

Animal Welfare Metrics & Guidance (For Bison)

Report data for the prior calendar year (2022). Metrics in Animal Welfare will be displayed based on the designation of slaughter or further processor and type of protein for each establishment.

Resources are background information to assist in meeting or to help define the metric. Resources may be a known standard, policy, practice, program, and/or recognized best practice.

Baselines

None

Achievements

When answering these achievement metrics to indicate yes, type the number of establishments for which you are reporting that would say yes.

- **Commit (C)** - Means internally the company has stated a commitment to the metric.
- **Track (T)** - Means internally the company has a mechanism for measuring/recording/reporting information supporting this metric.
- **Deliver (D)** - Means the company is meeting the internal goal(s) or commitment(s) pertinent to this metric.
- **Made Public (P)** - At the company level, information regarding this metric has been published, printed, spoken about, or posted publicly displaying the Company commitment to this metric externally. Examples: posted on the company website; included in an ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) report; etc.
- **N/A** - Not applicable
- **Not Reporting (NR)** - Choose not to report

Reminder from above: (slaughter) designates this question only appears for a slaughtering facility. (further processor) metrics, two – A8 & A9, only appear for establishments indicated as a further processor under Company Setup.

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		C	T	D	P	NA	NR
Animal Transport	A1. A written company program for animal welfare during transport is in place. (slaughter)						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit - a written program is in place with a method in place to ensure adherence to the program and initiate corrective actions for deviations. Will likely include measures to communicate the program to and resolve concerns with third-party transporters. Track - a process is in place to monitor adherence to the program. Monitoring should cover all production shifts. Deliver - monitoring demonstrates adherence to the program and reconciliation of corrective actions for deviations. <p>• 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</p>						
Animal Transport	A4. Implements a comprehensive Animal Welfare Program. (slaughter)						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit - a written program is in place with a monitoring component to measure adherence to the program and initiate corrective actions for deviations. The program addresses aspects of animal welfare as outlined in the NAMI Animal Handling Guidelines. <i>Note: NAMI Animal Handling Guidelines do not currently specifically address bison. You can use these guidelines as a best practice of what may be considered for your establishments/company.</i> <i>Note: A program that has been designated as robust by FSIS would likely meet the criteria.</i> Track - monitoring is conducted regularly to measure adherence to the program. Monitoring should cover all production shifts. Deliver - monitoring demonstrates adherence to the program and timely reconciliation of corrective actions for deviations. 						
Live Animal Holding and Slaughter	A7. Maintains a written animal welfare policy that requires live animal suppliers to implement an Animal Welfare program or code of practice, that includes employee training and specific standards for animal care. (slaughter)						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit - a policy is in place to only source from live animal suppliers that implement animal welfare programs, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USA: BQA (Beef Quality Assurance) Canada: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VBP+, (Verified Beef Production); OCFB (Ontario Corn Fed Beef) for Beef 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 that meets the intent of the metric but would need to be verified by the company. Programs can be verified by an affidavit or letter of guarantee. Track - a program is in place to verify suppliers are implementing the program. Letters of guarantee or affidavits would suffice. Deliver - all suppliers provide proof of implementation prior to delivery. 						
	A8. Maintains a written animal welfare policy that requires suppliers to implement a comprehensive Animal Welfare Program (further processors)						
Live Animal Holding and Slaughter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit - a policy is in place to only source from suppliers that implement a comprehensive Animal Welfare Program. Track - a program is in place to verify suppliers are implementing the program. Letters of guarantee or affidavits would suffice. Deliver - all suppliers provide proof of implementation prior to delivery. 						
	A9. Participates in species-specific stakeholder initiatives (e.g., industry welfare committees) to improve animal well-being. (slaughter) (further processors)						
Industry Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commit - Company has identified and committed to participating in species-specific stakeholder initiatives, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAMI Animal Welfare Committee National Bison Association and/or state/regional association(s) or initiatives. Canadian Bison Association or a provincial Bison Association(s). Or similar. Track - records are kept documenting regular participation. Deliver - company regularly participates. 						

Animal Welfare Metrics & Guidance (For Bison) For 2025, Reported on in 2026

For 2025, Reported on in 2026

These metrics are for your FUTURE information. The plan is to add them to the Protein PACT framework after bison has been added to the NAMI Animal Handling Guidelines. If interested in being involved in this work, contact NAMI Animal Welfare staff leader Miriam Martin mmartin@meatinstitute.org.

		C	T	D	P	NA	NR
Animal Transport	A2. At a minimum annually, passes an accredited third-party NAMI Animal Handling Transport Audit conducted by a certified auditor.(slaughter)						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit - a written policy is in place with a method in place to ensure adherence to the policy and initiate corrective actions for deviations. Will likely include measures to communicate the policy to and resolve concerns with third-party transporters. • Track - a process is in place to monitor adherence to the policy. Monitoring should cover all production shifts. • Deliver - monitoring demonstrates adherence to the policy and reconciliation of corrective actions for deviations. • Made Public - ??? 						
	A3. Participates in country- and species-specific transportation programs. (slaughter)						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit - Company has identified & committed to participating in country- & species-specific transportation programs, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USA: Beef Quality Assurance Transport (BQAT) for Beef; Transport Quality Assurance (TQA) for Pork; etc. • Canada: CLT (Canadian Livestock Transport) for Beef, Pork, Sheep, Bison, Elk, and Horses. • Supplier(s) could utilize an independent program that meets the intent of the metric but would need to be verified by the company. Note: A program can be verified by an affidavit or check of credentials. • Track - a program is in place to verify transporters are trained in the identified program. • Deliver - all transporters are trained prior to delivery. • Made Public - ??? 						
Live Animal Indicator	A5. At a minimum, annually passes an accredited third-party NAMI Animal Handling Audit conducted by a certified auditor. (slaughter)						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit - a goal has been established to conduct and pass an accredited third-party audit annually at the slaughter establishment(s). • Track - an audit is conducted annually at the establishment(s). • Deliver - the establishment(s) doesn't fail an audit during the entire calendar year. • Made Public - ??? • Resource: NAMI Animal Handling Guidelines (now include bison) 						
	A6. Have an employee(s) on staff or consultant that maintains a certification of animal handling and welfare training based on the NAMI Animal Handling Guidelines. (slaughter)						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit - a goal has been set to employ a certified auditor. • Track - records are kept to document whether the individual(s) has and maintains certification. • Deliver - the individual(s) has and maintains certification. • Made Public - ??? • Resource: NAMI Animal Handling Guidelines (now include bison) 						