

## 2022 First Bison Calves

### First Bison Calves of 2022

The first bison calf of the year was born Wednesday. A second calf was born today.

We expect at least a couple more.

Their timing is about right. Bison calves are normally born from late April to early June.

We do not control the breeding season of our bison. Few bison raisers do. Bison have been figuring that out on their own for a very long time.

Bison calves are smaller than cattle born to moms of similar size. Because of their unique, front heavy bodies, bison have small hips and a smaller birth canal. Being small does not slow bison calves down however.

They stand immediately after birth and are capable of running within minutes.

The cows are very watchful and protective.

Once, many years ago, I tried to help a weak calf. It was born to a confused heifer during a blizzard. I thought that I might help the calf by drying it and warming it in the barn. We often did that with cattle.

To do so I maneuvered a tractor between the heifer-mom and the calf. I quickly grabbed the calf and held it on the tractor. The mom instantly joined me and the calf on the tractor seat.

I gave the calf back.

There was nothing I could do.

In the first two photos, the bison cows and calves are in typical defensive stances. The cows are on full alert with the calves under their shadows. The cows will keep the calves very near for the first month.

Granddaughter Samantha took these photos.

The third photo is of Bill, our herd bull. He strolled over to the fence to let us know he was on duty. He had been tossing a hay bale around for fun. He still had some straws on this face.

Bill is still wearing his gorgeous winter coat.

Best regards.

Tom





