that failure to meet the standard would be considered a major non-conformance. If at recertification, this standard is still not in compliance, then it would be considered a critical non-conformance and the operation would be denied certification (see GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0, Section 5 Repeat Non-conformances for further information).

| STANDARD              |  | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|-----------------------|--|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|                       |  | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>1.1 Source</b>     |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>1.1.1</b> <b>M</b> | Operations must not intentionally use genetically modified or cloned bison, their progeny, or semen. | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |

In the example below, as there is no **M** beside the standard, this means that the standard is classified as a minor non-conformance. If at recertification, this standard is still not in compliance, then it would be considered a major non-conformance (see GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0, Section 5 Repeat Non-conformances for further information).

| STANDARD  |   | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|   |   | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>5.1 Rodent Control Program</b>   |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| ① <i>The Standards in this Section are applicable to any rodent control efforts, whether contracted or not, designed to minimize contamination of feed for bison.</i> |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 5.1.1   | Good sanitation must be the first level of rodent control.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|   | ① [5.1.1]: <i>Good sanitation includes exclusion of rodents from buildings, bays, or bins where grain or other feeds are stored; clear up of spills of feed; and management of trash to reduce attracting or harboring rodents.</i> |            |   |   |   |   |    |

- c. If an operation is issued a non-conformance, it needs to be addressed and the response submitted to the certifier by the operation within 3 weeks from the date the certifier issues the audit report, and be accepted by the certifier as an acceptable response to the non-conformance, before a certificate is issued. If the operation does not respond to the non-conformance within 3 weeks, it will result in a shortened certificate (see GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0 Section 5 Non-conformances).

## 5. Step Differentiation within the Standards

- a. Each Step level—Step 1 through Step 5+—has its own requirements that must be met to be certified to that level. If an operation, for example, meets some but not all Step 4 (or higher) requirements, but 100% of the requirements for Step 1, the 5-Step® certification will be Step 1 (see also 5.d. below).
- b. There is no Step 2 or Step 3 or Step 5 rating for bison.
- c. Step differentiator standards are those that do not apply to all steps. Bison can achieve Step ratings 1, 4, and 5+. Any standard that does not apply to all of those levels is a Step differentiator standard. In the example below 2.7.1 only applies to Step 1, and 2.7.2 only applies to Steps 4 and 5+.

| STANDARD               |  | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|------------------------|--|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|                        |  | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>2.7 Weaning Age</b> |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 2.7.1                  | The average weaning age of the herd must be at least 7 months. | •          |   |   |   |   |    |
| 2.7.2                  | The average weaning age of the herd must be at least 9 months. |            |   |   | • |   | •  |

- d. At renewal, if an operation that had previously been certified to any Step level fails to meet a standard specific to their rating it will drop to the applicable Step level, or lose certification as appropriate, unless the Certifier applies their discretion to issue a non-conformance **if and only if**:
- the standard that is out of conformance is not a repeat from the previous audit; and
  - the Certifier is confident the operation will be able to achieve and maintain the level specified in the standard; and
  - the operation is only out of conformance with one standard.



## 6. Step Ratings

- a. Step-rating certification information (see Section 7.6) must travel with bison whenever they are being moved off of the operation. This includes bison being transported from one operation to another or from an operation to a slaughter facility.
- b. For bison, the following standards cover breeding stock and continue through finishing and slaughter (i.e. breeding + the entire life of the animal). All locations except the slaughter facility must carry the same Step-rating, or the lowest Step-rating is applied to the marketed product. The slaughter facility must pass a review (see 6.c. below) as there is no Step-rating option for slaughter facilities. As well, all operations need to be audited (i.e. all stages of production) prior to marketing product as Step-rated (for initial audits see exception under 3.b.).
  - i. For example, 10 operations owned by different operators raise bison marketed under a single name, and product is not segregated according to operation. Prior to marketing product as Step-rated, all 10 operations need to be audited (i.e. all stages of production). Of those 10 operations, seven operations are certified to Step 4 (bison cow-calf operations), three operations to Step 1 (feeder operations). Because bison in this system move to different operations and operations have different step levels, all products from all 10 operations would have to be marketed as Step 1.
- c. Any slaughter facility being used by Step-rated operations where product will be marketed as Step-rated, must pass a desk-based review of their third party animal welfare audit rather than an on-site audit (See Section 8: Slaughter Requirements). A complete copy of the current third party animal welfare audit for all slaughter facilities used by the Operation or affiliated group must be provided to the GAP-accredited certifier to verify this Section. If the operation is part of a group, the group may submit the slaughter facility's current third party animal welfare audit to the certifier for a review that would then cover all the farms in the group. The Slaughter Section only applies to entities that are marketing animals as Step-rated (e.g. finishing operations, producer group, co-operative, marketing entity).
- d. If the review of the slaughter facility's third party animal welfare audit finds that there are non-conformances with the GAP slaughter standards, the person responsible for determining where animals are slaughtered must be the point of contact with the slaughter facility to resolve this. For example, if an individual farmer decides where their Step-rated livestock are slaughtered, they must work with the facility to ensure any slaughter non-conformances are corrected. If, however, the individual farmer provides livestock to a producer group or marketing entity and has no part in the decision of which slaughter facility to use, then the producer group or marketing entity must work with the slaughter facility to resolve conformance issues.
- e. If an operation sets out to raise both Step-rated bison and non-Step-rated bison on the same site (e.g. a finishing operation that has multiple programs), this is defined as a split operation. This is different from having fall out animals on-site (see bullet 6.f. below). In order to qualify as a split operation, a strict segregation protocol must be in place and approved by the certifier prior to a 5-Step® certification decision being issued. The segregation protocol must include all of the following components (See GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0, Section 6):
  - i. A written policy describing how Step-rated animals are segregated from non-Step rated animals; AND
  - ii. How they are be physically separated; OR
  - iii. How they are identified using a method that allows for instant visual identification (i.e. a colored tag where one color is used for program animals, and another color is used for non-program animals).
- f. If an operation has fall out animals (animals within the herd that were intended to be Step-rated but do not meet the requirements of the Standards and cannot be marketed as such), these animals must be noted on the certificate as ineligible (see Section 6. Certificates, on identifying ineligible animals per GAP's Policy Manual v1.0). Per Standard 2.6.3, all fall out animals must be physically segregated or identified using a method that allows for instant visual identification.

- g. As outlined in the Pilot GAP Policy Manual v 1.0 (Section 6, Certificates), split operations will not be issued certification to the operation as a whole, rather certificates will specify the certified Step-rated portion of the split operation.
- h. Cull breeding animals that are selected for slaughter can be Step-rated if they meet all the standards.


## 7. Additional Standards Documents

- a. As noted above, the 5-Step<sup>®</sup> Animal Welfare Rating Pilot Standards for Bison v1.0 is accompanied by GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0.
- b. As per bullet 2.a., each operation is required to complete a 5-Step<sup>®</sup> Animal Welfare Rating Standards Pilot Program Application: Bison each certification cycle.
- c. Bison operations that use transport companies with drivers and/or loading crews that do not hold a current third party bison transport quality assurance certificate must ensure that the transport company (or companies) they use complete a GAP Transport Personnel Responsibilities, Training and Procedures form. This document must be completed for each certification cycle. See also the information notes at the start of Section 6 – Transport.
- d. As per bullet 6.c. above, for entities that are marketing animals as Step-rated (e.g. finishing operations, producer groups, co-operatives or marketing entities) a complete copy of the current third party animal welfare audit for all slaughter facilities used by the Operation or affiliated group must be provided to the GAP accredited certifier.
- e. Prior to labeling any product as Step-rated the marketing entity must ensure that they meet labeling regulations for the country in which they are selling.
- f. The use of the GAP label/logo must meet the requirements of GAP's Labeling Guide.
- g. Before retail-ready packaged products are labeled as Step-rated, operations must contact GAP's Labeled Products Authorization Program at [lpa@globalanimalpartnership.org](mailto:lpa@globalanimalpartnership.org) for details of the application and approval process.
- h. The documents listed above can be downloaded at [www.globalanimalpartnership.org/the-5-step-program/our-standards/](http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org/the-5-step-program/our-standards/) or received by contacting your GAP-accredited certifier.

