



BISON

CONSIDERING THE CODES

EUTHANASIA

CODE REQUIREMENTS

- Bison must be euthanized without delay that:
 - are unlikely to recover
 - fail to respond to treatment and convalescent protocols
 - have chronic, severe, or debilitating pain and distress
 - have an acute, severe injury
 - are experiencing un-correctable calving distress
 - are unable to get to or consume feed and water (e.g., non-ambulatory)
 - show rapid weight loss or emaciation.
- Disposal of the carcass must meet local requirements and regulations.

REFERENCES

- 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?

- When euthanizing an animal, the goal is to minimize pain and stress.
- The technique used should result in rapid loss of consciousness followed by cardiac and respiratory arrest and, ultimately, a loss of brain function.
- Bison are often not comfortable with excessive handling. Therefore, to minimize stress during on-farm euthanasia, a gunshot is recommended.
- Bison landmarks are very different from cattle.
- Due to their thick skulls, a higher calibre firearm or heavier gauge shotgun is required than for cattle.



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