



# CONSIDERING THE CODES

---

## CALVING

---

### CODE REQUIREMENTS

- Producers must be able to recognize and deal with distressed cows or calves and, if there are no suitable intervention or treatment options, ensure that bison are euthanized to avoid further suffering.

### REFERENCES

- Humane Farm Animal Care Standards: Bison. (2014).
- National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC). 2017. Code of practice: for the care and handling of bison. Available at: <http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/bison>. Accessed: 01/08/18.
- National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC). 2016. Code of practice: for the care and handling of bison: review of scientific research on priority issues. Available at: <http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/bison>. Accessed: 10/23/18.

### How will the requirements improve my animals' care and strengthen my operation?

- Bison cows calve annually in April to late June and usually without assistance.
- Hard calvings or dystocia is very rare in bison, and there are few options available for farmers.
- Euthanasia is often the best option.
- It is very dangerous to approach a bison cow to intervene and may be impossible due to the cow running away. This would result in prolonging the dystocia and may result in a less vigorous calf, which can affect maternal care.
- Excess human intervention can cause unneeded stress to the cow and euthanasia is often preferred.
- Causes of dystocia can be multiple offspring (i.e. twins) and overfed bison.

