

Temple Grandin improves animal welfare standards for beef, bison

Sustainable food certifier Food Alliance said existing certified producers required to comply with new criteria by 2012

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With the help of Dr. Temple Grandin, the nation's foremost authority on humane livestock handling, Food Alliance recently revised its certification criteria for beef cattle and bison to include more stringent humane animal care and handling requirements.

Third-party certifier Food Alliance, based in Portland, Ore., has certified 384 farms, ranches and food processors in 27 states - raising beef, lamb, pork, dairy products, grains, legumes, and a wide variety of fruits and vegetables - for sustainable agricultural and production practices.

These include safe and fair working conditions, reduction of pesticide use and toxicity, healthy and humane care for livestock, no genetically modified crops or livestock and no hormones or non-therapeutic antibiotics.

The certification requires continuous improvement in social and environmental management practices.

Businesses that meet Food Alliance's standards, as determined by a third-party site inspection, are allowed to use the non-profit's green eco-label to claim social and environmental responsibility, which differentiates products and can strength brands.

The revised beef cattle and bison criteria applies immediately to all new certification applicants.

Existing certified producers are required to comply with the new criteria by January.

To learn more about Food Alliance criteria, and download the revised beef cattle & bison criteria, click [here](#).

"Food Alliance Certified ranchers have always met the highest standards for healthy and humane care for livestock," said Scott Exo, Food Alliance executive director. "Dr. Grandin's input and approval of our revised beef and bison criteria ensures continual improvement of those practices. This gives consumers confidence that they are buying meat produced in the most socially and environmentally responsible ways possible."

Grandin is internationally known for applying unique situations she experienced growing up with autism and associating them with the treatment of animals in stressful situations.

She is a pioneer in creating humane handling systems in the livestock industry and is a teacher and consultant in the field. She is also the best-selling author of "Thinking in Pictures," "Animals in Translation" and "Humane Livestock Handling."