



Maritime Beef Test Society

4133 Hwy # 302 Nappan, Nova Scotia B0L 1C0 | Phone: 902-661-2855 | Fax: 902-661-0372

To: All Beef Producers
From: Management Committee, Maritime Beef Testing Society
Date: September 3, 2019
RE: 2019-20 Winter Bull Test

Please find enclosed the various forms which must be filled out and returned to the Maritime Beef Test Station regarding the 2019-20 winter bull test.

Please return the enclosed forms to the Test Station before October 8, 2019.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to you for your support and confidence with our program at Nappan. Review the enclosed information carefully. As outlined in our memo to producers in July, we have made changes to our fee structure, related to the yardage fee. **Based on feedback, we expect to have approximately 100 bulls on test this year and are therefore estimating the yardage fee to be \$315.00 per bull and the feed cost to be \$0.115 per pound consumed.** We have made some other small changes to our program, especially related to costs. We have undergone many changes financially and administratively, however, the new governing officers have not lost sight of the original mandate:

To continue the tradition of unbiased data collection and to remain a not-for-profit business that serves the Maritime Beef Industry

We continue to make changes to our program to improve the testing program, including:

- The Yardage Fee is \$315.00 (\$362.25 with HST), the adjustment period feed fee of \$65.00 (\$74.75 with HST), and \$50 for Entrance Health Treatment. **The total entry fee per bull \$486.50.** Full details are enclosed with the *MBTS Payment Memo*.
- The MBTS Board is very aware of the cost of performance testing and continue to investigate ways to reduce these costs and pass them along to consignors.
- **MBTS has updated the Animal Guidelines, the new version is included with this package.**
- **All fees must be paid prior to animals being accepted to the Test Program. Animals will not be accepted from consignors with outstanding payables to the MBTS.**
- Semen testing will be conducted by the Atlantic Veterinary College. In an effort to maximize the opportunity for every animal to be eligible to the spring breeding stock sale, semen testing will be conducted in early February. This will allow for a second test in early March at the consignor's discretion and expense.
- If registration papers for purebred bulls are not received by the Test Station office by March 1, 2020 the bull will not be eligible for the sale. If sire and dam registration papers for F1 bulls are not received by the Test Station office by March 1, 2020 the bull will not be eligible for the sale.
- **The birthdate range for animals consigned to the test will be from December 1st to March 1st.**
- **The minimum on arrival weight for bulls will be 700 lbs.**

The Maritime Beef Test Station's Annual General Meeting will be on Friday November 22, 2019 starting at 10:30 am. The annual meeting will be held at the Nappan Experimental Farm Pavilion.

Check with your Provincial Departments of Agriculture to see if they offer incentives for consignors and buyers of bulls which are tested in Nappan:

Province	Contact Person	Phone Number
New Brunswick	Duncan Fraser	506-856-2278
Prince Edward Island	Les Halliday	902-314-0827
Nova Scotia	DJ MacLean	902-893-6377

Enclosed are the bull application and supporting forms. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office at 902-661-2855.

PLEASE NOTE:

- (A) The test period will be 112 days in length.
- (B) The adjustment period will be 21 days in length, allowing the bulls time to adjust to Test Station conditions.
- (C) Bulls entering the test must be born between December 1, 2018 and March 1, 2019.
- (D) MBTS staff will try to help coordinate transportation as much as possible. Please call the office and we will try to assist you with your trucking this fall.
- (E) All cattle must be dehorned upon arrival and please follow the enclosed health recommendations to help reduce health costs and ensure your bulls and heifers get off to a healthy start.
- (F) Please sign and return the enclosed forms to the Test Station.
- (G) **Please return the enclosed information by October 8, 2019.** The next group of bulls will be accepted on October 31 and November 1, 2019. No animals will be accepted for Winter Test after these dates.
- (H) The program's annual membership fee is \$25.00 + HST (\$28.75) per farm to assist in addressing our financial commitments. The application is included with this package.
- (I) The yardage fee to cover fixed costs is \$315 +HST per animal and is payable at the time of consignment.
- (J) The adjustment period feeding fee is \$65.00 + HST per animal and is payable at the time of consignment.
- (K) The price structure component pertaining to vet costs will again be in effect this fall. In an attempt to bring vet costs in line, any vet costs over \$50.00 will be charged back to the consignor, with the consignor being notified. Charges will be billed at the completion of the test period. This structure was brought into place to combat increasing drug costs as well as to promote proper conditioning of cattle prior to entry.
- (L) All fees are payable prior to animals being accepted to the Test Program. Cheques can be made payable to the Maritime Beef Test Society. Credit card (Visa, Mastercard and American Express, a 3% surcharge will be applied) can be made by calling 902-893-7455.

