



BISON

CONSIDERING THE CODES

NUTRITIONAL DISORDERS ASSOCIATED WITH HIGH ENERGY FEEDING

CODE REQUIREMENTS

- Feeding programs must be designed, implemented, evaluated, and adjusted to facilitate rumination and to prevent the risk of nutrition-induced disorders. Consult your nutritionist or veterinarian when needed.
- Bison diets must contain forage to ensure proper rumen function.
- The transition from a high forage to a high energy ration must be done gradually.

REFERENCES

- Anderson, V. L., Miller, P., & Miller, B. (1996). Influence of season and diet on feedlot performance of bison. *The Professional Animal Scientist* 13:14-17.
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- Church, J. S., Hudson, R. J., & Rutley, B. D. (1999). Performance of American bison (*Bos bison*) in feedlots. *Journal of Animal and Feed Sciences* 8:513-523.
- 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?

- Farmed calves that are not kept for breeding are often sent to feedlots and fed until they reach slaughter weight (approximately 550kg).
- Finishing by feeding a grain ration is a common practice, both on pasture and in feedlots. This is to encourage fat cover, which usually occurs for around 90–120 days before slaughter.
- Many feeding systems finish bison using a single total mixed ration (TMR) high in concentrate and low in roughage.
- Grain should be introduced gradually to prevent rumen acidosis.
- Feeding bison diets high in grain have been associated with rumen acidosis.



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