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## 1 ANIMAL SOURCE AND HEALTH

| STANDARD   | Step Level  |   |   |   |   |    |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|----|
|  | 1   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>1.1 Source</b>  |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <p><b>1.1</b> <i>It is GAP's intention in the future to require that purchased breeding stock also come from Step-rated operations; however, at this time, it is recognized that imposing this requirement would be an impediment to securing appropriate genetics, therefore sourcing breeding stock from non-Step-rated operations is allowed.</i></p> |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>1.1.1</b>    | Operations must not intentionally use genetically modified or cloned bison, their progeny, or semen.  |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>1.1.2</b>   | Natural breeding is the only breeding method permitted.   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>1.1.3</b>   | Breeding outside of the genus <i>Bison</i> is prohibited.   |   |   |   |   |    |
|  | <p><b>1.1.3</b> <i>[1.1.3]: While beefalo or cattalo have some bison genetics, they are not included as part of these standards and cannot be marketed as Step-rated.</i></p>   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>1.1.4</b>   | Breeding stock selection criteria must include overall conformation and temperament.  |   |   |   |   |    |
|  | <p><b>1.1.4</b> <i>[1.1.4]: Criteria for retaining or purchasing breeding stock in order to avoid welfare problems must be explained at the audit. Examples could include rejection of animals for breeding that are known to be overly aggressive or which display poor conformation.</i></p>  |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>1.1.5</b>   | Records of all bison purchased must be available for review by the auditor at the time of the audit. Records include number of animals, age, and name of originating farm/ranch.  |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>1.1.6</b>   | Bison may only be purchased through dedicated bison sales, video auctions, or direct farm sales.  |   |   |   |   |    |
|  | <p><b>1.1.6</b> <i>[1.1.6]: Any animals that are purchased via these methods must be identified (see Section 2.6).</i></p>  |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>1.2 Medication</b>  |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>1.2.1</b>   | Animals that are given antibiotics, ionophores, beta agonists, and/or sulfa drugs are prohibited from being marketed as Step-rated.   |   |   |   |   |    |
|  | <p><b>1.2.1</b> <i>a): This Standard applies whether these products [or medications] are given therapeutically or sub-therapeutically.</i></p>  |   |   |   |   |    |
|  | <p><b>1.2.1</b> <i>b): See Standard 1.3.1 for prompt treatment of animals.</i></p>  |   |   |   |   |    |
|  | <p><b>1.2.1</b> <i>c): Treated breeding stock may stay in the Program and potentially produce Step-rated offspring until the point of sale or slaughter but could not themselves be marketed as Step-rated.</i></p>   |   |   |   |   |    |
|  | <p><b>1.2.1</b> <i>d): Indirect treatment of a market animal does not trigger the prohibition on marketing as Step-rated noted in this standard. An example of indirect treatment is when a cow suckling a calf is treated with antibiotics. Any potential transfer of antibiotics through the milk would be considered indirect treatment.</i></p> |   |   |   |   |    |
| <p><b>1.2.1</b> <i>e): Federal regulations prohibit the use of hormones in bison.</i></p>  |   |   |   |   |   |    |

| STANDARD                        |   | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|---------------------------------|---|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|                                 |   | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>1.2 Medication Continued</b> |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 1.2.2                           | A protocol must be in place to identify and ensure that any animals given antibiotics, ionophores, beta agonists, and/or sulfa drugs are not marketed as Step-rated.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 1.2.3                           | Off-label / extra-label use of prescription medicines is prohibited unless prescribed by a veterinarian.<br><b>i</b> [1.2.3]: <i>Parasiticides and vaccines are not included in this standard.</i>  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 1.2.4                           | Expired medication is prohibited.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>1.3 Treatment</b>            |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 1.3.1 <b>M</b>                  | Sick or injured bison must be monitored and treated as necessary when illness/injury is discovered.<br><b>i</b> [1.3.1]: <i>Timely treatment is critical. GAP understands that bison are often managed in extensive systems and this may impact the time taken to handle the situation.</i>   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 1.3.2                           | Sick, lame, or injured bison that are not responding to treatment must be euthanized according to Section 1.4.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 1.3.3                           | Records must be kept of any treatment (medication, vaccinations, alternative remedies, probiotics etc.) to any individual animal or group of animals, including:<br>a. individual animal identification;<br>b. any substance administered;<br>c. date and method of administration.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 1.3.4                           | Veterinarian-prescribed treatments must be administered according to veterinarian guidance.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 1.3.5                           | Any sick and/or injured bison must be segregated from healthy animals when necessary.<br><b>i</b> [1.3.5]: <i>Segregation can be within an existing feeder pen, pasture area or a designated sick/hospital pen.</i>   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 1.3.6                           | Segregated sick or injured animals must be monitored at least twice daily.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 1.3.7                           | Any sick and/or injured animals must not be shipped off-farm as an alternative to treatment. Animals must be treated and if they do not fully recover, may be shipped direct to the slaughter facility if they are ambulatory and fit for transport. If recovery does not seem likely, the animal must be euthanized per Section 1.4.<br><b>i</b> [1.3.7 a]: <i>In cases where bison are non-ambulatory and/or moving the animal may increase distress or suffering, bison must be euthanized first and moved following confirmation of death.</i><br><b>i</b> [1.3.7 b]: <i>See Standard 6.2.1 on conditions when bison are not fit for transport.</i> | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 1.3.8                           | Operations must have an internal and external parasite control program that can be implemented if parasites are impacting animal health and welfare.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 1.3.9                           | Products containing organophosphates cannot be used on bison.<br><b>i</b> [1.3.9]: <i>This applies to organophosphates in dust, rubs, sprays, ear tags, or mineral blocks.</i>  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |

| STANDARD                      |   | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|-------------------------------|---|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|                               |   | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>1.4 On-Farm Euthanasia</b> |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 1.4.1                         | All on-farm euthanasia must be performed by a trained person(s) or veterinarian.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|                               | <i>① [1.4.1]: Producers will not be required to euthanize an animal in order to show compliance with this standard, but they must be able to describe the training they have received whether this is experiential or formal.</i>   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 1.4.2                         | Euthanasia technique(s) must cause rapid insensibility and be immediately followed by death.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|                               | <i>① [1.4.2]: The operation must be able to articulate to the auditor the visual indicators of death, and the physical parameters that confirm this.</i>  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 1.4.3                         | Animal handling associated with euthanasia must minimize distress experienced by the animal prior to loss of consciousness. If it is necessary to relocate an animal to conduct euthanasia, only ambulatory animals, where movement would not cause distress, discomfort or pain may be relocated.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 1.4.4                         | The person performing euthanasia must check the animal is dead when safe to do so.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 1.4.5 <sup>M</sup>            | If an animal is identified as requiring euthanasia, this must be carried out within 24 hours.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|                               | <i>① [1.4.5]: Timely euthanasia is critical. GAP understands that bison are often managed in extensive systems and this may impact the time taken to handle the situation.</i>  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 1.4.6 <sup>M</sup>            | Acceptable methods of euthanasia for bison include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. shot in the head with a high-powered firearm;</li> <li>b. barbiturates or barbituric acid derivatives administered by a veterinarian or by personnel who are registered with the appropriate regulatory body for that country. If pregnant animals are euthanized using this method, and the fetus is not to be saved, then additional time (as much as 20-25 minutes) is required to ensure death of the fetus.</li> </ul> | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|                               | <i>① [1.4.6]: If an operation plans to use a method of euthanasia not listed above, written approval from Global Animal Partnership must be received prior to use on-farm in order to meet this standard.</i>   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 1.4.7                         | All euthanized/dead bison must be removed from areas in use on a daily basis.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|                               | <i>① [1.4.7]: It is the responsibility of the operation to dispose of dead animals according to local, state, provincial, territorial, and/or federal or national regulations. Removal can include burial, or composting in a designated area that will not put other livestock (such as calves, weaker animals) at risk from transmission of diseases and predators.</i>   |            |   |   |   |   |    |

## 2 ANIMAL CARE AND MANAGEMENT

① Given the undomesticated nature of bison, general standards on calving conditions are not included as bison cows calve on pasture and very rarely need assistance.

