



Conservation Herd Bylaws

Mission: To document the origin of bison from private, public, or commercial herds, as a means to conserve the genetic integrity of the species.

Breeds:

- A. Plains
- B. Woods
- C. Plains/Woods Crosses

Classifications of Registry:

1. Conservation Herd – These animals are those brought into the registry in which neither parent has recorded information.
2. Registered Animal – The animal is individually registered in the NABR. These animals are also eligible to be a member of a Conservation Herd.
3. DNA Certified Animal – The animal is DNA tested to certify parentage. These individuals are also eligible to be a member of a Conservation Herd.

Herd Requirements for Registry Classifications:

1. Conservation Herd
 - a. This is a closed herd that does not require single-siring or mothering up the calves.
 - b. It is recommended, but not required, that the individuals of the herd be identified or DNA tested.
 - c. It is recommended, but not required, that bison born and retained within the closed herd be DNA tested and/or registered.
 - d. Any additions to the herd from outside sources are required to be DNA tested and registered with NABR before being added to the herd.
 - e. A completed application that includes herd prefix, date of entry, breed, number of herd groups and number of productive cows and sires in each group. If possible, include individual ID, colors, ages, pictures and sources of the individual animals in the herd.
 - f. Filing of an Annual Report will be required. The report will include any additions and/or subtractions from the Conservation Herd. Feeder or slaughter animals do not have to be included; however, any sale of animals and their destination would be beneficial to record.
2. Registered Animal/Herd
 - a. If the offspring are single herd-sired and mothered-up from DNA registered parentage, those offspring are not required to be DNA tested; however, DNA samples must be submitted for the offspring. All herd sires must be DNA tested.
3. DNA Certified Animal/Herd
 - a. All animals are DNA tested to certify parentage.

Requirements to participate:

1. An Active-level member of the NBA.
2. No cross species breeding.
3. The use of non-therapeutic antibiotics or growth hormones is prohibited.

4. Breed to maintain bison phenotypic characteristics and breed (plains or woods) specific characteristics. Crosses may have either or both types of characteristics. Ranchers with multiple breeds will be required to maintain separate breed groups, unless the entire herd is DNA Certified.
5. Individually registered herds will automatically qualify as a Conservation Herd if the breeder wishes to participate in that program.
6. Conservation Herd bison may, as individuals, be designated as Registered or DNA Certified animals with the appropriate testing and documentation.
7. Any DNA tested bison going into the individual or DNA Certified registries may be registered in the NABR if there is no mitochondrial introgression and not more than three (3) current cattle alleles present in the nucleus. This requirement does not apply to the Conservation Herd Registry. It is a goal for all Conservation Herd Registry animals to eventually be registered individually at which time the Individual registry rules would apply. Once DNA results on individuals in the Conservation Herd Registry have been determined, their progeny's introgression level must be maintained at the same level or lower to continue to participate in the Conservation Herd Registry.
8. Requests for registration of any bison exhibiting non-typical traits will be reviewed by the NABR Committee and/or NBA Board and may require further testing to determine eligibility.

Steps to participate:

1. Contact the NBA office for the application and self-billing sheet, or you may apply online at: <http://bisoncentral.com/about-nba/bison-registry>.
2. Upon receipt of the completed application, self-billing sheet and funds, the NBA will send you applicable instructions. For the Conservation Herd, you will receive a Certificate of Participation and the subsequent year's Annual Report form that will be filled out as activity in the herd changes. The Annual Report must be completed and returned, with appropriate fees, to the NBA by your anniversary date.
3. Any outside additions to the Conservation Herd must be reported and processed BEFORE entering the herd. Because additions to the herd require DNA testing, they are considered DNA Certified and therefore, the self-billing form and the Individual Registry form must be completed and appropriate fees remitted to the NBA before the bison can enter the herd.
4. Individuals participating in the Registered Animal/Herd or the DNA Certified Animal/Herd will receive an ID tag and DNA kit for hair samples.
5. The DNA hair sample will be mailed to the NBA for storage and/or testing.
6. Certificates denoting the appropriate individual or herd designation will be sent upon completion of sample testing and/or receipt for storage.
7. Any request by the animal's owner to relocate information or DNA material will be at the owner's expense and risk.
8. The samples, results, and information sent back from the testing facility are the explicit property of the NBA, NABR and the participating owner.

*Any action by the National Bison Association Board of Directors
supersedes any and all regulations.*