

5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Program Audit Prep Tool

Bison

When Should I Use the Audit Prep Tool?

The purpose of this tool is to provide bison producers with a simple checklist to help identify where farms and ranches may have issues with compliance to the GAP 5-Step® Program for Bison. While this Audit Prep Tool covers many of the key requirements in our Bison Standards, it does not cover every standard. Using this tool does not guarantee that you will pass an audit, but should help you prepare for one. This tool can be used if you are preparing for a new audit or if you are getting ready for a renewal audit. Being prepared for the audit helps to identify and resolve issues before the auditor visits your operation, which in turn, helps the certification process go more smoothly.

Who Should Complete It?

Since this Audit Prep Tool was designed to help you get organized for your audit, it would be most beneficial if it were completed by the person(s) responsible for managing the operation and/or an animal caretaker.

How Do I Use this Document?

This tool has been divided into sections so that you only need to focus on the sections relevant to your operation. The first section covers the core requirements for ALL Step levels. From there, the document is divided up by Step level — this allows you to skip to the section that's relevant to the level you're looking to be certified to. As well, if you're looking to move up the Steps, this tool can be used to help identify what your operation would need to do. Note that there is no Step 2, Step 3, or Step 5 rating for bison. Finally, we have provided a checklist for written records and documents that you'll need to have. The auditor will be looking for these documents during the audit, so if you're missing any, please check the Bison area of our website for templates to get you started.

How Do I Know if My Operation Might Have Issues with Compliance?

If you tick the shaded green boxes, then there is a good chance that you are in compliance with the Standard. In certain circumstances, a specific standard may not apply to your system, in which case you will also have the option to tick the 'NA' box. If you tick any non-shaded boxes, or are uncertain about any of the questions, we recommend reviewing our resources in the Bison area of the GAP website or checking in with your certifier for additional help before scheduling the audit.

Where Can I Get More Help?

You can find additional information, including additional resources and templates, on the Bison area of the GAP website. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to your certifier or the Farm Animal Welfare team (standards@globalanimalpartnership.org) at GAP.

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Requirements for ALL Steps

All operations, no matter which Step level you are applying for, should complete this section.

		Yes	No	NA
1 ANIN	AL SOURCE AND HEALTH			
1.1	Source / Breed			
1.1.2	Do you use natural breeding?	0	0	0
	Do you use artificial insemination?	0	0	0
1.1.3	Do you use <i>beefalo</i> or <i>cattalo</i> genetics?	0	0	
1.1.6	If you buy bison, do you get them from:			
	a. Dedicated bison sales	0	0	0
	b. Video auction	0	0	0
	c. Direct farms sales	0	0	0
	d. Sale or auction barns	0	0	0
1.2	Medication			
1.2.1	Are all bison treated with antibiotics, ionophores, beta agonists, growth hormones, and/or	0	0	
	sulpha drugs sold to non-GAP markets?			
1.2.4	Do you check your medication cabinet regularly and make sure expired medication is	0	0	
	disposed of?			
1.3	Treatment			
1.3.5	Do you segregate sick and/or injured bison when necessary?	0	0	
1.3.6	Are segregated bison monitored at least twice a day?	0	0	0
1.3.8	Do you have an internal and external parasite control program?	0	0	
1.3.9	Do you use products (e.g. fly tags) containing organophosphates on bison?	0	0	
1.4	On-Farm Euthanasia			
1.4.1	Are the people who perform euthanasia trained?	0	0	
1.4.4	Does the person euthanizing bison remain with them until they are sure the bison is dead?	0	0	
1.4.5	When you find a bison that needs to be euthanized, do you do it within 24 hours?	0	0	
1.4.6	Do you euthanize bison using:		_	
	e. Firearm shot to the head	0	0	
	f. Anesthetic overdose	0	0	
	g. Other	0	0	
1.4.7	Do you remove any euthanized/dead bison from pens/pastures on a daily basis?	0	0	