| STANDARD   |  | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|--|--|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|  |  | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>2.1 Daily Herd Management</b>   |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 2.1.1  | Bison off pasture (e.g. kept in feeder pens or removed from pasture temporarily) must be observed at least once daily. Records of any health or welfare issues that occur must be kept.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|  | ① [2.1.1]: This standard does not require records to be kept for day-to-day management of animals but only when health or welfare issues arise (e.g. injury).  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 2.1.2  | All bison, not covered by Standard 2.1.1, must be seen at least weekly. Records of any health or welfare issues that occur must be kept.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|  | ① [2.1.2 a]: While GAP encourages more frequent observations, it is understood this may not always be possible in extensive operations.<br>① [2.1.2 b]: This standard does not require records to be kept for day-to-day management of animals but only when health or welfare issues arise (e.g. injury). |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.2 Body Condition</b>  |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| ① See Bison Body Condition Scoring (1-5) in Appendix I. GAP understands that bison condition fluctuates throughout the year and the standard is written to reflect those fluctuations.                             |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| ① To determine compliance with this Section the auditor will carry out a body condition score assessment as part of the audit.   |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 2.2.1  | Bison must have a body condition score of 2 or higher.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 2.2.2  | Bison with a body condition score of less than 2 must be receiving additional management to increase their body condition score. Any animal not responding to management, where their body condition has deteriorated further, must be euthanized according to Section 1.4.                                | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|  | ① [2.2.2]: See Appendix I for Body Condition Scoring.  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.3 Handling and Restraint</b>  |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| ① Producers will not be required to demonstrate bison handling at the time of the audit. However, auditors will discuss handling protocols and will need to see any equipment used to handle and restrain animals. |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 2.3.1  | Bison must not be mistreated in any way. Mistreatment includes, but is not limited to, rough physical contact, kicking, hitting and dragging.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 2.3.2  | Bison must always be handled calmly.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |

| STANDARD  |   | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|   |   | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>2.3 Handling and Restraint <i>Continued</i></b>  |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 2.3.3   | Only low stress handling aids or point of balance (flight zone) may be used when moving bison.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|   | ① [2.3.3]: <i>Low stress handling aids include, but are not limited to, food rewards, paddles, flags, rustling plastic bags, or a movable wall that moves with the animals.</i>   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 2.3.4   | The use of electric prods is only permitted as a last resort. If prod use is necessary, the prod may only be used on the muscles of the hindquarters. Bison must be given time to respond to the prod before it is re-applied, if this is necessary.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|   | ① [2.3.4]: <i>Last resort is defined as when the health and welfare of the bison or the handler is at risk.</i>   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 2.3.5   | Bison must not be restrained for longer than the time necessary to complete a treatment or routine procedure.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|   | ① [2.3.5]: <i>For example, bison must not be left in a squeeze chute/crush while personnel are on a break.</i>  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 2.3.6   | Bison squeeze chutes/crushes must be operated in a manner that does not cause injury to the bison.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>2.4 Physical Alterations</b>   |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| ① <i>Castration and spaying are not included, as these management practices are not performed on bison.</i>   |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| ① <i>During the initial audit, animals that have previously been disbudded/dehorned will not be disqualified, however, the operation must agree to meet the requirements listed below for any animals moving forward.</i>   |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| ① <i>Any animals disbudded/dehorned must be inventoried by the operation for the certifier.</i>   |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 2.4.1   | Disbudding and dehorning is only permitted if performed by a veterinarian with the use of a local anesthetic and analgesic. The veterinarian must provide a letter confirming that local anesthetic and analgesic is used. As of 1 September, 2017, disbudding and dehorning will not be permitted. | •          |   |   |   |   |    |
| 2.4.2   | Disbudding and dehorning is prohibited.   |            |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 2.4.3   | Tipping the ends of horns is only permitted when non-living horn material (i.e. the top part of the horn that is not innervated with blood vessels and/or nerve tissue) is removed.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>2.5 Lameness</b>   |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| ① <i>Lameness is the inability to use one or more limbs in a normal manner. Lameness can be caused by many things including dietary deficiencies, trauma (including breaks), and/or disease. Appendix II details what to look for to determine lameness and how to measure it in breeding and market animal herds. This section will be evaluated using herd monitoring records (see Standards 2.1.1 and 2.1.2) and the auditor will also conduct a lameness assessment at the time of the audit.</i> |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 2.5.1   | Each operation must manage lameness (score 1 and 2) so that levels do not exceed 1% of the herd.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|   | ① [2.5.1]: <i>For small herds of 100 animals or less, the tolerance is one (1) lame animal and not the threshold percentage in the Standard.</i>  |            |   |   |   |   |    |





| STANDARD                         | Step Level  |   |   |   |   |    |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----|
|                                  | 1   | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>2.6 Animal Identification</b> |   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.6.1</b>                     | Breeding animals must be uniquely identified.   |   |   |   |   |    |
|                                  | ① [2.6.1]: Unique identification is defined as the ability for a GAP auditor to easily identify between different breeding animals. For example, individually numbered ear tags and RFID/EID are acceptable forms of identification.  |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.6.2</b>                     | Market animals must be either uniquely identified or identified by lot tag.   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.6.3</b>                     | Any ‘fall out animals’ (i.e. animals that do not meet the Pilot Standards for Bison) cannot be marketed under the 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Pilot Standards for Bison. All fall out animals must be physically segregated or identified using a method that allows for instant visual identification (i.e. a colored tag where one color is used for program animals and another color is used for fall out animals). If these individual animals cannot be identified, the entire group will be deemed to be out of the Program. |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.6.4</b>                     | Animals can have no more than one dangle ear tag per ear.   |   |   |   |   |    |
|                                  | ① [2.6.4]: RFID tags, EID tags, fly tags and metal clip tags are not considered ear tags for this standard, and are permitted in addition to other ear tags.  |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.6.5</b>                     | Ear notching and/or ear splitting of bison is prohibited.   |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.6.6</b>                     | Wattling of bison is prohibited.  |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.6.7</b>                     | If bison are branded, the brand must be positioned on the right or left hip only.   |   |   |   |   |    |
|                                  | ① [2.6.7 a]: GAP encourages the use of freeze branding over hot iron branding.  |   |   |   |   |    |
|                                  | ① [2.6.7 b]: Any animals branded must be inventoried by the operation for the certifier.  |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.6.8</b>                     | Hot iron and freeze branding is prohibited.   |   |   |   |   |    |
|                                  | ① [2.6.8]: Branding that is required by law or financial institution is permitted.  |   |   |   |   |    |

| STANDARD   |  | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|--|--|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|  |  | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>2.7 Weaning Age</b>   |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <p>① <i>The average weaning age of the herd is calculated by reviewing the spread of calving dates and the date of weaning. As an example, a Step 1 operation calves between April 20 and June 30; 70% of the herd calves in the first six weeks with the remainder evenly spread over the last few weeks. All calves are weaned on Dec 10. Some individual calves will be less than seven months old on this date, but the average weaning age is over seven months and is in compliance with Standard 2.7.1.</i></p> <p>① <i>If the welfare of an individual cow or calf would be negatively affected by meeting this standard, earlier weaning could be permitted. A record of any early weaning and the reason must be kept.</i></p> <p>① <i>If the welfare of the herd would be negatively affected by meeting the standards in this Section for reason of drought, herd illness, or natural disaster the operation must contact their GAP-accredited Certifier.</i></p> <p>① <i>Records must be kept so that the requirements of this Section can be reviewed.</i></p> |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.7.1</b>   | The average weaning age of the herd must be at least 7 months.   | •          |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.7.2</b>   | The average weaning age of the herd must be at least 9 months.   |            |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>2.8 Mortality</b>   |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <p>① <i>Mortality includes animals that have died or been euthanized on-farm.</i></p> <p>① <i>Mortality will be assessed by a review of records.</i></p>   |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.8.1</b>   | Each operation must keep records of mortality, and reason for death if known. The record must distinguish between animals that were euthanized and those found dead. | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>2.8.2</b>   | Mortality must not exceed an average of 2% per certification cycle.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| ① <b>[2.8.2]:</b> <i>For small herds 100 animals or less, the tolerance is two (2) animals and not the threshold percentage in the Standard.</i>   |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.9 Hazard Management</b>   |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.9.1</b>   | Equipment, fittings, fences, openings and protrusions must not injure bison.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| ① <b>[2.9.1]:</b> <i>The auditor will look at both animals and equipment at the time of the audit to verify this Standard.</i>   |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.9.2</b>   | Bison must not come into contact with any potentially toxic substances, such as those used for maintenance, sanitation, cleaning, and/or pest control.               | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |

| STANDARD  |   | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|   |   | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>2.10 Other Commercial Animals on the Operation</b>   |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.10.1</b>   | All species of animals raised on the operation for which 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Standards exist must be raised and handled according to Step 1 standards or higher.  |            |   |   |   |   | •  |
| <i>ⓘ [2.10.1] Animals kept as pets or other non-commercial situations are excluded from this standard.</i>  |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.11 Domestic Animals on the Operation</b>   |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <i>ⓘ Domestic animals include dogs, cats, horses, goats, chickens or any other animals on the operation, including both pets and working animals.</i> |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>2.11.1</b>   | Neglect or abuse of domestic animals is prohibited.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>2.11.2</b>   | All domestic animals on-farm must be provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. food and water on a daily basis, as evidenced by healthy body score condition;</li> <li>b. surroundings that do not cause them injury;</li> <li>c. an environment that allows for freedom of movement and exercise;</li> <li>d. a comfortable resting area that protects them from extremes of temperature;</li> <li>e. veterinary attention if required.</li> </ul> |            |   |   |   |   | •  |

