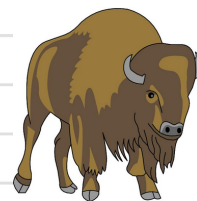


Bison and Environmental Sustainability



Grades: 6-12

Subject: Social Studies

- **Essential Question: How does the Prairie's ecosystem influence the livelihoods, traditions, and identities of local farming communities?**

Before Viewing:

Introduce the topic - land, agriculture, and community are deeply connected in Minnesota. Ask students to think about local farmers in their own towns. Do they see their products at the grocery store? Farmers markets?

During Viewing:

Have students watch the video and listen carefully to answer the following comprehension questions:

- 1) Where is Rolling R Ranch located?
- 2) In what year did Dale and his wife start bison ranching?
- 3) What animal did Dale have a difficult time taking care of due to the Prairie's extreme weather?
- 4) What food do bison need during the breeding season?
- 5) Why do bison need stronger corrals in the fall?
- 6) How is bison meat different from cattle?
- 7) Where are Rolling R Ranch's products sold?

After Viewing:

Activity - Have students research a local farm or manufacturing site to examine the relationship between production and place. How do local land features and natural resources support what is produced and how does the operation shape the surrounding environment and community?

