

## **Veterinary Care Panel Discussion**

**Dr. Gerald Parsons, DVM, Stratford Animal Clinic**

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Born and raised an OKIE ! The Lord has blessed my life with a wonderful adventure and the opportunity to meet some really good people. In 1993 my bison saga began with making every mistake you possibly could, which turned out to be helpful in identifying all my lack of knowledge. Since, the bison have returned double to me everything I have put into them. This is why I will continue to include bison in my goal of service and preservation.

**Dr. Dave Schroeder, DVM**

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Dr. Schroeder received his degree in veterinary medicine from CSU in 1974. He practiced the next years in eastern Colorado doing primarily ranch and feedlot work. From 1997 until 2008, he was the resident veterinarian at Wolf Springs Ranch, a large horse and bison producer in southern Colorado. His responsibilities included the management, herd health, and marketing of approximately 2000 bison.

Recently, Schroeder has done consulting work for bison producers in western U.S. and Canada.

# **Bison Health Care**

## **DOLLARS AND CENTS ABOUT HERD HEALTH & MANAGEMENT**

**“Managing stress in bison usually helps manage your stress”**

### **1. Parasites**

#### **A. Internal**

- a. Environmental influences (weather, population, feeding practices, movement and management).
- b. Treatments: injectables, pour on, drenches, and feed
- c. Post treatment care and management (seasonal)

#### **B. External**

- a. Topography
- b. Treatment: sprays, dips, injectables, pour on, feeds, and green
- c. Management

### **2. Infectious**

#### **A. Eye**

- a. Treatment and prevention (vaccines, fly control, isolation, and treatment)

#### **B. Respiratory**

- a. Treatment and prevention (vaccines, isolation, and treatment)

#### **C. Intestinal**

- a. Management causes perpetuating (diet, protozoan, bacterial, and viral)
- b. Treatments and prevention

### **3. Dietary**

#### **A. Toxins and deficiencies**

#### **B. Importance of weight watching or body condition scores**

### **4. Reproductive**

#### **A. Gain weight**

#### **B. Infectious (causes and prevention)**

#### **C. Breeding soundness**

- a. Semen Test
- b. Pregnancy testing

### **5. Cycle of herd health:**

**March-** need to deworm with non ivomec wormer, vaccinate for your needs, Semen Test Bulls

**May-** precalving no more than 30 days increase protein and meet any mineral deficiencies in your area.

**June-** calving and after calving increase energy in feed for milk production and increasing body condition for rebreeding in coming months.

**July to August-** watch for individual health or body conditions

**September to November-** Fall work (pregnancy test cows, Vaccinate, deworm with Ivomectrin products, wean calves and work calves for what is intended use)

**December to March -** feed and maintain body condition on breeding herd not over -condition (this is time of fetuses major growth) because could cause calving problems. The weaned calves will need a good quality ration to continue to grow.