### 3 FEED AND WATER

| STANDARD  |   | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|   |   | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>3.1 Water Availability</b>   |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 3.1.1    | All bison must have continuous access to clean drinking water.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|   |  [3.1.1]: Drinking water might include natural water sources like ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, and snow (snow is not acceptable as the only water source in feeder pens) or provided with manmade equipment such as livestock waterers and troughs.            |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>3.2 Feeding Requirements</b>   |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 3.2.1   | All bison, regardless of stage of production, must have access to feed daily.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|   |  [3.2.1]: This standard can be met by grazing bison on pasture or through feeding a ration.  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 3.2.2    | The feed ration, regardless of stage of production, must meet nutritional requirements for bison.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|   |  [3.2.2]: Compliance with this standard will be assessed on-site using the body condition score in Appendix I.   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 3.2.3    | All bison must have <i>ad-libitum</i> access to palatable fibrous feedstuffs such as grass, hay, haylage, silage, straw or baleage in a quantity sufficient to ensure good rumen health.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|   |  [3.2.3]: The intent of this standard is to ensure that long stem forage is fed to bison to promote long-term rumen health and functionality. This means that hay pellets, grass nuts and other similar products cannot be the only fibrous feedstuffs provided. |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 3.2.4   | Transition from one feed ration to another must minimize digestive upset to bison.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 3.2.5   | Feeders and/or feeding system(s) must be designed, distributed, and/or provide enough space for bison to eat their full ration.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>3.3 Feed Hygiene</b>   |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 3.3.1   | Feed in storage bins, feeders and bunkers must not be moldy or mildewed, contaminated by rodents, or otherwise compromised in quality.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 3.3.2   | Feeders must be clean and free of debris.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>3.4 Additives or Ingredients in Feed or Water</b>                                      |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 3.4.1  | Mammalian by-products in feed or water are prohibited.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|   |  [3.4.1]: By-products include animal waste and products derived from slaughter/harvest process including meat, bone, blood and fat.  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 3.4.2  | Avian by-products in feed or water are prohibited.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|   |  [3.4.2]: By-products include animal waste and products derived from slaughter/harvest process including meat, bone, blood, fat and feather.   |            |   |   |   |   |    |


| STANDARD   |  | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|--|--|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|  |  | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>3.4 Additives or Ingredients in Feed or Water <i>Continued</i></b>                          |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>3.4.3</b>  | Fish and fish by-products in feed or water are prohibited.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|  |  <b>[3.4.3]:</b> <i>This includes whole fish, parts of fish, fish meal, fish by-products from the processing industry and other aquatic species and/or products (does not include seaweed or oyster shell) that are <u>ingested</u> by bison.</i> |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>3.4.4</b>   | Each operation must keep up-to-date feed ration ingredient lists, or tags, including mineral/vitamin mixes whether using purchased or home mixed feed. Lists and tags need to be made available to the auditor.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |



## 4 PASTURE AND FEEDER PENS

① Pasture includes rangeland, grassland, planted pastures, managed pastures, wooded areas, harvested crop areas (for clean-up), and any other land where bison have access to vegetation.

① Standard 4.1.2 goes into effect 1 September, 2018, but all other standards in this Section are effective immediately.



| STANDARD                      |  | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|-------------------------------|--|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|                               |  | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>4.1 Living Environment</b> |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 4.1.1<br>M                    | The cow herd and breeding bulls must live continuously on pasture. Removal from pasture is permitted as long as it does not exceed 30 days throughout a calendar year and records must be kept.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 4.1.2                         | As of 1 September 2018, calves, yearlings, backgrounders and replacement stock must live continuously on pasture. Removal from pasture is permitted as long as it does not exceed 30 days per animal throughout a calendar year and records must be kept.<br>① [4.1.2 a]: This implementation date ONLY applies to Standard 4.1.2. All other standards in Section 4.1 are effective immediately.<br>① [4.1.2 b]: Between 31 May 2016 and 1 September 2018, calves, yearlings, backgrounders and replacement stock can be removed from pasture longer than 30 days.<br>① [4.1.2 c]: Reasons for removal from pasture may be for backgrounding, using weaning pens etc.<br>① [4.1.2 d]: This Standard does not apply to animals that are finishing – finishing animals must meet Standard 4.1.3. | •          |   |   |   |   |    |
| 4.1.3                         | Market animals can be removed from pasture for finishing only. Removal from pasture is permitted as long as it does not exceed 180 days of the animal’s life and records must be kept.<br>① [4.1.3]: GAP recognizes that due to the undomesticated nature of bison and the variability in growth rate, animals in a group won’t all finish at exactly 180 days, therefore, a small percentage of animals (up to 5%) can take longer than 180 days for finishing.   | •          |   |   |   |   |    |
| 4.1.4                         | Market animals and replacement stock must live continuously on pasture. Removal from pasture is permitted as long as it does not exceed 30 days throughout a calendar year.  |            |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>4.2 Pasture Conditions</b> |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 4.2.1<br>M                    | Pasture must be well managed to provide grazing for bison and to avoid environmental damage. Bison must not be stocked so heavily or for so long that they cause vegetation coverage to be denuded (reduced to bare earth) by more than 20%.<br>① [4.2.1 a]: For example, if ungrazed vegetation coverage is 70% with the remaining 30% of the area bare earth, then bison must be moved to fresh pasture areas before vegetation coverage drops to 50% or less and bare earth increases to more than 50% or more.<br>① [4.2.1 b]: Denudation around focal points such as troughs or mineral tubs can be excluded from the calculation as long as this is only within 10 feet of the focal point.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 4.2.2                         | Pastures must be rested and allowed to regenerate, as needed.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |

| STANDARD  |   | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|   |   | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>4.3 Space Requirements</b>   |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <p>① For bison on pasture, there is no set square footage per animal but the area must be maintained as pasture as defined in Section 4.2. If a combination of pasture and feeder pens are used the pasture area must meet the Standards below.</p> |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 4.3.1    | In feeder pens, a minimum of 400ft <sup>2</sup> per animal must be available.   | •          |   |   |   |   |    |
| 4.3.2   | In pasture-fed operations where bison have free access to feeder pens, the feeder pen must provide a minimum of 400ft <sup>2</sup> per animal.<br><p>① [4.3.2]: See Standard 4.3.3 for pasture requirements.</p>  |            |   |   | • |   |    |
| 4.3.3   | In pasture-fed operations where bison have free access to feeder pens, the feeder pen area must not exceed 10% of the area available to bison at any one time.<br><p>① [4.3.3]: For example if there are 10 bison in the group the feeder pen must be at least 4000 ft<sup>2</sup> and the pasture area must be at least 36000 ft<sup>2</sup> (around 0.83 of an acre).</p>   |            |   |   | • |   |    |
| <b>4.4 Thermal Comfort</b>  |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 4.4.1   | Bison must be given the opportunity to keep cool in hot weather.<br><p>① [4.4.1 a]: The use of natural features (e.g. trees or woodlands), or topographical features (e.g. hills, mountains, gullies), or water sources (e.g. ponds or troughs to dip their beards in) are considered ways to provide bison the ability to cool in hot weather.<br/>           ① [4.4.1 b]: If necessary, auditors will use Appendix III to assess animals for heat stress.</p> | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>4.5 Dust Wallows</b>   |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 4.5.1   | Bison must be able to create dust wallows.<br><p>① [4.5.1]: Wallows are important for grooming and parasite control.</p>  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>4.6 Provisions in Feeder Pens</b>  |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 4.6.1   | Bison must have a place to lie in feeder pens so that no more than 25% of the bison in that pen have a mud score of 3.<br><p>① [4.6.1 a]: Bedding and earth mounds may help with compliance to this Standard.<br/>           ① [4.6.1 b]: This standard will be assessed by the auditor who will look at the condition of the pen and also the condition of the animals in the pen using a Mud Score (Appendix IV).</p>   | •          |   |   |   |   |    |
| 4.6.2   | Bison in feeder pens must be provided with scratching posts or brushes.<br><p>① [4.6.2]: Scratching posts or brushes must be purpose-built structures or items. Fences, waterers, and feed bunks are not considered to function as scratching posts or brushes regardless of whether or not bison use them for those purposes.</p>  | •          |   |   |   |   |    |

