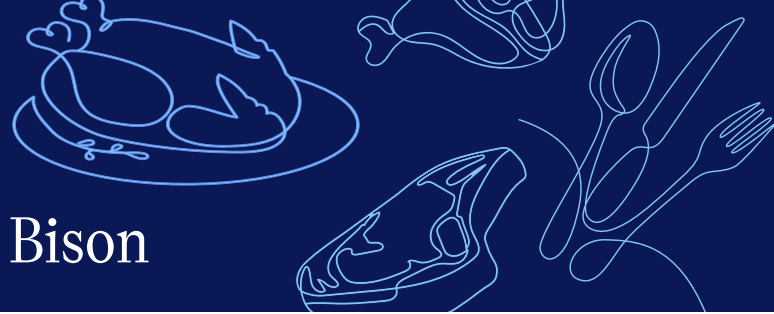




Nourishing Today
Sustaining Tomorrow

2026 Animal Welfare Metrics & Guidance — Bison



Instructions

- Select *Yes*, *No*, or *Not Reporting* for each metric. If *Yes*, select which establishment(s) the “*Yes*” is applicable to by checking the box next to each establishment id.
- Report data for the prior calendar year.
- Animal welfare metrics are reported for slaughter establishments by protein type.
- Resources provide information to assist in meeting the metric or to help define criteria for the metric. Resources may be a known standard, policy, practice, program, and/or recognized best practice.
- Definitions (unless otherwise clarified in the metric):
 - » Supplier: who the Establishment receives a product and/or service from.
 - » Customer: who the Establishment sells a product and/or service to.
- In the reporting portal, the question mark (?) after each metric provides interpretation guidance, best practices, and applicable resources.

4. Do any establishments maintain a written company animal welfare policy that requires direct live animal suppliers to implement an animal welfare program that includes employee training and specific standards for animal care?

Best Practices:

- A company policy is in place to source from direct (immediate) live animal suppliers (examples: livestock markets, feeders, producers, etc.) that implement animal welfare programs, such as:
 - » Canadian Bison Association & National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) [Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Bison](#)
- Supplier(s) could utilize an independent program (internal or comparable) that meets the industry standard and/or the intent of the metric but would need to be verified by the company.
- A program is in place to verify suppliers are implementing the program. Programs can be verified by an affidavit, letter of guarantee, or third-party audit.
- All suppliers provide proof of implementation prior to delivery.

Resources:

- Meat Institute’s Animal Welfare [Policy Templates for Packers and Processors](#)
- Beef Quality Assurance ([BQA](#))
- Beef Quality Assurance [Transportation Training & Certification](#)
- Livestock Market Association (LMA) [Animal Handling Modules](#)
- Meat Institute’s [Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit](#)
- PAACO Certification <https://animalauditor.org/>
- Verified Beef Production Plus ([VBP+](#))
- Ontario Corn Fed Beef (OCFB) [Quality Assurance Program](#)
- Canadian [Livestock Transport](#)
- Canadian Resource for transportation of animals including to slaughter: [Health of Animals Regulations: Part XII: Transport of Animals-Regulatory Amendment Interpretive Guidance for Regulated Parties](#)

Sector Target: By 2030, 100% of Meat Institute members who handle live animals will pass third party animal transport and slaughter audits. This target is approved by the Meat Institute Board of Directors.

Note: Metrics Q1 and Q2 contribute to the:

- Meat Institute’s packer-processor [Animal Welfare Goals](#)
- [Protein PACT Goal](#): Providing the best animal care

Additional Animal Welfare Resources

- Meat Institute’s [Animal Welfare Page & Committee info](#)
- Meat Institute’s [Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit](#)
- Meat Institute’s Animal Welfare [Policy Templates for Packers and Processors](#)

Yes	No	Not Reporting
<i>If yes, list USDA ID(s) below</i>		