



NAHMS Bison 2022 Study Study Launch



From July 2022 through November 2022, the USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), in collaboration with the National Agricultural Statistics Service, will conduct a national study focusing on ranched bison health and management in the United States. All bison producers will be able to participate in the study, which is designed to provide a snapshot of current health and management practices on U.S. bison operations. The information collected will also allow for the analysis of trends in specific topics related to bison health, based on the previous bison study, NAHMS Bison 2014.



Background

NAHMS collects scientifically accurate data for U.S. livestock, poultry, and aquaculture industries on a rotating basis. NAHMS studies are voluntary and confidential. For this bison study, priority issues facing the industry related to bison health and management were identified via responses to a survey to assess information needs and from communications with representatives from segments of the bison industry, including producer associations, veterinarians, and university and extension experts.

“The Bison 2014 Study was the first-ever comprehensive survey of herd health, management practices and other important factors in the U.S. bison business. USDA’s National Animal Health Monitoring System is now developing a follow-up study to build upon that baseline. This new study will provide the National Bison Association and other organizations, bison researchers, and policymakers with valuable information on the priority issues facing our business. This study will only be useful, though, if you and your fellow bison producers participate in the upcoming survey. The survey will be coming soon, so please respond promptly.”

Dave Carter
Executive Director, National Bison Association



Study Objectives

The NAHMS Bison 2022 Study is designed to provide stakeholders with valuable information about the U.S. bison industry. This study will describe the

- Status and changes in the U.S. bison industry from 2014 to 2022, including operation characteristics (such as inventory, size, and type), production purposes, and marketing practices;
- Current U.S. bison industry production practices and challenges, including animal management and welfare, nutrition and range management, and environmental stewardship;
- Health management and biosecurity practices;
- Producer-reported occurrence of select health problems, associated management practices or actions, and causes of bison mortality; and
- Determine the prevalence of select economically important pathogens for bison and evaluate quality of pasture forage.



Study Activities

Participating in any NAHMS study is voluntary. Producers who choose to participate in the NAHMS Bison 2022 Study will statistically represent other producers in their State who choose not to participate. The more producers who participate, the more representative the results will be.

As mentioned above, all U.S. bison producers, including Tribal entities, can participate in the study. All producers on the NASS listframe who report one or more bison will receive a written questionnaire in the mail in early July 2022. The study will offer three different modes for producers to use to complete the questionnaire:

- mailed paper questionnaire, which producers will complete on their own and return in a stamped, preaddressed envelope;
- online Web questionnaire accessed by a unique identification code; or
- a telephone interview with a NASS representative, who will administer the questionnaire to the producer over the phone and then submit the responses.



Opportunities for free biological sampling

Producers who complete the questionnaire will be able to sign up for free biological testing. Biological sampling can be conducted from July through November 2022. Producers will receive their results, and results are confidential. Interested producers can participate in any or all of the sampling opportunities:

- Fecal parasite testing, to look for gastrointestinal parasite presence and dewormer resistance;
- Enteric microbe testing, to detect certain microbes in operation bison; and/or
- Pasture forage testing to evaluate nutritional quality of forage.



Scientific Approach

NAHMS was established to collect accurate and valuable information on animal health and management in the United States. Since 1990, NAHMS has developed national estimates on disease prevalence and other factors related to the health of U.S. bison, beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goat, equine, poultry, and catfish populations.

NAHMS studies are national in scope, science based, statistically valid, collaborative, voluntary, and anonymous.



Benefits to Participating

Full participation in the NAHMS Bison 2022 study will provide producers—and industry—with the following benefits.

- Benchmark data on important bison health management practices and the health of bison in the United States.
- Improved understanding of disease preparedness strengths and vulnerabilities.
- Information important for policy makers and industry stakeholders.
- Identification of educational needs and opportunities related to bison health.
- Knowledge about gastrointestinal parasites and enteric microbes in herds.
- Information about pasture forage quality and nutritional value.

“USDA’s National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) conducts various studies of different livestock sectors to document benchmark information on animal health, nutrition, and research. USDA is planning to conduct an update to the Bison 2014 study in 2022, and it is very important for industry stakeholders to participate in the study. I strongly encourage bison producers to look for the study survey in summer of 2022 and respond in a timely manner. The more participation in the survey, the better USDA can respond to the needs of the industry.”

Dustin Oedekoven, DVM DACVPM
State Veterinarian and Executive Secretary
South Dakota Animal Industry Board



Confidentiality

Because NAHMS relies on voluntary participation, the privacy of every participant is protected. No name or contact information will be associated with individual data, and no data will be reported in a way that could reveal the identity of a participant. Data are presented only in an aggregate manner.

NAHMS is a recognized statistical unit by the Office of Management and Budget. All information acquired for the NAHMS Bison 2022 Study will be used for statistical purposes only and will be treated as confidential in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA). Data collected under CIPSEA are protected from Freedom of Information requests.

To be sure their operation is included, producers can visit <https://www.agcounts.usda.gov/static/get-counted.html>.



For More Information

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