| STANDARD   |   | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|--|---|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|  |   | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>4.7 Housing</b>   |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>4.7.1</b>  | Indoor housing systems are not permitted.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|  |  <b>[4.7.1]</b> : <i>Corralling bison temporarily in a covered shed for the purposes of health checks, transport etc is allowed.</i> |            |   |   |   |   |    |



## 5 RODENT AND PREDATOR CONTROL

| STANDARD   |  | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|--|--|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|  |  | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>5.1 Rodent Control Program</b>  |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <p>① <i>The Standards in this Section are applicable to any rodent control efforts, whether contracted or not, designed to minimize contamination of feed for bison.</i></p>   |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 5.1.1  | Good sanitation must be the first level of rodent control.   | ●          |   |   | ● |   | ●  |
|  | ① [5.1.1]: <i>Good sanitation includes exclusion of rodents from buildings, bays, or bins where grain or other feeds are stored; clear up of spills of feed; and management of trash to reduce attracting or harboring rodents.</i>  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 5.1.2  | <p>If good sanitation is ineffective, an integrated rodent control program must be implemented. This program must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. methods of control that only target rodents;</li> <li>b. an assessment of different methods of lethal control;</li> <li>c. if traps are used they must be species specific, appropriately located and must be designed to cause rapid death;</li> <li>d. licensed rodenticides are only used in areas where traps will be ineffective (traps are most effective in enclosed spaces and rodent runs).</li> </ul> | ●          |   |   | ● |   | ●  |
|  | ① [5.1.2]: <i>Glue boards, drowning, and drowning traps do not meet the above requirements.</i>  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>5.2 Predator Control</b>  |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <p>① <i>The Standards in this Section are applicable to any predator control efforts, whether contracted or arranged by an outside third party. Control of predators must not violate any local, state, provincial, territorial, federal, national, or other laws.</i></p> |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 5.2.1  | If predators are considered to be a problem, the operation must have a predator control program in place.  | ●          |   |   | ● |   | ●  |
|  | ① [5.2.1]: <i>A plan is only required if predators are a problem.</i>  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 5.2.2  | Non-lethal exclusion of predators from pens and occupied pasture areas must be the first level of control.   | ●          |   |   | ● |   | ●  |
| 5.2.3   | If non-lethal methods are ineffective and bison are at risk, shooting is the only method of lethal control allowed and is only allowed if the shooter is skilled and the shot kills immediately.   | ●          |   |   | ● |   | ●  |
| 5.2.4   | Poisons, drowning, all snares, all leg-hold traps and all traps other than live traps are prohibited.  | ●          |   |   | ● |   | ●  |
| 5.2.5  | Any live traps must be checked at least once daily and acted upon within 24 hours.   | ●          |   |   | ● |   |    |
|  | ① [5.2.5]: <i>Live traps, also known as humane traps, do not contain poison or in any other way result in lethal control.</i>  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 5.2.6  | Any live traps must be checked at least twice daily and acted upon within 24 hours.  |            |   |   |   |   | ●  |
|  | ① [5.2.6]: <i>Live traps, also known as humane traps, do not contain poison or in any other way result in lethal control.</i>  |            |   |   |   |   |    |

## 6 TRANSPORT

① The following transport standards apply for all transport between operations, and slaughter facilities.

① These standards also apply to all off-farm movement and on-farm movement that exceeds 2 hours. Movement within the operation is not considered transport unless it exceeds 2 hours.

① Step 5+ bison are exempt from transport standards as they are not transported off farm.

① At the time the 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Pilot Standards for Bison v1.0 was issued, there were no third party bison transport quality assurance certifications available, so GAP requires bison operations that use transport companies with drivers and/or loading to complete GAP's Transport Personnel Responsibilities, Training and Procedures form. This document must be completed for each certification cycle. See also Program Requirements Section 7 for further information.

| STANDARD                                   |   | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|--|---|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|  |   | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>6.1 Water and Feed Withdrawal</b>       |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 6.1.1                                      | Water must be continuously available until loading begins.  | •          |   |   | • |   |    |
| 6.1.2                                      | Feed cannot be withheld for more than 8 hours prior to loading.   | •          |   |   | • |   |    |
| <b>6.2 Condition of Bison at Loading</b>   |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 6.2.1                                      | Transporting bison that meet any of the following conditions is prohibited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. bison that are sick, injured, weak, or disabled;</li> <li>b. bison that are lameness score 2 (see Appendix II);</li> <li>c. bison that are non-ambulatory;</li> <li>d. bison in poor body condition (&lt; BCS 2).</li> </ul>            | •          |   |   | • |   |    |
| <b>6.3 Loading/Unloading</b>               |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 6.3.1                                      | Only low stress handling aids or point of balance (flight zone) may be used when moving bison.<br>① [6.3.1]: Low stress handling aids include food rewards, paddles, flags or rustling plastic bags.  | •          |   |   | • |   |    |
| 6.3.2                                      | Bison must never be kicked, hit, or mistreated in any way while being loaded or unloaded.   | •          |   |   | • |   |    |
| 6.3.3                                      | The use of electric prods is only permitted as a last resort. If prod use is necessary, the prod may only be used on the muscles of the hindquarters. Bison must be given time to respond to the prod before it is re-applied, if this is necessary.<br>① [6.3.3]: Last resort is defined when the health and welfare of the bison or the handler is at risk. | •          |   |   | • |   |    |
| <b>6.4 Transport and Loading Equipment</b> |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 6.4.1                                      | Transport trailers, including ramps and chutes, must be in good condition.  | •          |   |   | • |   |    |

| STANDARD   |  | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|--|--|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|  |  | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>6.4 Transport and Loading Equipment <i>Continued</i></b>    |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 6.4.2  | Transport trailers must be cleaned after each use.   | ●          |   |   | ● |   |    |
|  | <p>📌 [6.4.2]: GAP recommends that trucks used to transport sheep or goats wait a minimum of 14 days before transporting bison, to minimize disease transmission, particularly Malignant Catarrhal Fever as sheep and goats are carriers of this disease.</p>   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 6.4.3  | Ramp slopes for the first deck must be no more than 20 degrees (incline angle).  | ●          |   |   | ● |   |    |
|  | <p>📌 [6.4.3]: Where possible ramp slopes (incline angle) for higher decks should be no more than 20 degrees.</p>   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 6.4.4 <sup>M</sup>   | Ramps must be fitted with cleats, treads, non-slip surfaces or stair steps to minimize the risk of slips and falls during loading and unloading.   | ●          |   |   | ● |   |    |
| 6.4.5  | Trailers must have access point(s) for drivers to be able to access animals, if necessary, during transport.   | ●          |   |   | ● |   |    |
| 6.4.6  | To minimize injury, bison of different sizes must not be transported in the same compartments.   | ●          |   |   | ● |   |    |
|  | <p>📌 [6.4.6]: GAP encourages using at least the recommended stocking densities in the Master Cattle Transporter Guide (<a href="http://www.livestocknetwork.com/Master_Cattle_Transporter_Guide/">http://www.livestocknetwork.com/Master_Cattle_Transporter_Guide/</a>), unless the transporter and/or rancher feel transport conditions require the stocking density to be adjusted.</p>  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 6.4.7  | Each animal must be able to stand naturally without its hump touching the roof of the transport trailer.   | ●          |   |   | ● |   |    |
| 6.4.8  | Bison must be protected from weather during transport.   | ●          |   |   | ● |   |    |
|  | <p>📌 [6.4.8]: The following are examples of modifications made to the transport conditions in order to protect livestock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cover the trailer with a roof;</li> <li>- Adjust the number of bison on the truck;</li> <li>- Transport bison early in the morning or at night to avoid high temperatures;</li> <li>- Minimize the time in lairage (if bison are held in the truck);</li> <li>- Use a published 'Livestock Weather Safety Index' to determine weather risks that pose a risk to bison.</li> </ul> |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>6.5 Transport Personnel Responsibilities and Procedures</b> |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 6.5.1 <sup>M</sup>   | There must be a clear, written procedure, which includes actions and contact numbers, for the driver to follow in case of an accident or emergency.  | ●          |   |   | ● |   |    |
| 6.5.2  | The driver must be knowledgeable in all of his or her responsibilities and transport protocols.  | ●          |   |   | ● |   |    |
| 6.5.3  | The driver is responsible for all animals on the truck during transport.   | ●          |   |   | ● |   |    |
| 6.5.4  | If the truck is scheduled to pick up bison from more than one operation, a separate chain of custody record including 5-Step® certification information must be kept for each operation.   | ●          |   |   | ● |   |    |

