E528Q - Use of body condition scoring for livestock on a monthly basis to keep track of herd health

This worksheet is intended to help practitioners in maintaining adequate records for the purposes of the CSP enhancement. This document is not required to be filled out if other adequate records are available.

Annual Enhancement Checklist

(complete once per year, unless no management changes	needed)
☐ Grazing Plan : A written plan of how the forage ava animals:	ailable will be managed to meet the needs of the grazing
☐ Grazing Objectives:	
Maintain or improve plant health and vigor	Control or reduce invasive species
Maintain or improve forage quantity and quality	Improve grazing distribution
Provide or improve nesting cover for grassland	Reduce wildfire hazard
nesting birds	Remove excessive litter/duff/residue
Increase native species composition	Other:
☐ Resource Inventory : Forage inventory (stocking rainventory), maps, and other needed items.	ates) (can use SD Grazing Tool SD-CPA-39 Forage
☐ Contingency Planning: (attach additional pages if	needed). If not applicable, just write NA.
What will I do in the case of drought:	
What will I do in the case of unplanned fire:	
What will I do in the case of flood:	
What will I do in the case of(other disasentry, etc):	ster): (i.e., lightning, hail, tornado, harassment, unlawful

Monitoring Plan for Body Condition Scoring

Animal Type	Month/Stage of Production	# of Animal Type	# of Animals needed to be Monitored (1 out of 5 or 1 out of 10*)	Ideal Body Condition Score
Bison	November/start of weaning	150 - mature cows	15	4

¹ out of every 10 animals for mature cows (3+ years); 1 out of 5 animals for sub-adults (less than 3 years-old and non-breeding)

Suggested Times for Body Condition Scoring: (enter month(s) when this occurs on your operation)				
Pre-Calving				
Prior to Breeding				
2 months prior to weaning				

Circle months when animals will be monitored: Include the months from above, as well as any months when grazing will occur

January	February	March	April	May	June
July	August	September	October	November	December

Bison BCS Recommendations

	Ideal BCS for Conservation* focus:			Ideal BCS for Production* focus		
Stage of Production (time frame; months)	Cow	Heifer	Bull	Cow	Heifer	Bull
Weaning (Nov – Apr)	4→2.5	4→3	4→3	4→3	4→3	4→3
Pre-Calving (Apr – Jun)	2.5	3	3.5	3	3.5	3.5
Prior to Breeding (Jun – Sep)	3	3	2.5	3.5	3.5	2.5
Gestation/Pre-winter condition (Sep – Nov)	4	4	3.5	4	4	4

^{*}Conservation and production focused operations are separated to better guide the bison manager's decisions. The \rightarrow indicates a downward trend of body condition score over winter due to harsh conditions (this is normal in bison).

Additional Resources:

<u>Rubric:</u> What's the Score: Bison Body Condition Scoring (BCS) Guide (2007): https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex9622/\$FILE/bcs-bison.pdf

<u>Nutritional Guidelines:</u> Basic Nutrition of Bison (2000) Murray Feist. Saskatchewan Agriculture. https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/agriculture-natural-resources-and-industry/agribusiness-farmers-and-ranchers/livestock/cattle-poultry-and-other-livestock/bison/bison-basic-nutrition. *Note, this document may be out of date.

Huntington, G., M. Woodbury, and V. Anderson. 2019. Invited Review: Growth, voluntary intake, and digestion and metabolism of North American bison. Appl. Anim. Sci. 35:146–160. doi:10.15232/aas.2018-01798. Available from: https://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S2590286519300278

Center of Excellence for Bison Studies, South Dakota State University. https://www.sdstate.edu/center-excellence-bison-studies.

Monthly Monitoring Record

Herd Name/Number:	(Attach additional sheets for each herd if needed)	
	• (* ******* *** **** **** **** **** **	

Date of Monitoring	Pasture	# in Herd	Animal Type	Stage of Production	# of animals monitored	Average Score	Ideal Score	Additional Notes (if needed)
5/21/2020	Bob's Section	100	Сош	Lactating Cows	15	3	3,5	

Management actions taken when BCS is below ideal score:

Date	Management Actions taken (if any)
5/21/2020	Sort older thin cows to separate facility and offer higher quality nutrition rotate first calf dams to highest
	quality pasture before main cow herd \mid supplement if animal condition is low (\leq 2.5) \mid call local vet if
	drastically low (≤ 2)

${f Photo(s)}$ (photos can be attached or emailed – talk with your local NRCS office to see what they would prefer)

Cooperator Signature:	
Cooperator Signature:	

BISON

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Optional sheet for recording individual animal information:

Herd Name	Animal Type
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Date of Monitoring	Pasture	Tag # (optional)	Score	Additional Notes (if needed)
5/21/2020	Pasture Bob's Section	283	3	
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