EXHIBIT 1A – BONELESS AND GROUND BISON MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTING REQUIREMENTS

Boneless Bison for Grinding

- A lot shall consist of a single combo sized bin of approximately 2,000 pounds of boneless bison produced within a day, between "cleanup to cleanup".
- Microbial Testing – Samples from all lots of fresh chilled boneless bison shall be sent to an AMS designated laboratory (ADL). Samples from each lot shall be tested for *E. coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella*, and indicator microorganisms (aerobic plate count, total coliform and generic *E. coli*).
- Sample Preparation and Handling - The ADL shall be responsible for supplying sampling procedures for sample selection, preparation, and submission. The laboratory shall require suppliers to submit a sample submission form as an official record with each sample. The laboratory shall also be responsible for supplying shipping supplies (including sampling bags and shipping materials) to each supplier. Moreover, the ADL shall provide sample preparation procedures.
- The samples shall be selected as described within FSIS Directive 10,010.1 and Notice 05-23.
- For every lot of boneless bison, one sample shall be prepared using one cloth sample unit for pathogen testing and one sample shall be prepared from five different pieces of trim from five different pieces of bison product for indicator microorganism testing. The sample for co-analysis of *E. coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* shall be one cloth sample unit; the sample for indicator microorganisms (aerobic plate count, total coliform, and generic *E. coli*) shall be five pieces and weigh 25 grams ± 10 percent.
- When boneless bison has been exposed to any anti-microbial treatment, no sample units shall be selected for at least 15 minutes after such treatment.
- Testing and Results - the microbiological testing for all microbes shall be in accordance with the applicable AMS-approved testing methodologies.
- Notification for presence of pathogens and exceeding critical limit criteria – When presence of E. coli O157:H7 or Salmonella is presumptive positive or confirmed positive or any critical limit is exceeded for indicator microbes, the ADL shall immediately notify AMS.
- Any lot that tests positive for *E. coli* O157:H7 or *Salmonella* or exceeds the critical limit criteria for indicator microbes cannot be used to produce ground bison or any other product purchased by USDA.

Ground Bison

- A lot is defined as the amount of finished ground bison product produced within a day, between "cleanup to cleanup" which shall be further divided into sub-lots not to exceed 10,000 pounds.
- Microbiological Testing – Samples from each sub-lot shall be tested for *E. coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella*, and indicator microorganisms (aerobic plate count, total coliform and generic *E. coli*) after final grinding and before freezing.
- Sample Preparation and Handling - The ADL shall be responsible for supplying sampling procedures for sample selection, preparation, and submission. The laboratory shall require suppliers to submit a sample submission form as an official record with each sample. The laboratory shall also be responsible for supplying shipping supplies (including sampling bags and shipping materials) to each supplier. Moreover, the ADL shall provide sample preparation procedures.
- Production processes of ground bison shall be subject to the following sampling strategy. Sub-lot Microbial Testing – For every sub-lot, two original and reserve samples shall be prepared from four individual sample units for each microbial test. The sub-lot samples shall be 325 grams ± 10 percent for co-enrichment of *E. coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella* and 25 grams ± 10 percent for indicator organism tests, respectively of finished ground bison, randomly selected throughout each 10,000 pounds of production. The four individual sample units shall be composited to produce a sample that represents each microbial test for each sub-lot. These samples shall be submitted to the ADL for analysis. The reserve samples shall be held for testing in case AMS deems it necessary. The contractor shall describe, in their technical proposal the method to be used to maintain the identity and traceability of each sub-lot. The microbiological testing for all microbes shall be in accordance with AMS-approved testing methodologies.
- Any sub-lot that tests positive for *E. coli* O157:H7, *Salmonella*, or any critical limit criteria for indicator microbes that is exceeded shall result in that sub-lot and adjoining sub-lots (one preceding and one following within "clean up to clean up") being ineligible for this program or any other USDA purchase program.
- Notification for presence of pathogens and exceeding critical limit criteria - When presence of *E. coli* O157:H7 or *Salmonella* is presumptive positive or confirmed positive or any critical limit is exceeded for indicator microbes, the ADL shall immediately notify AMS.
- Any sub-lot that tests positive for *E. coli* O157:H7 or *Salmonella* or exceeds the critical limit criteria for indicator microbes shall be ineligible for any USDA purchase program.