| STANDARD  | Step Level   |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|----|
|   | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>6.6 Transport Duration</b>   |  |   |   |   |   |    |
| ⓘ <i>Transport duration is calculated as follows for the following occurrences:</i><br><b>a. Operation to Operation:</b> time from first animal loaded onto the truck at the originating operation to time last animal is unloaded at the receiving operation.<br><b>b. Operation to Slaughter Facility:</b> time from first animal loaded onto the truck at the finishing operation to time unloading begins at the slaughter facility.<br><br>ⓘ <i>Transport duration is calculated on an individual truck basis. Independent trips are not cumulative for the above calculation.</i> |  |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>6.6.1</b> ⓘ  | Transport duration must not exceed 20 hours.   | • |   |   | • |    |
| <b>6.6.2</b>  | There must be at least 48 hours between the end of one journey and the start of the next.  | • |   |   | • |    |
| <b>6.6.3</b> ⓘ  | Transport of bison is prohibited.  |   |   |   |   | •  |
| ⓘ <b>[6.6.3]:</b> <i>If an operation is selling breeding stock, they can't be marketed as Step 5+.</i>  |  |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>6.7 Transport Records</b>  |  |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>6.7.1</b>  | Transport records must be kept for each vehicle, made available for review, and include:<br>a. date;<br>b. head count;<br>c. loading start and end times for each vehicle transporting bison to another operation and/or slaughter facility;<br>d. departure and arrival times for each vehicle transporting bison to another operation and/or slaughter facility;<br>e. reasons for any stops or delays en route;<br>f. any mortality during transport. | • |   |   | • |    |
| ⓘ <b>[6.7.1]:</b> <i>It is the operation's responsibility to keep all copies of transport records, whether the operation transports animals themselves or contracts transport.</i>  |  |   |   |   |   |    |

## 7 PLANS, PROTOCOLS, PROCEDURES, TRAINING, RECORDS AND TRACEABILITY

① Certain historical records and documents included in this Section may not be available at the time of initial audit as the operation applying for 5-Step® certification was unaware they would be required and, therefore, cannot create them for past events, treatments, assessments, or practices. At the time of initial audit, record-keeping and documentation mechanisms must be in place to meet each of these standards, and records and documentation for, at a minimum, the bison presently on-site must be available.

| STANDARD  |   | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|   |   | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>7.1 General Records Requirements</b>           |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>7.1.1</b> 🚫                                    | Records must be written and made available to the auditor and/or certification company. Acceptable formats include, but are not limited to; record sheets and cards, calendars, notebooks, and computer documents.<br>① [7.1.1]: Records can be collected and stored by producer groups, but must be available at the time of audit.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>7.1.2</b>                                      | Records must be presented in an organized manner.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>7.1.3</b>                                      | All records, reports, Step certificates, and other materials and correspondence relating to Step certificates must be kept for at least one certification cycle.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>7.2 Written Farm/Animal Health/System Plan</b> |   |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>7.2.1</b>                                      | Each operation must have a written plan describing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. an overview of the operation, including size, type/stage of production, location, and typical climatic conditions;</li> <li>b. emergency procedures, including those for natural disasters, fire, water shut off, and, if applicable, power failure;</li> <li>c. operational practices and policies for bison production: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. provision for daily feed and water, including ration details;</li> <li>ii. health programs (e.g. supplementation, vaccination and other preventative, maintenance and/or health-promoting practices);</li> <li>iii. routine husbandry procedures;</li> <li>iv. care of sick and/or injured bison, including on-farm euthanasia policies;</li> <li>v. management of outdoor areas and pasture;</li> <li>vi. rodent and predator control practices;</li> <li>vii. environmental management (i.e. to reflect how various environmental challenges are handled such as large fluctuations in temperature, excessive humidity, etc.).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> ① [7.2.1]: The written farm plan can be provided by an affiliated group (e.g. a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity) or created with the aid of external consultation (e.g. extension agents, veterinarians, peers), but must include information specific and relevant to the operation applying for 5-Step® certification. |            |   |   | • |   | •  |

| STANDARD  |  | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|--|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|   |  | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>7.3 Biosecurity Procedures and Protocols</b> |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 7.3.1   | Each operation must have a documented and implemented biosecurity program that covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. procedures for bringing any bison onto the site;</li> <li>b. procedures and policies for employees;</li> <li>c. procedures and policies for visitors to the operations (e.g. minimizing visitors; visitor logs);</li> <li>d. feed trucks and equipment delivery to the operation;</li> <li>e. shared borders with neighboring operations, if applicable.</li> </ul>   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>7.4 Alternative Power Supply</b>             |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 7.4.1   | If power is essential to the operation for watering, and/or feeding systems, each operation must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. alternative power supply and/or fail safe device in working condition;</li> <li>b. a method of notification in the event of a power failure.</li> </ul>   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| <b>7.5 Training</b>                             |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 7.5.1   | Each operation must provide training to all bison care-givers and/or managers that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. is written and/or hands-on;</li> <li>b. is presented in all necessary languages;</li> <li>c. includes instruction on recognizing signs of normal and abnormal bison appearance and behavior;</li> <li>d. describes all aspects of the individual's responsibilities;</li> <li>e. describes emergency procedures;</li> <li>f. is provided prior to the individual's handling of any bison on the operation;</li> <li>g. covers all requirements of this version of the 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Pilot Standards for Bison;</li> <li>h. is on-going as necessary and, at a minimum, when any changes affecting the care and management of bison are implemented.</li> </ul> | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 7.5.2   | Each operation must keep a record of employee training, including dates of training and topics covered. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>📌 [7.5.2 a]: Training includes initial, re-training and on-going training.</li> <li>📌 [7.5.2 b]: This record-keeping standard applies to employees but does not include immediate family members.</li> </ul>  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |

| STANDARD   |  | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|--|--|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|  |  | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>7.6 Traceability and Chain of Custody</b><br>ⓘ <i>Step-rated animals need to be Step-rated for their entire life cycle (i.e. from birth to slaughter). The following standards meet that requirement and recognize that all stages of production might not be on one operation.</i> |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 7.6.1 ⓘ  | Each operation must have individual herd records that can trace the source of all animals on the operation. Any animal purchased by the operation must also be traceable back to birth.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
|  | ⓘ [7.6.1 a]: See 6.e. in the Program Requirements for segregation protocol requirements.<br>ⓘ [7.6.1 b]: For operations supplying producer groups, it is acceptable for the producer group to record and maintain this information for individual operations.<br>ⓘ [7.6.1 c]: This Standard will be verified through records.  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
|  | Each Step-rated operation must have a chain of custody system with written records. For each shipment of bison transported off the operation, whether to another operation, or to a slaughter facility, the records must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the number of bison transported;</li> <li>b. date of transport;</li> <li>c. age of bison (months);</li> <li>d. step-rating;</li> <li>e. certificate number;</li> <li>f. certificate expiry date;</li> <li>g. indicate if transport is operation-to-operation or operation-to-slaughter facility;</li> <li>h. any deviations granted including the Standard number and length of approval.</li> </ul> |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 7.6.2  | ⓘ [7.6.2]: Chain of custody can be organized by the individual operation or by an affiliated group (e.g. a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity).  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 7.6.3  | A copy of the chain of custody record from each shipment of bison must be kept (for every certified operation) for review by the auditor at re-audit.  | •          |   |   | • |   |    |

