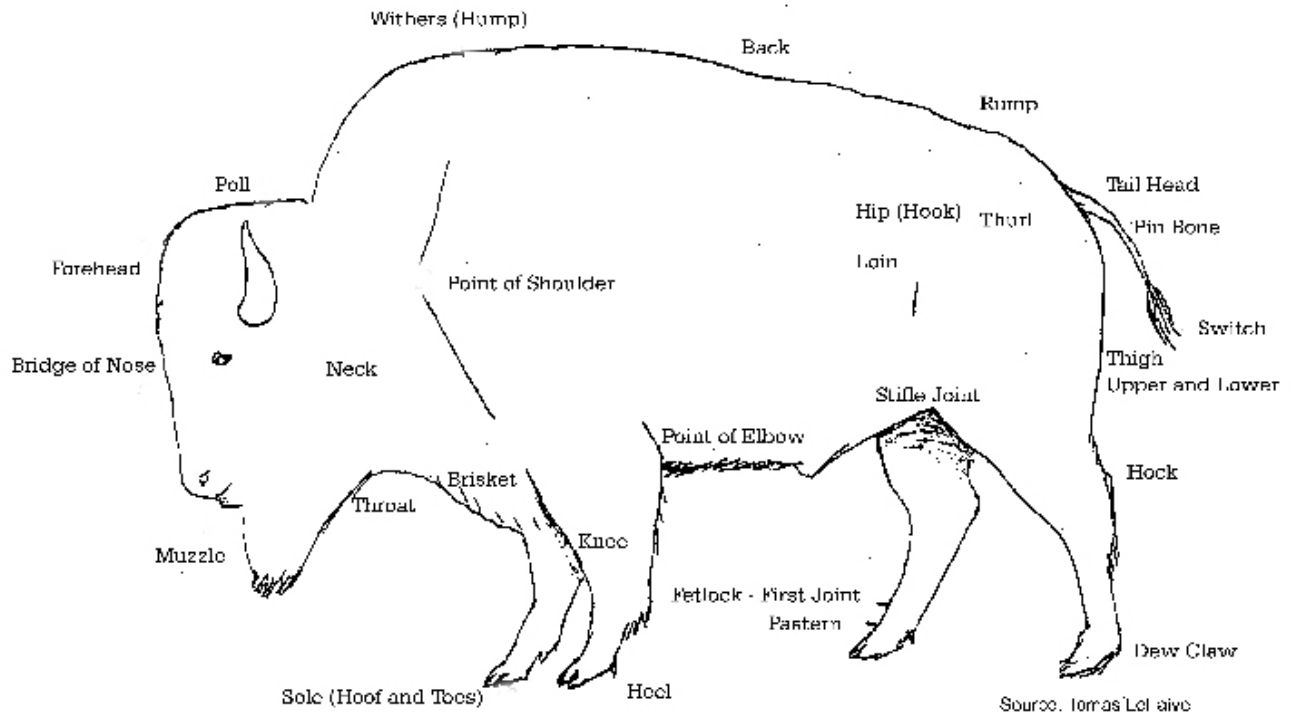


Judging Bison

Parts of the Bison



Perfect Score

Breed and Age Characteristics 25 points

- Weight
- Height
- Length – primarily length of loin as this is a meat animal
- Hump
- Head – horns if present
- Hair – varies on geographical location
- Beard
- Cape
- Chaps on forelegs
- Body outline
- Colouration - varies on geographical location

Males

Masculine, massive, without female features, wider head, larger horns, developed hump, cape, pelage (raised hair from front shoulder on forward) and leggings, body massive, bigger boned, wide stance (to maintain better balance)

Females

More refined, lighter shoulder and neck, refined head and bone, less pronounced hump, width between hip and hook bones (calving ease).

Soundness..... 25 points

- Correct body and skeletal structure
- Free from any defect that would reduce useful life of animal
 - a. Feet – without defect - can be an indicator of feed
 - b. Legs – straight - but not as straight up and down as in cattle, helps give spring
 - c. Teeth – proper growth and typical arrangement
 - d. Eyes – without defect, both functional – shine in eye shows health and alertness
 - e. Sex organs intact, without injury, typical
 - f. Animal should stand and move freely without evidence of unsoundness
 - g. Bodylines and contours, without slithered rear end.

Condition..... 25 points

Must be appropriate for their intended use and time of year, sex and age must also be considered.

- Good health – free of injury, coughing, scours, eyes, parasites,
- Amount of fat conditioning
- Amount and development of muscle

Quality..... 25 points

- Well balanced with pleasing general appearance
- Display alertness, dominance, instinct behaviour
- Big enough for age (bones & muscle, body structure, you must be able to determine amount of body fat)
- Depth of carcass front to rear (front, rear & side view) - capacity
- Width of carcass across back and throughout full length - appropriate to age and sex
- Total length of animal
- Depth, width and fullness of round without pencil pointedness

Source: Mike Edgar - Grande Prairie, Alberta