

DTBA
Black Hills
Buffalo Thunder
Premier Bull Sale

Live Judging Criteria

2025 Judges Dick Gehring David Lautt

# **Dakota Territory Buffalo Association**

### **Black Hills Buffalo Thunder Live Judging Criteria Presentation**

Educating buyers and guiding consignors to strengthen herds through informed judging of solid genetics for breeding & production excellence for a strong future of North American bison.

# For the Consignor ~

- Inform for what judges are looking for
- Explanation for all 9 judging criterias
- Structure based selection for longevity of propagation & production

# For the Buyer ~

- help point out strengths that they can apply to their own herd
- Insight of scoring to help see each animal's value and fit for your own herd

# For the Bison Industry ~

- Rebuild herds based on strong structure for longevity
- Industry wide benefit as a result from consignor & buyer evaluations

### **Dakota Territory Buffalo Association**

#### Black Hills Buffalo Thunder Live Judging Criteria Presentation

### NINE Categories for a Total of 120 points

- 1. First Impression/Condition = 20 points
- 2. Soundness or Correct Legs & feet = 30 points
- 3. Top Line = 10 points
- 4. Depth = 10 points
- 5. Base Width = 10 points
- 6. Length of Torso from Point of Shoulder to Pin Bone = 10 points
- 7. Bone Thickness & Correctness = 5 points
- 8. Hip Scores = 10 points
- 9. Head Scores = 5 points

Performance Measures = ADG Grass & ADG Grain ~ if provided, this information is extremely valuable for the discerning buyer to evaluate & will be included in sales catalog

# FIRST IMPRESSION/CONDITION - 20 POINTS

~ The First Impression/Condition gives a judge that first impact that either catches their eye positively or negatively ~

#### **POSITIVES**

- Overall Balance
- Appearance that 'POPS'
- Way the animal MOVES/TRACKS
- How they carry themselves

#### **NEGATIVES**

Indications of a very fat animal;

- Excessive hump fat
- Excessive globular fat at tail set
- Width high above center of round

# SOUNDNESS OR CORRECT LEGS & FEET-30 POINTS

Correct is Correct—Building Stronger Herds for Generations

**Soundness matters:** Correct legs and feet are paramount for a breeding animal to endure the pressures of a lifetime of reproduction.

**Strong foundations:** An animal's foundation is just as critical as the foundation of your house.

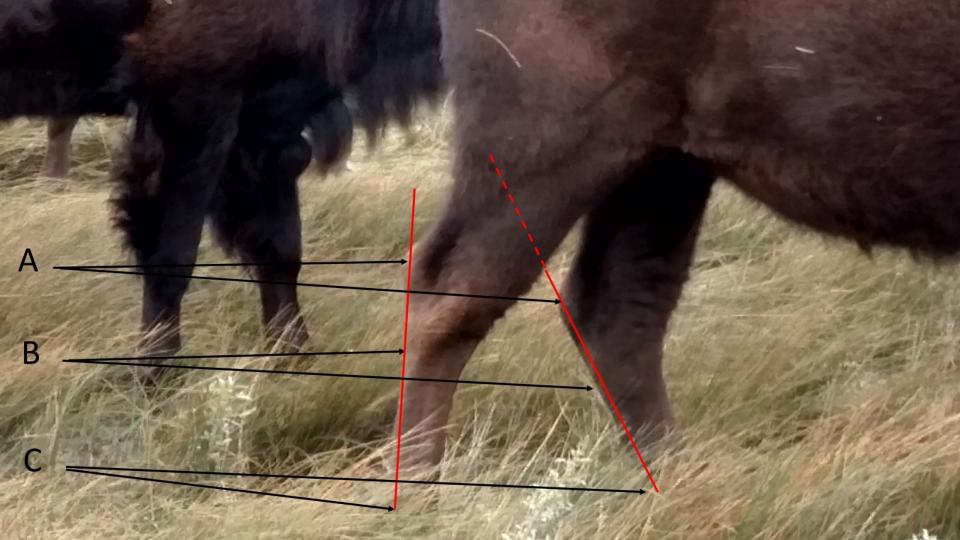
**Deficiencies take a toll:** Flaws in the feet, skeleton, or musculature force the animal to compensate—at a cost to its health and performance.