		Yes	No	NA
2 ANIN	MAL CARE AND MANAGEMENT			
2.1	Daily Herd Management			
2.1.1	If bison are off pasture*, are they seen at least once a day?			
	*this includes removing bison if they are sick or injured, if there is bad weather, or if they are finished in feeder pens	0	0	0
2.1.2	When bison are on pasture, do you see at least once a week?	0	0	
2.2	Body Condition			
2.2.1	Do all bison have a body condition score* of 2 or higher?	0	0	
	*BCS; <u>see Appendix I in the Bison Standards</u>			

		Yes	No	NA		
2.3	Handling and Restraint					
2.3.4	If you use electric prods, do you use them:					
	a. Routinely	0	0	0		
	b. As a last resort	0	0	0		
	c. On the head, brisket, shoulders, or barrel	0	0	0		
	d. On the hindquarters	0	0	0		
	e. By giving bison time to respond before it is re-applied	0	0	0		
2.5	Lameness					
2.5.1	Does lameness* affect more than 1% of the herd?					
		0	0			
	*see Appendix II in the Bison Standards					
2.6	Animal Identification					
2.6.1	Can you uniquely identify each of your breeding animals? (e.g., using tags, unique	0	0	0		
	markings/colorings, etc.)					
2.6.2	Can you identify your market bison? (either uniquely or by group or lot tag; e.g., using tags, markings/colorings, etc.)	0	0			
2.6.3	For any bison that do not meet the GAP standards, do you have a plan to identify them?	0	0			
2.6.4	Do bison have than one dangle ear tag per ear?	0	0			
2.6.5	Do you ear notch or split ears?	0	0			
2.6.6	Do you wattle?	0	0			
2.8	Mortality (includes animals that have died or been euthanized on-farm; culls are not included)				
2.8.2	Over the last 15 months, has mortality exceed 2% on your operation?	0	0			

		Yes	No	NA
3 FEED	AND WATER			
3.1	Water Availability			
3.1.1	Do bison have continuous access to water? (i.e., troughs, rivers, ponds)	0	0	
3.2	Feeding Requirements			
3.2.1,	Do all bison have daily access to feed/grass/grazing?	0	0	
3.2.2	bo an bison have daily access to recay grassy grazing.	Ů		
3.2.3	Do all bison have continuous access to palatable fibrous feedstuffs when not on pasture?	0	0	
	(e.g., hay, haylage, silage, straw, corn stover)			
3.4	Additives and Ingredients in Feed and Water			
3.4.1,	Does feed contain mammalian, avian, or fish by-products? (check feed labels)	0	0	0
3.4.2,	Do feed supplements (e.g., mineral blocks) contain mammalian, avian, or fish by-	0	0)
3.4.3	products? (check feed labels)			

		Yes	No	NA
4 LIVIN	S ENVIRONMENT			
4.1	Shade and Windbreaks			
4.1.1	If you remove breeding stock from pasture, does it exceed 30 days per year?	0	0	0
4.4	Thermal Comfort			
4.4.1	During hot weather, do bison have shade or water sources for cooling down?	0	0	0
4.5	Dust Wallows			
4.5.1	Are bison able to make dust wallows?	0	0	

		Yes	No	NA
4.7	Housing			
4.7.1	Do you use indoor housing?	0	0	

		Yes	No	NA
5 RODI	ENT AND PREDATOR CONTROL			
5.1	Rodent Control Program			
	☐ If you do not consider rodents a problem on your operation, check this box and move t	o the S	Section	າ 5.2
5.1.2	Does your rodent control program include:			
	a. Methods that only target rodents	0	0	0
	b. An assessment of different methods of lethal control	0	0	0
	c. Traps that are species specific, appropriately located, and designed to cause rapid	0	0	0
	death (if used)			
	d. Licensed rodenticides used only in areas where traps will be ineffective	0	0	0
5.2	Predator Control			
	☐ If you do not consider predators a problem on your operation, check this box and move	to the	Section	on 6
5.2.1	If predators are a problem, is there a control program in place?	0	0	0
5.2.2	Is non-lethal exclusion your first level of predator control?	0	0	0
5.2.3	If you must use lethal methods to control predators, is it completed:			
	a. With a fire arm	0	0	0
	b. By a skilled shooter	0	0	0
	c. With a shot that kills immediately	0	0	0
5.2.4	Do you use poisons, drowning, snares, or any trap besides a live trap?	0	0	

