

## Bison Biosecurity and Welfare Assurance Program

The Saskatchewan Bison Association will be introducing the Bison Biosecurity and Welfare Assurance Program at the SBA Producer Meeting at North Battleford on February 28, 2018. The program will continue until December 31, 2022. Future dates and times for sessions will be announced through the Saskatchewan Bison Association. This program was developed with Canadian Agriculture Partnership funding, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the Government of Canada. Once completed, producers may qualify for 50% of project costs up to a total of \$15,000 that will improve animal welfare on your farm or ranch.

Eligible applicants:

- Agricultural producers and First Nations

All applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Saskatchewan producers; and
- 18 years of age and demonstrate a minimum of \$50,000 gross farm income in Saskatchewan
- Must have a Saskatchewan Premises Identification number

Eligible producers must also;

- receive the industry training and complete the self-assessment to receive the certificate of completion.
- have a licensed veterinarian complete the Animal Welfare Equipment Recommendation Report.

<http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/20/109217-Equipment%20Recommendation%20Report%20-%20BISON.pdf>

Funding is available for assessments and for eligible equipment. The maximum rebate for assessments is \$1,000 (can include more than one assessment/follow-up assessment);

- Assessment must be completed by a licensed veterinarian in Saskatchewan
- Assessments must be completed to receive equipment funding;
- Producers must take training in the sector code of practice.

Eligible Equipment;

- Non-slip rubber padding
- Dart guns
- Crash gate/Bison squeezes/Neck brace
- Tarps/belting for alleys
- Roofing/other coverings for animal movement within handling facility
- Box stalls that facilitate segregation
- Moveable/freestanding gates and panels
- Sliding gates
- Scales (administration of medication based on weights)
- Exit alleyway handling chute
- Loading chute/ load chute with adjustable ramps to match trailer heights

## FAQs

1. Will “used” equipment qualify?
  - a. Used or leased equipment is not eligible. The equipment must be purchased new.
2. Will “leased” equipment qualify?
  - a. Used or leased equipment is not eligible. The equipment must be purchased new.
3. The \$50,000 in gross farm receipts. Does this need to be from bison sales or is this from the entire farm operation?
  - a. The \$50,000 in gross farm income is from the entire agriculture operation.
4. Who can take the training for the program? Owner only, manager, or employee?
  - a. The training must be taken by the owner. In the case of a partnership or corporation, it must be taken by one of the partners.

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