# Distinguishing Between Bulls, Cows, and Calves

**It is your responsibility to know the sex of the animal you're harvesting**

- The challenge in distinguishing the sex of a bison will most likely be in the 2- to 3-year old age class
- The main difference between males and females is the presence of the penis sheath and tuft on males
- Males 2-years and older exhibit the sheath and the tuft. In yearlings, only the tuft is visible
- Bison that are 18 months or younger are considered calves
- You will have all the time you need to make a deliberate and positive identification before harvesting an animal

- Please take some time to research how to distinguish between bulls, cows, and calves, and scout prior to hunting
- For detailed descriptions, drawings, and photographs of bison, see *Portraits of the Bison: An Illustrated Guide to Bison Society* by Wes Olson, University of Alberta Press, 2005