		Yes	No	NA
6 TRAN	ISPORT (i.e., any animal movement off of the operation or on/around the operation for longe	r than	ı 2 ho	urs)
6.1	Water and Feed Withdrawal			
6.1.1	Do you provide water for bison until loading begins?	0	0	0
6.1.2	Is feed (including grass/grazing) provided until at least 8 hours before loading?	0	0	0

		Yes	No	NA
7 PLANS	S, PROTOCOLS, PROCEDURES, TRAINING, RECORDS AND TRACEABILITY			
7.1	General Records Requirements			
7.1.1, 7.1.2	Are all records and documents listed in the "Records and Documents" section of this Audit Prep Tool organized and ready for the auditor to review?	0	0	
7.1.3	Do you keep all records, reports, and GAP certificates for at least 15 months?	0	0	
7.4	Alternative Power Supply			
7.4.1	If your operation requires power for watering or feeding systems, do you have:			
	a. An alternative power supply	0	0	0
	b. A way to be notified if there is power failure	0	0	0
7.5	Training			
7.5.1	Do you have a training program for all bison caregivers that:			
	a. Is written and/or hands-on	0	0	
	b. Is presented in employees' language	0	0	
	c. Describes normal and abnormal bison behavior	0	0	

		Yes	No	NA
d.	Covers individual's responsibilities	0	0	
e.	Covers emergency procedures	0	0	
f.	Is provided before the individual handles bison	0	0	
g.	Covers the GAP bison standards	0	0	
h.	Is on-going	0	0	

	Yes	No	NA
8 SLAUGHTER REQUIREMENTS			
8.1 General Requirements			
Does your slaughter facility have a current third-party animal welfare audit certificate on file? (you may have to contact your slaughter facility, producer group, co-operative, or other marketing entity to get this information)	0	0	

Additional Step 1 Requirements

Only operations aiming to achieve a Step 1 rating should fill out this section. If you plan to apply for a different Steprating, you can jump to the Requirements section for the associated Step level.

		Yes	No	NA
2 ANIN	IAL CARE AND MANAGEMENT			
2.4	Physical Alterations			
2.4.1	If you plan to be audited <u>before</u> 1 September 2017:			
	If you dehorn or disbud, is it done:			
	a. Using local anesthetic and analgesic	0	0	0
	b. By a veterinarian	0	0	0
	If you plan to be audited <u>after</u> 1 September 2017:			
	Do you disbud or dehorn?	0	0	
2.6	Animal Identification			
2.6.7	If you brand bison, do you do it on the hip?	0	0	0
2.7	Weaning Age			
2.7.1	On average, are calves at least 7 months old at weaning?	0	0	0

		Yes	No	NA
4 LIVIN	G ENVIRONMENT			
4.1	Living Environment			
4.1.2	If you plan to be audited <u>after</u> 1 September 2018: If you remove calves, yearlings, backgrounders, or replacement stock from pasture, does it exceed 30 days per year?	0	0	0
4.1.3	If market bison are removed from pasture for finishing, do they spend more than 180 days of their life in the feeder pen?	0	0	0
4.3	Space Requirements			
4.3.1	If bison are finished in feeder pens, are they given at least 400 ft ² (37 m ²) per bison?	0	0	0
4.6	Provisions in Feeder Pens			
4.6.1	Do you carry out mud scoring*? *see Appendix IV in the Bison Standards	0	0	0
4.6.2	If bison are finished in feeder pens, are they given scratching posts or brushes?	0	0	0

