



The Autumn Calf

A children's book based at the
Konza Prairie Biological Station

Target age: 4th grade

Story: A bison calf at the Konza Prairie biological station is born in August, which is unusual because most bison calves are born in the spring, not the autumn. The problem is, will this calf be able to gain enough weight to survive the on-coming winter?

Concepts covered in the book:

- Life cycles
- Prairie ecology
- Use of fire as a prairie management tool
- Migration
- Wildflowers and the annual schedule of blooming for different species
- Animal management
- Prairie grass species

Classroom use: This book can be used as a tool to introduce the prairie to students. It may be followed with the "Prairie Week" curricula and/or with the activities that are designed specifically to address the weights of bison at the Konza Prairie Biological Station.

Bison weight activities:

- A. "Bison Weights: Have you ever Wondered What a Bison Weighs?" - Activity
- B. "How the Weight of Bison Changes Over Time " - Activity
- C. "Bison Grazing on the Prairie" - Activity

Concepts covered in activities:

- Determining averages
- Making predictions
- Graphing numbers and observing trends
- Animal management
- Prairie ecology
- Bison life cycles