

The North American Bison Registry

'A Species Registry'

Bylaws:

(Section 1) Mission:

To record the lineage and origin of North American bison in private, public, and tribal herds, as a means to enhance stewardship, conserve unique traits, advance bison knowledge, and preserve the integrity of the species.

(Section 2): NBA Board of Directors Approved NABR Position Statements:

All position statements are required to be passed by the NBA Board of Directors, have unanimous committee support by vote of the full committee, and have unanimous support from the NABR Advisory Council.

(2.1) A Species Registry:

Whereas the NABR is named for the registration of North American Bison – 'A Species Registry' shall be used as a concurrent identity, in print, and made to be official.

NBA Board Passage: Winter Conference Jan, 2017

(2.2) Bison-Cattle Introgression:

Whereas the NABR charges itself with discovering and recording bison heritage, the inclusion of all remnant bison genetics is our mission to ensure that the future of bison conservation is secure. Until it is proven that absolute purity is significant, and can be indisputably identified, the NABR includes all Bison for their genetic contribution, but can exclude introgression occurring since 1492, i.e. hybrids, by process of genetic testing and ethical management.

The NABR is made up of scientists, veterinarians, advisors and bison ranchers who are dedicated to:

'Preserving the Heritage of American Bison'

NBA Board Passage: Teleconference Oct, 2016

(Section 3) North American Bison Types:

(3.1) Plains

(3.2) Woods

(3.3) Plains/Woods (Blended)

(Section 4) Classifications of Registry:

- (4.1) Conservation Herd – Hereinafter referred to as (CHR). These animals are those brought into the registry, as a herd, in which DNA testing is recommended but not required.
- (4.2) Individual Animal Registry – Hereinafter referred to as (IAR). The animal is individually registered in the NABR. These animals are also eligible for registry in the CHR program.
- (4.3) DNA Parentage Certified Animal – Hereinafter referred to as (DCA). The animal is DNA tested to certify parentage. These registered individuals are also eligible to be a member of a registered CHR Herd.

(Section 5) Herd Requirements for Registry Classifications:

(5.1) Conservation Herd:

- (5.1.1) This is a closed registered and documented herd that does not require single-siring or mothering up of the calves.
- (5.1.2) It is recommended, but not required, that the individuals of the herd be identified or DNA tested.
- (5.1.3) It is recommended, but not mandatory, that bison born and retained within the registered and documented CHR herd be DNA tested.
- (5.1.4) Any additions to the herd from outside sources, or other herd-groups, are required to be DNA tested and registered with NABR before being added to the herd, but are not restricted from being added to the premise.
- (5.1.5) A completed application includes herd prefix, date of entry, bison type, 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.
- (5.1.6) Filing of an Annual Report will be mandatory. The report will include any additions and/or subtractions from the CHR Herd. Feeder or slaughter animals do not have to be included; however, any exchange of animals and their destination would be beneficial to records.

(5.2) Individual Animal Registry/Herd:

- (5.2.1) 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 storage and reference for the offspring. All herd sires must be DNA tested.

(5.3) DNA Parentage Certified Animal/Herd:

(5.3.1) All animals are DNA tested to certify parentage

(Section 6) Requirements to Participate:

(6.1) An Active Membership in the NBA.

(6.2) No cross species breeding and adherence to (all) other NBA Code of Ethics standards.

(<https://bisoncentral.com/national-bison-association-code-of-ethics/>)

(6.3) Manage to preserve bison type (plains or woods) phenotypic characteristics if registered as such. Blends may have a gradient of characteristics from each type. Bison owners with multiple types will be required to maintain separate or parallel management programs for each bison type.

(6.4) Individually registered herds will automatically qualify for the CHR if the manager/rancher wishes to participate in the CHR program.

(6.5) CHR bison may, as individuals, be designated as Registered or DNA Parentage Certified animals with the appropriate testing and documentation.

(6.6) Requests for registration of any bison exhibiting hybridization, admixture, blending, or other non-typical traits will be reviewed by the NABR Committee and/or NBA Board; this may require additional testing to determine eligibility. All cases in question will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and handled discretely, and 'in house', for the purpose of NABR participant education.