		Yes	No	NA
6 TRAN	SPORT (i.e., any animal movement off of the operation or on/around the operation for lon	ger tha	n 2 ho	urs)
6.3	Loading/Unloading			
6.3.3	If the loading/unloading crew uses electric prods, do they use them:			
	a. Routinely	0	0	0
	b. As a last resort	0	0	0
	c. On the head, brisket, shoulders, or barrel	0	0	0
	d. On the hindquarters	0	0	0
	e. By giving bison time to respond before it is re-applied	0	0	0
6.4	Transport and Loading Equipment			
6.4.3	Do ramp slopes for the first trailer deck have more than a 20-degree incline?	0	0	0

		Yes	No	NA
6.4.6	Are different sized bison separated from each other during transport?	0	0	0
6.4.7	Are all bison able to stand in the trailer without their hump touching roof?	0	0	0
6.5	Transport Personnel Responsibilities and Procedures			
6.5.4	If the truck picks up animals from other operations in addition to yours, is there a separate delivery note for your operation?	0	0	0
6.6	Transport Duration			
6.6.1	Does transport take longer than 20 hours?	0	0	0
6.6.2	If bison are transported over several trips using different trucks, is there at least 48 hours between one truck journey and the next?	0	0	0

There is no Step 2 or Step 3 rating for bison.

Additional Step 4 Requirements

Only operations aiming to achieve a Step 4 rating should fill out this section. If you plan to apply for a different Steprating, you can jump to the Requirements section for the associated Step level.

		Yes	No	NA
2 ANIM	AL CARE AND MANAGEMENT			
2.4	Physical Alterations			
2.4.2	Do you disbud and/or dehorn?	0	0	
2.6	Animal Identification			
2.6.7	If you brand bison, do you do it on the hip?	0	0	0
2.7	Weaning Age			
2.7.2	On average, are calves at least 9 months old at weaning?	0	0	0

		Yes	No	NA
4 LIVIN				
4.1	Living Environment			
4.1.4	If market or replacement bison are removed from pasture, does it exceed 30 days per year?	0	0	0
4.3	Space Requirements			
4.3.2	If using a pasture-fed system with free access to feeder pens, do the feeder pens provide at least 400 ft ² per bison?	0	0	0
4.3.3	If using a pasture-fed system with free access to feeder pens, is the feeder pen area 10% or less of total area (i.e., feeder pen area plus pasture area) provided for bison?	0	0	0

		Yes	No	NA
6 TRAN	SPORT (i.e., any animal movement off of the operation or on/around the operation for longer	er thar	n 2 ho	urs)
6.3	Loading/Unloading			
6.3.3	If the loading/unloading crew uses electric prods, do they use them:			
	a. Routinely	0	0	0
	b. As a last resort	0	0	0
	c. On the head, brisket, shoulders, or barrel	0	0	0
	d. On the hindquarters	0	0	0
	e. By giving bison time to respond before it is re-applied	0	0	0
6.4	Transport and Loading Equipment			
6.4.3	Do ramp slopes for the first trailer deck have more than a 20-degree incline?	0	0	0
6.4.6	Are different sized bison separated from each other during transport?	0	0	0
6.4.7	Are all bison able to stand in the trailer without their hump touching roof?	0	0	0
6.5	Transport Personnel Responsibilities and Procedures			
6.5.4	If the truck picks up animals from other operations in addition to yours, is there a separate delivery note for your operation?	0	0	0
6.6	Transport Duration			
6.6.1	Does transport take longer than 20 hours?	0	0	0
6.6.2	If bison are transported over several trips using different trucks, is there at least 48 hours			
0.0.2	between one truck journey and the next?	0	0	0

There is no Step 5 rating for bison.

Yes

No

NA

Additional Step 5+ Requirements

8 SLAUGHTER REQUIREMENTS

Are bison slaughtered on-farm?

8.2.2

Only operations aiming to achieve a Step 5+ rating should fill out this section. If you plan to apply for a different Steprating, you can jump to the Requirements section for the associated Step level.

