



# The Blanbrook Bison Farm



*Bison.....*

*Nature's Best is Back!*

# Who

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- Bruce and Shirley Mills
- Originally milk farmers
- Grew up in the area, 3rd generation farmers

# Where

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- Blanbrook Bison Farm RR6 St. Mary's, Ontario
- Small, family run business



# What

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- *American Bison*
- Once inhabited North America in massive herds, but were hunted to near extinction by American settlers and native americans
- Now as many as 500,000 in captive commercial populations
- Over 250,000 being raised for human consumption





# Some Confusion...

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- Bison are NOT buffalo



American Bison



Water Buffalo



# The Product

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- Steaks, roasts, charcuterie
- Offal
- By-products
- Nearly 75% yield

# When

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- In 1992 they sold the cows and bought bison
- As the market expands they face problems with supply and demand, but...
- Bison are not that popular
- Not a lot of bison farmers around so there are not a lot of buyers
- Has to reapply for government subsidies
- Wants to expand, sell more products

# Why

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- Likes the ease of raising buffalo
- Likes the small market
- No commercial farming
- Sells to local restaurants
- Used to be difficult to sell in Stratford

# Comparison

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- Only bison farm within 100 miles
- Leaner than beef, pork, and salmon
- Nutritional Value
- Can buy fresh
- Better than elk