# SOUNDNESS OR CORRECT LEGS & FEET-30 POINTS Continued

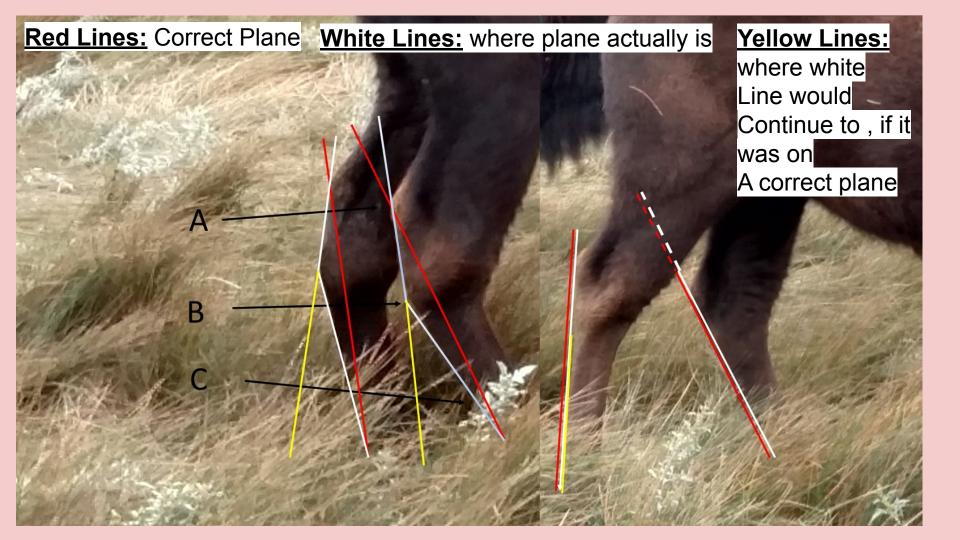
### Correct is Correct—Building Stronger Herds for Generations

#### **Structural Evaluation**

- Both front and back legs will be considered.
- Soundness is essential for breeding animals to propagate.
- See next slide, slide #7, as example: A straight plane is present from Point A through Point B & continues to Point C. These hind legs are correct ~







### SOUNDNESS OR CORRECT LEGS & FEET-30 POINTS Continued

Correct is Correct—Building Stronger Herds for Generations

#### Other

- **Curvature:** Any curvature that joint or in the straight bone below it will receive a significant score reduction.
- Joint Soundness: Clicking or popping in the ankle, hock, or other joints will lower scores.
- **Swelling:** Excessive swelling around the pastern (just above the hooves) may indicate overfeeding, overweight, or possible heart failure.
- Deviations or malformations in joints below the hock may occur for several reasons.

### SOUNDNESS OR CORRECT LEGS & FEET-30 POINTS Continued

All three pictures below show some degree of bowing to the straight bone without angulation of the joint above. While the affliction is not as severe, this undesirable trait will cause point reductions







# **TOP LINE - 10 POINTS**

### CORRECT TOP LINE

- Relatively straight plane from highest point of hump to tail set
- Natural curves to toplines that don't affect animal movement or flexibility are not in question

### **UNDESIRED**

- Rounded or rainbow looking back
- Excessive sway back

# **DEPTH - 10 POINTS**

Depth can be described as the distance from the top of the shoulder to the brisket and how it carries that depth throughout the rest of the torso to the rear leg.

# **BASE WIDTH - 10 POINTS**

Base Width will be judged looking at the front and rear of the animal.

### **DESIRED**

- Some distance between the front & back legs
- Wider stance for muscle capacity

### **NOT DESIRED**

 Narrow Frame ~ knees, hocks, or feet almost touching

An inch in width across an animal will carry more weight than you expect.

# **LENGTH OF TORSO - 10 POINTS**

**Torso Length:** Measured from the point of shoulder to the pin bone.

**Loin Section:** Special attention to the loin, which contributes to greater steak value.

# **BONE - 5 POINTS**

Bone Evaluation: Judged by thickness and correctness.

**Distinct from Legs:** While similar, bone assessment is a separate evaluation from leg correctness.

# HIP SCORES - 10 POINTS

**Hip Score Focus:** Based on length from the hooks to the pins.

Hooks Defined: Knobby prominences along the back, just behind the flank.

**Pins Defined:** Rear end of the pelvis, parallel to the tail head.

**Evaluation Factors:** Alignment of the hooks-to-pins plane with the topline and how muscling carries down toward the hock.

# **HEAD SCORES - 5 POINTS**

**Head Scores Matter:** Though they may seem small, they provide important indicators.

Abnormalities: Short faces, rhinitis, and other issues signal underlying problems.

**Sex Characteristics:** Feminine heads are expected in females; masculine heads in bulls.

Feminine heads on bulls indicate lack of dominance. Masculine heads on females indicate lack of virility.