4 LIVING ENVIRONMENT 4.1 Living Environment 4.1.4 If market bison or replacement stock are removed from pasture, does it exceed 30 days per year? Yes No NA 5 RODENT AND PREDATOR CONTROL 5.2 Predator Control 5.2.6 Are live traps checked twice daily and captures released within 24 hours? O O O		AL CARE AND MANAGEMENT			
2.6 Animal Identification 2.6.8 Do you brand (hot or freeze)? 2.7 Weaning Age 2.7.2 On average, are calves at least 9 months old at weaning? 2.10 Other Commercial Animals on the Operation 2.10.1 Are all other livestock animals on the operation managed according to Step 1 Standards or higher? 2.11 Domestic Animals on the Operation 2.11.2 Are all domestic animals (e.g., dogs, cats, horses, goats, chickens, or any other animals on the operation, including both pets and working animals) on-farm given the following? a. Food and water b. An environment that do not cause them injury and allows for exercise and comfortable resting c. Veterinary attention, if required 4 LIVING ENVIRONMENT 4.1 Living Environment 4.1.4 If market bison or replacement stock are removed from pasture, does it exceed 30 days per year? Yes No NA 5 RODENT AND PREDATOR CONTROL 5.2 Predator Control 5.2. Predator Control 5.2. Are live traps checked twice daily and captures released within 24 hours? O O O Transport Duration 6.6 Transport Duration 6.6. Transport Duration 6.6. To Do Do O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O	2.4	Physical Alterations			
2.6.8 Do you brand (hot or freeze)? 2.7.2 Weaning Age 2.7.2 On average, are calves at least 9 months old at weaning? 2.10 Other Commercial Animals on the Operation 2.10.1 Are all other livestock animals on the operation managed according to Step 1 Standards or higher? 2.11 Domestic Animals on the Operation 2.11.2 Are all domestic animals (e.g., dogs, cats, horses, goats, chickens, or any other animals on the operation, including both pets and working animals) on-farm given the following? a. Food and water b. An environment that do not cause them injury and allows for exercise and comfortable resting c. Veterinary attention, if required Yes No NA 4 LIVING ENVIRONMENT 4.1 Living Environment 4.1.4 If market bison or replacement stock are removed from pasture, does it exceed 30 days per year? Yes No NA 5 RODENT AND PREDATOR CONTROL 5.2 Predator Control 5.2.6 Are live traps checked twice daily and captures released within 24 hours? O O O Transport Duration 6.6.3 Do you transport market bison off of the operation? O NA Yes No O Yes No O Yes No NA Yes No NA Yes No NA Yes No O Yes No O	2.4.2	Do you disbud and/or dehorn?	0	0	
2.7. Weaning Age 2.7.2 On average, are calves at least 9 months old at weaning? 2.10 Other Commercial Animals on the Operation 2.10.1 Are all other livestock animals on the operation managed according to Step 1 Standards or higher? 2.11 Domestic Animals on the Operation 2.11.2 Are all domestic animals (e.g., dogs, cats, horses, goats, chickens, or any other animals on the operation, including both pets and working animals) on-farm given the following? a. Food and water b. An environment that do not cause them injury and allows for exercise and comfortable resting c. Veterinary attention, if required Yes No NA 4 LIVING ENVIRONMENT 4.1 Living Environment 4.1.4 If market bison or replacement stock are removed from pasture, does it exceed 30 days per year? Yes No NA 5 RODENT AND PREDATOR CONTROL 5.2 Predator Control 5.2.6 Are live traps checked twice daily and captures released within 24 hours? Yes No NA 6 TRANSPORT (i.e., any animal movement off of the operation or on/around the operation for longer than 2 hours) 6.6 Transport Duration 6.6.3 Do you transport market bison off of the operation?	2.6	Animal Identification			
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4.1.4 Living Environment 4.1.4 If market bison or replacement stock are removed from pasture, does it exceed 30 days per year? Yes No NA 5 RODENT AND PREDATOR CONTROL 5.2 Predator Control 5.2.6 Are live traps checked twice daily and captures released within 24 hours? Yes No NA 6 TRANSPORT (i.e., any animal movement off of the operation or on/around the operation for longer than 2 hours) 6.6 Transport Duration 6.6.3 Do you transport market bison off of the operation? Yes No NA					
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Records and Documents

All operations, no matter which Step level you are applying for, should complete this section.

