

Welcome to the 4-H Bison Project

Howdy!

We hope you were challenged with the first manual and you are excited to learn more about bison in this second level manual. Once again, this project year will be a great opportunity for you to make new friends, take part in 4-H activities, and learning more about bison and their native value!

To complete your project year in 4-H bison, you must

- Complete four to six of the units per club year of the manual material
- Take part in at least 70% of club activities
- Do a communication project
- Complete a record book
- Take part in your achievement day
- Have a lot of FUN!

About the bison project material

Congratulations! You have completed the first manual and you are about to begin the next level. We hope that you find the information in these manuals to be both educational and fun! Prepare yourself to learn about the colourful past and inspiring future of today's bison.

Today's bison industry is relatively new despite their long history in North America. It is important to remember that this industry is going through rapid evolution, and information may change as more research is developed. You are encouraged to add on to the information provided in these manuals as it comes available to you. The project material is covered in three member manuals, this is the second of the manuals. By placing this material in a three-ring binder, you will be able to create your very own "Bison Handbook". In years to come, this book will become a valuable keepsake, as you witness the progress of this growing industry.

Alberta 4-H Bison Project – Member Level Two

About your record book

Depending on the project you wish to do, you will have a choice in what record book you can complete. If you decide that you would like to do a project involving the *Exploring Bison* you may wish to use a craft, sewing or generic record book available at the 4-H office, or create your own record book that explains your project from the beginning of the 4-H year through to your achievement. If you wish to create a record book of your own you would need to include the components that are listed at the back of this chapter.

If you choose to do the *Bison Herd Observations* project, you can use the Alternative Livestock Record Book to complete this project. All applicable information would need to be completed in this book by the date specified by the club.

The *Carcass Bison* project is another project that you may wish to create your own record book for, or you could use the generic record book depending on the nature of your specific project. Once again, if you choose to create your own record book for this project, please refer to the last page of this chapter for a guideline of required topics.

Achievement day requirements

For achievement of this project, you may be required to prepare a display of your information depending on your individual project you have selected to do. This may be done using pictures, words or even demonstrations. Provincially, you are strongly encouraged to attend the Wild Rose Show and Sale held in Camrose. This show will provide all members with the opportunity to meet other youth from across the province, and will teach you valuable skills needed in the industry. For more information you can contact the Bison Centre of Excellence web page at www.bisoncentre.com or phone toll free using the rite line at 310-0000 then coding in 780-986-4100.

Other opportunities in 4-H

Your bison project is only a small part of 4-H. There are many fun and exciting activities that are offered at club, district, regional and provincial levels. These activities will provide you with the opportunity to attend social events, where you can meet other people your age. Clubs are encouraged to invite special guests, plan fun activities, tours and trips. Your district and regional 4-H councils may sponsor workshops, camps and exchanges as well as fun events. At the provincial level, members are encouraged to attend camps, shows and development programs. Many scholarships are also available to 4-H members continuing on with their education.



You can use the **Alternative Livestock Record Book** provided by your 4-H leader
OR create your own Record Book

**Congratulations for challenging yourself to complete a project that
will be unique to you!**

Why do you keep records in 4-H?

- To record information about your bison project.
- So you can see the actual costs involved in completing your project.
- To learn how to keep accurate records.
- To record your club activities and other activities.

What is involved in a good record book?

- Completeness – a good record book has all the required information completed.
- Accuracy – your information and costs should be accurate.
- Neatness – is important in your record book. Because you are working on your record book throughout the year, always do your best to keep your book neat.
- Personality – this is your record book. Be original and personal in the information you keep in your book. Add photographs, newspaper and magazine articles on you, your club, your project area and 4-H in general.
- Make your book unique.
- It will be an excellent record of your project and the 4-H year!

What is needed to create your own record book?

In order to create your own record book you will need to include a few essential components.

About me

- Full name
- Address
- Phone number
- Age
- Number of years in 4-H
- Why did you join 4-H?
- What do you hope to achieve this year?

About my club

- Club name
- Number of members
- How long has the club been operating
- 4-H district that you belong to
- 4-H region that you belong to
- Club Leader(s) – names and phone numbers
- Club Executive – President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Club Reporter, Historian, Other positions.

About your project

- Explain what your project is.
- Set up a list of objectives and goals that you wish to accomplish.
- What is the best thing you have done with your project over the year?
- What would you like to do if you had the opportunity?
- What techniques and skills did you need to learn or did you learn to do this project?
- What did you like best about completing this project?

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Equipment and supplies

- List all equipment and supplies you personally own or obtained to do your project. As accurately as possible determine what the real cost of doing your project might be.
- Record all the costs you incurred for this project.
- Remember to record dates of purchase, item and cost.

Pictures from your club year

- Beginning of project year, during club year photos, fun times, whatever you think will help you to explain your project and club year to others.

Record of your club's activities

- Keep a record of all the meetings and activities your club has had this year. Provide details and don't forget to mention any special responsibilities you had. *Remember to record the date of the meeting or activity.*

Project story

- Write a summary of your 4-H year and project just to summarize everything that you did. You can include photos and news articles, etc. (If you do use news articles remember to reference and date them.)

Congratulations you have created your own special record book that is completely unique to you and your project!

Here is a challenging activity for you!

Can you draw the following picture by trying to draw it one frame at a time!? The bison has been a source of inspiration of many artists over the years. Now is your turn!!