## 8 SLAUGHTER REQUIREMENTS

- ① *This Section only applies to entities that are marketing animals as Step-rated (e.g. finishing operations, producer group, co-operative, marketing entity).*
- ① *The Standards in this Section will be verified through a desk audit of the slaughter facility's current third party animal welfare audit rather than an on-site audit.*

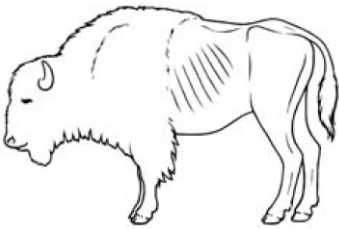
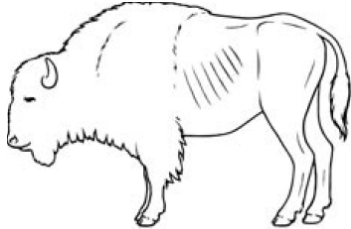
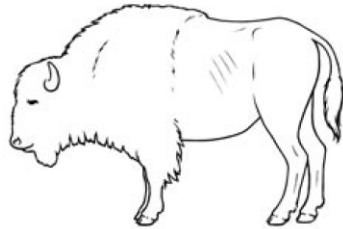
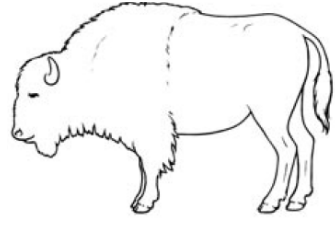
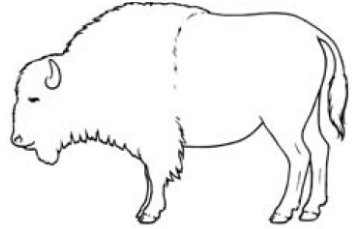
| STANDARD   |  | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|--|--|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|  |  | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <p><b>8.1 General Requirements</b></p> <p>① <i>Operations, or the affiliated group (e.g. a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity), must provide a complete copy of the current third party animal welfare audit for all slaughter facilities used by the Operation or affiliated group to the certifier to verify this Section. GAP accredited certifiers will review the audit and assess eligibility to meet this Section.</i></p> <p>① <i>The animal welfare slaughter audit does not have to be conducted by a GAP accredited certification company. Operations and suppliers are encouraged to check with their retail partners to ensure the certifier used for their slaughter audit is in compliance with the retailer's buying requirements.</i></p> <p>① <i>These standards apply to slaughter in a facility and field harvest (whether at a mobile or on-farm slaughter facility).</i></p> |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 8.1.1  | Any slaughter facility being used by Step-rated operations must be audited to Section 8 of these standards once every 15 months. The slaughter facility will not be assigned a Step-rating, but rather will be granted a pass/fail designation following the review.   | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| ① <b>[8.1.1]:</b> <i>The entity that is marketing animals as Step-rated must ensure their slaughter facility has passed a review by a GAP accredited certifier.</i>  |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 8.1.2 <sup>M</sup>   | All animals must be shot in the head with a high-powered firearm or stunned with a penetrating captive bolt prior to slaughter.  | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| 8.1.3 <sup>M</sup>   | All animals from operations holding a current 5-Step <sup>®</sup> certificate must be slaughtered at a slaughter facility that has passed and holds a current annual third party animal welfare audit based on the American Meat Institute (AMI)'s <i>Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide – Cattle</i> (July 2013 edition) passing all core criteria (with a minimum of acceptable on the scale), and a minimum overall score of at least 90%, in order for animals to be marketed as Step-rated. | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |
| ① <b>[8.1.3]:</b> <i>Until bison-specific guidelines for slaughter are issued by the AMI, the use of AMI's cattle guidelines is appropriate given the similarity in size and process to bison slaughter.</i>   |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| 8.1.4  | Animals must be slaughtered on-farm using either field harvest, an on-farm slaughter facility, or a mobile slaughter unit.   |            |   |   |   |   | •  |



| STANDARD  |  | Step Level |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|--|------------|---|---|---|---|----|
|   |  | 1          | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5+ |
| <b>8.2 Segregation and In-Facility Traceability</b> |  |            |   |   |   |   |    |
| <b>8.2.1</b>  | All slaughter facilities used by the operation or affiliated group must provide a copy of their written in-facility segregation and traceability protocol outlining how Step-rated animals, and differing Step-ratings if applicable, are kept segregated from non-Step-rated animals and product. | •          |   |   | • |   | •  |

## Appendix I – Bison Body Condition Scoring

Visually assess bison from the side and behind to get the best view of the animal. Over the seasons it is normal for a bison's weight and body condition to fluctuate. Most operations aim to have their bison at Score 4 in the fall, Score 2 in the spring and by the beginning of the breeding season, cows should be back to a Score 3.




| Score 1   | Score 2   | Score 3   | Score 4   | Score 5  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
|    |                |   |    |   |
| <b>Thin</b>   | <b>Moderately Thin</b>  | <b>Moderate</b>   | <b>Moderately Fat</b>   | <b>Fat</b>   |
| Severely emaciated. Bone structure of shoulders, ribs, back, hooks and pins prominent. Tailhead sunken in. Sharp topline. | Thin, no fat on the brisket or ribs, and some muscle still visible. Backbone is easily visible. | Last 2 ribs cannot be seen, some evidence of fat in the brisket, ribs and back appears rounded. Slight hollowing on either side of tailhead. Hump well-developed but not bulging. | Very good flesh, brisket full. Fat cover is thick and spongy. Ribs are very smooth. Little distinction between hump and shoulder when viewed from the side. | Obese, back very square, brisket distended, heavy fat pockets around tailhead. Square appearance. Hump blends into shoulder when viewed from the side. |

*Adapted from: What's the Score: Bison and Bison Body condition: Management tool to monitor the nutritional status of the bison cow (A. Norman)*

## Appendix II – Lameness Scoring

This lameness scoring tool is used if an auditor needs to describe a lame animal.

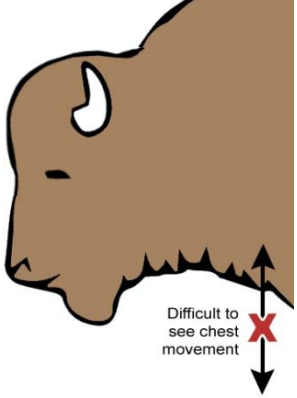
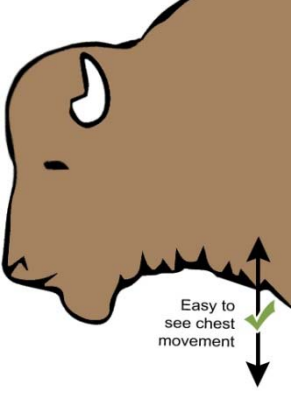
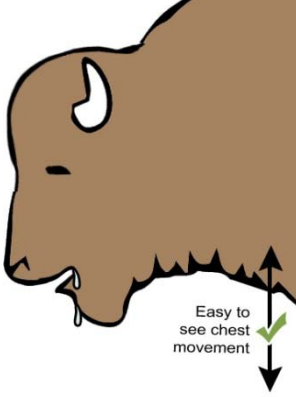
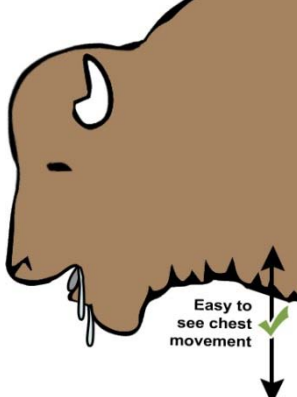
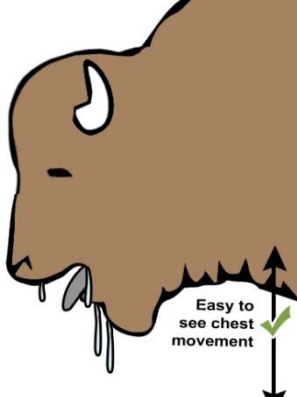
Visually assess bison from the side and behind to get the best view of the animal. Depending on the time of year, it might be difficult to see hooves due to tall vegetation/snow.

| Score 0  | Score 1   | Score 2  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Sound</b>   | <b>Moderately Lame</b>  | <b>Severely Lame</b>   |
| Animal able to walk normally, bearing weight equally on all 4 legs.                | Animal has a limp and shortened strides but is still able to keep up with the herd. | Animal walks with an obvious limp and is no longer able to keep up with the herd.    |
|  |  |  |
| In this example, the animal is walking easily.                                     | In this example, the animal is favoring the back left leg.                          | In this example, the animal is holding its front right leg off the ground.           |

## Appendix III: Panting Score

This panting score tool is used if an auditor needs to describe an animal that is heat stressed.