- (M) **A late payment fee of \$100 per bull will be charged for entrance payments not received by November 30, 2019.**
- (N) If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the office staff at 902-661-2855, you can also fax applications to 902-661-0372.
- (O) All cattle must be tagged with a CCIA identification number prior to entry. The Test Station may apply a tag at the breeder's expense. CCIA tags are to be placed in the opposite ear as the tattoo.
- (P) Crossbred bulls will be accepted in the fall of 2019, if they are F1 bred. This means that they have a registered sire and registered dam, **proof must be provided.**
- (Q) All cattle will be dewormed upon arrival as well as receiving an on arrival BRD drug such as Draxxin.
- (R) A Reproductive Physical Exam will be performed on the bulls and the cost charged back to the consignor. A reproductive physical exam is a prediction of a bull's potential reproductive capacity based on selection criteria. Selection criteria includes a physical examination for abnormalities, examination of the genital organs, libido evaluation, and scrotal circumference measurement. By examining bulls for breeding soundness it allows the consignor to identify bulls that are potentially poor breeders and it allows them to improve fertility rates in their herd. The cost of the reproductive physical exam will be charged back to the consignor.
- (S) Semen Testing will be performed by the Atlantic Veterinary College on all bulls and the cost will be charged back to the consignor.
- (T) Ultrasounds will be done on all bulls and the cost will be charged back to the consignor.
- (U) A small fee (\$10) is charged to consignor which goes into a compensation fund. Please see the MBTS Compensation Fund Guidelines for more information.
- (V) **If registration papers for purebred bulls are not received by the Test Station office by March 1, 2020, the bull will not be eligible for the sale. If sire and dam registration papers for F1 bulls are not received by the Test Station office by March 1, 2020, the bull will not be eligible for the sale.**

Current Board of Directors

Name	Group	Phone #
Brian Walker	Maritime Salers Association	506-433-1018
Sandra Othberg	Maritime Limousin Association	506-433-5245
Larry Ward	Maritime Hereford Association	902-384-2878
Brian Trueman (Secretary- Treasurer)	Member At Large / NS Cattle Producers	902-667-1137
Jacy McInnis (Vice President)	Maritime Charolais Association	902-694-9946
Jim Poole	Maritime Shorthorn Association	902-384-2964
Duncan Fraser	NB Government	506-856-2277
Les Halliday	PEI Government	902-314-0827
Peter Gaunce (President)	Maritime Simmental Association	506-383-4829
Jonathan Wort	NS Government (Perennia)	902-896-0277
Don Bettle	NB Cattle Producers	506-832-5740
Peter Dixon	PEI Cattle Producers	902-675-2229
Peter Estabrooks	Maritime Angus Association	506-536-3583

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please notify your representative and it will be addressed at a future meeting.

Membership

The Annual Membership Fee of \$25.00 (two members per farm) will be paid at the time of entry. This membership entitles any members of the Maritime Beef Testing Society to have a voting privilege on Test Station business. Membership will be strictly adhered to at meetings. In order for members to actively vote on issues, he or she must be in good standing with the Society for the current year. This additional funding is being utilized in the administration of the program as well as to provide financial resources to fund our Annual Meeting and dinner. Changes such as these are made in an attempt to recover costs that we are unable to continue to provide to our clients. We hope you understand our current position and will continue to support our endeavors and ensure that we continue to maintain our role in the further development of our Beef Industry.

Active: Every Maritime Producer of beef cattle who pays annual membership dues will be eligible to be a member of the Maritime Beef Testing Society. Everyone who tests animals at the Test Station must be a member of the Society.

Associate Members Membership on a non-voting basis is open to all those persons, companies, institutions, etc. who are not actively engaged in the production of beef cattle.

Please fill out the provided form and return it to our office with your entry form. The \$28.75 (inc HST) payment must be made at time of entry.

As a member of the Maritime Beef Testing Society and consigning animals for performance testing you agree that the data collected during the testing program is owned jointly by the Member and the MBTS and that any data accessed, processed or otherwise submitted to third parties, including National Breed Associations can be released without condition, to the MBTS.

PLEASE DETATCH THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN WITH YOUR APPLICATION

Membership

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ **FAX:** _____

DATE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

SIGNATURE: _____