

5TH ANNUAL BISON WORKER SAFETY & HERD HEALTH ROUNDTABLE: THE NUMBERS

June 14 - 15, 2023



50 participants
15 women, 35 men

Biggest Safety Concerns

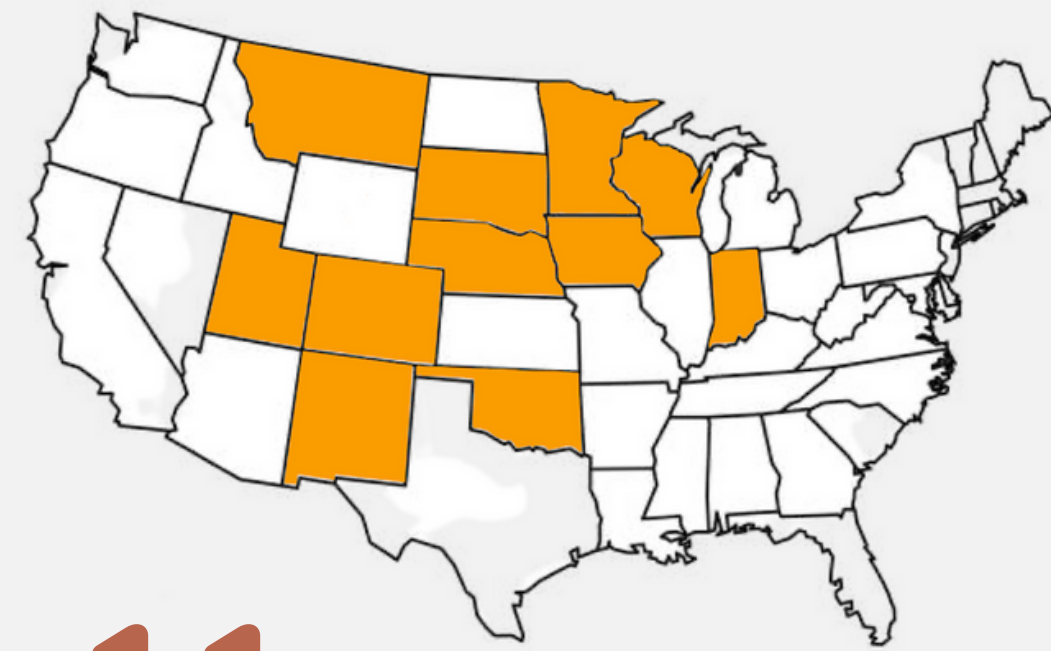
Survey responses when participants were asked about their perception of the biggest safety concerns when working with bison.

- 1. Bison Temperament**
Bison are wild creatures and prone to act aggressively when provoked, which can be caused by high stress handling techniques, condition of equipment, and more.
- 2. Handling Equipment**
Equipment used must be properly maintained. Cattle equipment is frequently repurposed for working with bison, posing a hazard to bison and workers alike.
- 3. Inadequate Training**
Working with bison is a high-risk occupation; workers must be knowledgeable and competent of hazards, safe techniques, and bison temperament to safely work.
- 4. Lack of Awareness or Understanding**
Workers should be aware of surroundings, stress level of bison, understand the temperament of bison, and be mindful of actions to reduce risk of injury.

What changes will bison workers implement?

Survey responses when asked what knowledge, skills, and/or techniques participants will implement in bison handling practices.

- 1. Corral design**
When setting up a corral system, design should be created based on bison behaviors. Sharp corners and possibilities for large shadows should be avoided.
- 2. Low stress techniques**
Low stress handling techniques are one of the best ways to promote worker and herd safety; they should be implemented at all times and considered a priority.
- 3. Herd health knowledge**
It is important for bison handlers to be knowledgeable about the health of the herd, including infectious diseases, physical injuries, pregnancy rate, and more.



11 states represented

95% of participants responded they will likely attend the next annual conference

16 tribes represented

- Cherokee Nation
- Crow Tribe
- Sac & Fox Tribe of Mississippi in IA (Meskwaki Nation)
- Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of OK
- Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- Forest County Potawatomi
- Ute Indian Tribe
- Santee Sioux Tribe of NE
- Nambe Pueblo O-ween-ge
- Menominee Indian Tribe of WI
- Oglala Sioux Tribe
- Picuris Pueblo
- Taos Pueblo
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Pueblo of Sandia

Next Steps

Survey responses when participants were asked what they would like to see incorporated into the culturally appropriate bison worker safety tailgate training manual.

- 1. Inclusion of history & culture**
Participants wanted to see incorporation of Native American history & culture, including traditional stories regarding bison.
- 2. Health & safety**
Participants wanted to see more health and safety information for workers and bison.