Records and documents should be written and organized. Acceptable formats include, but are not limited to, record sheets and cards, calendars, notebooks, and computer documents. If you do not have any records or documents listed here, please check the Bison area of the GAP website for templates to get you started.

Std #	Document needed for auditor to review	Yes	No	NA
	Do you keep a record of the dates for your calving period?	0	0	0
1.1.5	Do you keep a record of all the bison you purchase?	0	0	
	If Yes Do your records include:			
	a. The number of bison bought	0	0	
	b. The age of the bison	0	0	
	c. Name of farm where animals were purchased	0	0	
1.3.3	Do you keep treatment records?	0	0	
	If Yes Do your records include:			
	a. The substance/product administered	0	0	
	b. Animal or group identification	0	0	
	c. Date and method of administration	0	0	
2.1.1,	During herd observations, if there are any health or welfare issues, do you keep a	0	0	0
2.1.2	record?			
2.7	Do you keep a record of the date(s) you wean each calf crop?	0	0	0
	If you have to wean an individual calf early, do you keep a record of the date of weaning and the reason?	0	0	0
2.8.1	Do you keep mortality records that include the cause of death?	0	0	
3.4.4	Do you keep copies of all feed tags/ingredient lists, including vitamin and mineral mixes?	0	0	
4.1	If you take bison off pasture, do you keep a record?	0	0	0
7.1	If Yes Do your records include:			
	a. The date they are removed	0	0	0
	b. The reason for removal	0	0	0
	c. The date they return to pasture	0	0	0
6.5.1	Do the drivers who transport your bison have a document that covers their			
0.5.1	responsibilities during transport?	0	0	0
6.7.1	If you ship bison off-farm, do you keep transport records?	0	0	0
	If Yes Do your records include:			
	a. Date	0	0	0
	b. Head count			
	c. Loading start and end times	0	0	0
	d. Departure and arrival times	0	0	0
	e. Reasons for stops or delays en route	0	0	0
	f. Mortalities	0	0	0
7.2.1	Do you have a written farm plan?	0	0	
	If Yes Does your plan that include:			
	a. An overview of the operation	0	0	
	b. Emergency procedures	0	0	
	c. Nutrition/feeding details	0	0	
	d. Health programs	0	0	

				_	
		e. Routine husbandry practices	0	0	
		f. Protocols for sick and injured bison	0	0	
		g. Outdoor area and pasture management	0	0	
		h. Rodent and predator control practices	0	0	
		i. Management during adverse weather	0	0	
7.3.1	Do you ha	ave a biosecurity plan?	0	0	
	If Yes	Does your plan that include:			
		a. Procedures for bringing any bison onto the operation	0	0	
		b. Procedures and policies for employees	0	0	
		c. Procedures and policies for visitors	0	0	
		d. Procedures for feed trucks and equipment delivery	0	0	
		e. Policy for shared borders with neighboring operations	0	0	0
7.5.2	Do you ke	eep employee training records?	0	0	0
	If Yes	Do your records include:			
		a. Date of training	0	0	0
		b. Topics covered	0	0	0
7.6.1	If you mo	ve bison, whether on or off your farm, do you keep a record?	0	0	
	If Yes	Do you keep records:			
		a. For each herd	0	0	0
		b. That can trace all bison back to birth	0	0	0
		c. That can trace subsequent movement of all bison to next destination	0	0	0
		(i.e., to the finishing operation or slaughter facility)			
7.6.2	Do you ke	eep a chain of custody record for each shipment of bison?	0	0	0
	If Yes	Do your records include:			
		a. Number of bison transported	0	0	0
		b. Date	0	0	0
		c. Age of bison (months)			
		d. Step-rating	0	0	0
		e. Certificate number	0	0	0
		f. Certificate expiry date	0	0	0
		g. Next destination (i.e. operation, collection, slaughter plant)	0	0	0
		h. Any deviations granted	0	0	0
7.6.3	If you buy	y bison, do you keep a copy of the previous operation's GAP certificate?	0	0	0