

TXBP (SCSOI)

Stakeholder Citizen Science & Observations Initiative

Mission: To observe, analyze, document, record and share observations made about internal parasitism in bison and how it correlates to: management, the biotic community, the environment, sustainable bison restoration and production, and Bison herd health.

Vision: Bison management-plans validated by scientific process that achieve environmental and eco-system function combined with technologies and veterinary solutions as a means to control parasitism and associated disease in Bison.

TXBP is known by name **only to those who participate** in the Stakeholder Citizen Science & Observations Initiative. Texas A&M University does not officially recognize, or perform archival or administrative services. Each participant who is active, or has been active at sometime, will be automatically included on TXBP NEWS, Alerts and updates. The 'Letter Of Collaboration' is required to gain any advantages in lab fees, shipping costs and/or any additional benefits achieved for collaborators **as the program evolves**. There is no cost and no annual dues to be a participating Stakeholder Citizen Science & Observations Initiative group member, only a filled out letter of collaboration filed with Frasier Bison LLC. A 'Letter Of Collaboration' is required to allow observations to be included, **without ownership or premise ID info**, in the collective observations of the TXBP working group identified as a 'Stakeholder Citizen Science & Observations Initiative'. Sharing your observations is **(NOT)** required.

TXBP/SCSOI Collaboration is the means by which - you get shared with.

Address for fecal and organ samples:

Texas A&M University

Diagnostic Parasitology/ Joe Luksovsky

664 Raymond Stotzer Parkway

VICI 126, Bldg #1814

College Station, TX 77843

Important Notes & Tips:

- Mark the outside of the shipping container with 'BISON'
- Place the (customer information sheet) inside a zip lock bag on top of the samples inside the shipping container.
- Add my email (TBEFrasier@aol.com) as the alternate contact for reports
 - o This is a choice (not) a requirement. You may also forward your reports to Frasier Bison LLC.
- Ship: **FedEx Priority Overnight** (only) for best SVA and sample shipping results
- Be sure to ship no later than on a Wednesday, and email (or call) Joe Luksovsky to announce the samples have been shipped.
- **Don't miss out** on the Southeast Vocational Alliance (reduced shipping) provided to all TXBPSCSOI Collaborators with Letters Of Collaboration filed with Frasier Bison LLC.
- **Always check the lab availability before shipping, especially during holiday cycles**
 - o (979) 845 – 5180 (OR) JLuksovsky@cvm.tamu.edu
- Video (20 minutes) with important hints & tips for proper fecal collection:

<https://frasierbison.com/bison-consultation/bison-parasitology/>

TXBP Hints & Frequent Q&A

- ☐ Always use: FedEx Priority Overnight
 - o Folks have tried other logistics and have become frustrated with performance
- ☐ During holiday cycles, make sure and check on lab availability to receive samples
- ☐ Always ship no later than Wednesday – just in case

- ☐ Q: How many samples do I collect?
 - o A: It depends. The standard is 10-15% of the herd to get an accurate assessment of parasitism. I think the following things are also true:
 - ☐ 10-15% of each age-class will yield a more informative look. For example: calves/ 1-2 yr olds / adults / adult males/ ect. We know that 1-2 year olds and first calf heifers can be more infected than adults, and we also know now, that the young calves are heavily infected. Testing the young calves that are at least 2 months old, is the only way to discover Toxocara in the herd.
 - ☐ 5% of the entire population will work in herd of 1,000 and more, as long as you collect multiple populations from different areas of the ranch.
 - ☐ If you have a small herd, say 5-10 head + calves, then I recommend testing the entire herd.
 - o I also believe that when we collect fecal samples, we should be looking for parasites. Therefore; collect the worst looking individuals so you can control the pasture deposits of L3's that will infect the other bison.

- ☐ Q: How often should I test? A: It depends. If you want a record of parasitism for the herd, then you should take a look at least 6 times per year. Keep in mind the prevalence of primary parasites may vary from year to year, but 2 years should give you an idea (IF) you are experiencing normal precipitation and grass. The main thing in heavily parasitized regions is to know what's going on in the warm season and the fall. The warm season starts with spring and wanes in late fall/early winter.
 - o This is complicated in the Southern Great Plains whereas our cool season can start in November and carry moist warm and green conditions sporadically, if not continuously, through the entire winter.
 - o If you have: wet/ warm / and green – you have active internal parasites.

- ☐ Q: why can't I just find out what everyone else is doing, and do that? A: Because you can't judge your parasitism correctly, or with accuracy, by what is true for a different herd.
 - o This reality can also be true for treatment efficacy.

- ☐ Q: How do I know the de-wormer worked? A: re-testing 10-14 days (not 9/ not 15) will show how good of a kill (efficacy) you accomplished with your choice of de-wormer (Anthelmintic).
 - o De-wormer is often expensive and it serves your economics and your herds' health to know the results by re-testing post-treatment.
 - o The biggest value of re-testing is knowing if treatment didn't work – tick/tock, time to get busy and prevent disease.

