

## What do Bison do in a Snowstorm?

Answer: Exactly what they were doing before the snowstorm began.

Bison just ignore cold and snow.

Their wonderful winter coats have from four to ten times as many hairs per square inch as domestic cattle.

Bison also have many different types of hair that grow in multiple layers.

Hairs that range from fluffy down to super coarse guard hairs to long stiff bonnet hairs.

I have been told that 32 different hair types can be identified on a mature bull.

Their down hairs, which are an underlayer, are of higher thermal quality than sheep's wool.

The moisture repellent quality of bison wool is also superior to sheep's wool.

Unfortunately, bison wool cannot be bleached or dyed.



Plus, bison wool is harder to collect.

In the first and third photos, Bill our herd bull, is closely following a three-year-old heifer.

Bison breeding season is mid-summer.

Clearly, Bill is a forward thinker.

Happy winter.

Tom

Bill is courting the heifer.

He follows her closely and does not let any other bison get close to her, especially young bulls.

Several of the eight calves that we bought in November are in the left side of the photo.

They are doing very well.

Bison are dimorphic. That means the males grow larger than the females.

In bison, the males are almost twice the size of the cows.

That is not true in cattle. For cattle, females can be as large as males.

Humans are moderately dimorphic. Tom.