Watch bison individually for the following symptoms of heat stress, paying special attention to the head and chest.

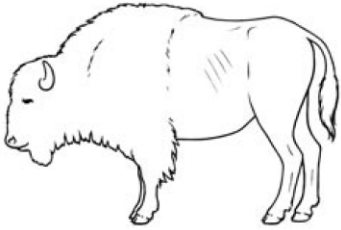
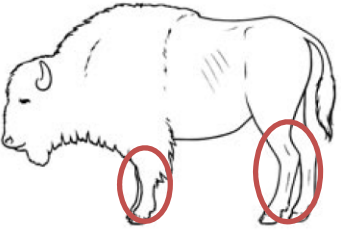
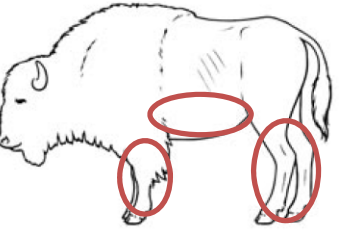
| Score 0   | Score 1   | Score 2  | Score 3   | Score 4   |
|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |                                        |
| <b>Normal</b>   | <b>Elevated</b>   | <b>Moderate</b>  | <b>Heavy</b>  | <b>Severe</b>   |
| No panting, normal breathing (difficult to see chest movement).                   | Slight panting, increased breathing (easy to see chest movement), mouth closed.   | Moderate panting and/or drool or small amount of saliva                            | Heavy open-mouthed panting; saliva usually present                                  | Severe open-mouthed panting accompanied by protruding tongue and excessive salivation usually with neck extended forward. |

Adapted from: Mader et al 2006

## Appendix IV: Mud Score

This scoring system is only used for bison in feeder pens. The auditor will be looking for mud/clumps on the legs and lower ribcage/belly area. Mud/dirt on the back of bison, as the result of the animal rolling, is not included in this assessment.

Visually assess bison from the side and behind to get the best view of the animal.

| Score 1   | Score 2  | Score 3   |
|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |
| <p align="center"><b>Clean</b></p>  | <p align="center"><b>Moderate</b></p>  | <p align="center"><b>Heavy</b></p>  |
| <p>Clean with little soiling on hooves/fetlocks.</p>                              | <p>Fecal/dirt clumps on legs above fetlocks. Side and belly clean.</p>             | <p>Fecal/dirt clumps on legs and belly.</p>   |

## Glossary

| <b>Term</b>               | <b>Definition</b>  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 2 yr old                  | <i>An animal between the second and third January after its birth.</i>   |
| Bison                     | <i>Refers to both breeding and market animals.</i>   |
| Bison crush/squeeze chute | <i>A purpose built stall designed to hold animals safely while they are examined, given veterinary treatment or while management tasks are carried out.</i>  |
| Branding                  | <i>Identification by marking an animal's hide with a hot or super-cooled iron.</i>   |
| By-product                | <i>Animal waste and products derived from slaughter/harvest process including blood or any of its components, meat, bone, bristles, flesh, hair, hides, hooves, horns, offal, skins, wool, fat, feather. Fish includes whole fish, parts of fish, fish meal, fish by-products from the processing industry and other aquatic species and/or products (does not include seaweed or oyster shell).</i>   |
| Bull                      | <i>Male breeding animal.</i>   |
| Calf                      | <i>Nursing animal, up to 10 months old.</i>  |
| Corral                    | <i>A pen attached to a chute used to work animals where bison are held temporarily.</i>  |
| Cow                       | <i>A female breeding animal.</i>   |
| Cow-calf operation        | <i>A farm or ranch where the main focus is breeding cows – calves are sold after weaning.</i>  |
| Dedicated Bison Sales     | <i>Either a Judged Sale or Show End Sale (e.g. Gold Trophy Bison Sale) that i) is typically organized by a regional or national bison association; ii) has farm name, city and state listed for every animal in the sale; iii) requires testing of animals for brucellosis, TB and dewormed before arriving at the sale; and iv) the majority of animals at the sale are bison and the facility is specifically designed for bison, OR an individual operation holding an auction at their operation where multiple buyers bid on animals.</i> |
| Dehorning                 | <i>Removal of developed horn from an animal after it has attached to the skull.</i>  |
| Disbudding                | <i>Removal of undeveloped horn buds from a calf.</i>   |
| EID (see also RFID)       | <i>Electronic Identification. An ear tag (or a bolus) that is capable of transmitting a short-range signal with the animal's unique ID to an electronic reader.</i>  |
| Fall out animal           | <i>An animal within the herd that does not meet the requirements of the Standards and cannot be marketed as Step-rated.</i>  |
| Feeder pen                | <i>Pens with little to no vegetative cover used to grow and finish market animals (also known as dry lots, feedlots, finishing pens, backgrounding pens, holding facility, pen corrals, confinement system, field lots).</i>   |
| Field Harvest             | <i>The process of killing bison on pasture at the farm/ranch; an individual is selected from the herd and shot in the head without being restrained.</i>   |
| Genetically modified      | <i>Bison who have been genetically altered (modified, engineered) or cloned. This does not include bison that are genetically selected for certain traits.</i>   |

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Hump                               | <i>The hump is located over the shoulders – its comprised of muscle supported by long vertebrae and allows the animal to swing its head side to side to sweep aside snow in the winter as it grazes.</i>  |
| Lameness                           | <i>Lameness is the inability to use one or more limbs in a normal manner.</i>   |
| Market Animals                     | <i>Any animal selected for slaughter, includes calves, yearlings, 2yr olds, backgrounders, feeders, finishers.</i>  |
| Mobile slaughter                   | <i>A mobile slaughter facility where bison are corralled and run through a chute on the farm/ranch; shot in head whilst being restrained.</i>   |
| Mortality                          | <i>A record of animals that have died. This does not include animals that are culled.</i>   |
| Off-label / extra-label medication | <i>Off-label use is the use of pharmaceutical drugs for an unapproved indication or in an unapproved age group, unapproved dosage, or unapproved form of administration.</i>  |
| On-farm slaughter facility         | <i>A brick and mortar slaughter facility located on the farm/ranch; designed to slaughter and process bison.</i>  |
| Operation                          | <i>A farm or ranch raising bison (see definition under Program Requirements 3.d.).</i>  |
| Organophosphates                   | <i>A chemical compound often used as a pesticide, which has been shown to have adverse effects on the nervous system of humans and animals.</i>   |
| Parasiticides                      | <i>A substance used in veterinary medicine to kill parasites.</i>   |
| Pasture                            | <i>Access to rangeland, grassland, planted pastures, managed pastures, wooded areas, harvested crop areas (for clean-up), and any other land where bison have access to vegetation.</i>   |
| Replacement stock                  | <i>Heifers and young bulls selected for breeding but are not yet used for breeding.</i>   |
| RFID (see also EID)                | <i>Radio Frequency Identification. An ear tag (or a bolus) that is capable of transmitting a short-range signal with the animal's unique ID to an electronic reader.</i>  |
| Seedstock/breeding stock           | <i>Breeding bison. Animals whose primary purpose is breeding and production of calves.</i>  |
| Sub-therapeutic                    | <i>Administering treatment when animals are not sick; this includes low doses of medication over an extended period of time.</i>  |
| Unique identification              | <i>Unique identification for breeding animals is defined as the ability for a GAP auditor to easily identify between different breeding animals. For example, ear tags and RFID/EID are acceptable forms of identification. Market animals must be either uniquely identified or identified by lot tag.</i> |
| Wattling                           | <i>Cutting the skin under an animal's neck or on the brisket for identification.</i>  |
| Yearling                           | <i>A young animal between the first and second January after its birth.</i>   |