(Section 7) NABR Participation:

(7.1) Contact the NBA office for the application and self-billing sheet, or you may apply online at: <https://bisoncentral.com/bison-registry/>

(7.2) Upon receipt of the completed application, self-billing sheet and funds, the NBA will send you applicable instructions. For the CHR, you will receive a CHR sign 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 annual report due-date.

(7.3) Any outside additions to the CHR herd must be reported and processed BEFORE entering the herd, (*see section 5 - 5.1.4*). Because additions to the herd require DNA testing, they are considered DNA Parentage Certified and therefore, the self-billing form and the Individual Registry form must be completed and appropriate fees remitted.

(7.4) Individuals participating in the DNA Parentage Certified Animal/Herd will receive an ID tag (if needed) and DNA kit for hair samples (if needed). Official permanent ID numbers and tags

correlated to individuals/herds registered with the Individual Animal or DNA Parentage Certified registries, is required.

(7.5) The DNA hair sample will be mailed to the NABR for storage and/or testing. Blood or skin samples can be submitted to the NABR for testing only.

(7.6) Certificates denoting the appropriate individual or herd designation will be sent upon completion of sample testing and/or receipt for storage.

(7.7) Any request by the animal's owner to relocate information or DNA material will be at the owner's expense and risk.

(7.8) The samples, results, and animal information sent back from the testing facility are the explicit property of the NBA, NABR and the participating bison owner.

(7.9) Animal information and all registry category information shall be the shared property of the participant, the NABR and the NBA, and thereafter available for '*use by permission*' for archival application and publishing. Herd prefix numbers correlated with premise ID and/or participant contact information, shall be housed and disseminated only by the NBA office by written permission from the participant.

(Section 8) Glossary of Terms:

(8.1) Written Permission: Email, hand written or typed letter sent by mail carrier, hand written or typed letter hand delivered, legal letter written by 'attorney in fact', legal representation and/or legal letter (of willing consent) signed by the NABR participant.

(8.2) Use by Permission: Permission to archive and publish. In general legal terms, you are granting permission for open access to specified information.

(8.3) Conservation Herd: Enrolled in the CHR category.

(8.4) Type/ Types: Uniquely differentiated phenotypical characteristics.

(8.4.1) Examples: Woods bison, Plains bison, Woods-Plains blended bison

(8.5) Official Permanent ID: Permanent ID recognized by USDA APHIS for traceability.

(8.6) Animal Information: Registered-name, weight, performance data, type, age, sex, floppy tag number, lineage/parentage, phenotypical characteristics, registry category and registration number.

(8.7) Animal information (pursuant to section 7- 7.9) does (NOT) mean: permanent ID correlated to premise or state and/or owner/ entity contact and personal information.

- (8.8) Required: Mandatory for valid registration eligibility.
- (8.9) (If Needed): Upon the absence of, or need for something not present.
- (8.10) 'In House': Within the NABR committee, or the NBA Board of Directors.
- (8.11) Plains/ Plains Bison: *Bison bison bison*;
- (8.12) Woods/ Woods Bison: *Bison bison athabascae*;
- (8.13) Blend(s): two closely related types mated to produce viable offspring.
- (8.13.1) Not the same as cross species.
- (8.14) Woods-Plains Bison: genetic blends of *Bison bison bison* and *Bison bison athabascae*.
- (8.15) Cross Species Breeding: Breeding bison to animals outside the species regarded as North American Bison.
- (8.16) Herd-Groups: Species populations; privately, publically or Tribal owned/managed within a larger population that are separated by fence or premise geo-location, property lines and/or any intentional barrier, but are counted and included in the entire owned/managed bison population.
- (8.17) Outside Sources: Not originating from a place, or population of the same herd group.
- (8.18) Premise: A unique location officially identified and correlated to an owner/entity/agency operation and contact information.
- (8.19) 'Mothering Up': To match offspring to a dam.
- (8.20) Parentage Test: The process of identifying maternal and/or paternal relatives of offspring via DNA testing.
- (8.21) Single Sire: A female herd-group serviced by no more than one male.
- (8.22) CHR: Conservation Herd Registry
- (8.23) IAR: Individual Animal Registry
- (8.24) DCA: DNA Parentage Certified Animal

(Section 9)

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