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Intertribal Bison Cooperative &  
Administration for Native Americans**

**Questions & Answers**

**Q:** How many average size buffalo hides does it take to make a 16 foot tipi?

**A:** 18 Hides

**Q:** Can buffalo swim?

**A:** Yes

**Q:** Can a buffalo jump?

**A:** Yes, buffalo can jump as high as 8 foot high fences.

**Q:** How many stomachs do buffalo have?

**A:** Four

**Q:** How fast can a buffalo run?

**A:** An estimated 40 miles per hour

**Q:** What is the estimated distance a buffalo can run at a speed of 35 to 40 miles per hour?

**A:** 3 to 5 miles

**Q:** Can buffalo sleep standing up?

**A:** Yes

**Q:** What color tongue does a buffalo have?

**A:** Black

**Q:** What do buffalo eat?

**A:** Prairie Grasses such as bluegrass, buffalo grass, & grama grasses

**Q:** How long is the normal life span of a buffalo?

**A:** 30 years—40 years

**For more information on buffalo go to  
[www.itcbison.com](http://www.itcbison.com)**



Photo by ARS/UDSA

## BUFFALO FACTS



Photo Credit: NPS Photo

**Description:** The first thing we notice about the bison is it's massive size. They have huge humped shoulders. The hump is pure muscle attached to extra-long shoulder spines or vertebrae which gives it strength to lift its huge heavy head. The bison use their head to clear paths and to move things; such as moving deep snow drifts to get to the grass. Bison have cloven hooves and are ruminants (cud-chewers) with unbranched horns present on both males and females. The horns are a permanent part of the skull.

**Size:** A mature cow will, on average, weigh 1,000-1,200 pounds. A mature bull will average 1,500-2,000 pounds. A standing adult bison can be as tall as 6 feet high at the shoulders.

**Reproduction:** Bison generally produce one 40-50 pound calf at a rate of one per year (after 9 ½ months gestation), with cows reproducing well into their 20's. Calves are born from mid-April through May and are born a bright red rust color that changes into dark brown by 6 months of age.

**Diet:** Bison feed on grasses and other vegetation. A bison herd will forage two miles a day searching for food.



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