



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 10, 2021
RE: 2021-22 Winter Bull Test

Please find enclosed the various forms which must be filled out and returned to the Maritime Beef Test Station regarding the 2021-22 Winter Bull Test.

Please return the enclosed forms to the Test Station before October 15th, 2021.

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 95 bulls on test, as well as several bulls on the new Bull Development Program. For more information on the Bull Development Program, please phone Brad directly at 902-897-6742.**

We have adjusted the fee structure for the 2021-22 Test Season. The new approach is to provide an inclusive fee with the addition of feed. The new Test fee will include all the following:

Yardage	Arrival Health Treatment	Adjustment Period Feed
ADG Calculation	RFI Calculation	Breeding Soundness Evaluation
Carcass Ultrasound	Clipping	Bull Picture
Bull Video		

Based on the new fee structure, the Test Fee per bull will be \$1,030.00, the feed cost to be \$0.062 per pound consumed. The Test Fee will decrease if more than 100 bulls are consigned.

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 Test Fee is \$1,030.00 (\$1,184.50 with HST). Full details are enclosed with the MBTS Payment Memo. A Deposit of \$515.00 (\$592.25 with HST) is required at the time of consignment.**
- 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.
- **Please check the website for all MBTS policies: www.maritimebeefteststation.ca/policies**
- **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. The scheduling of the test will be coordinated with AVC to maximize pass rate of bulls.

- If registration papers for purebred bulls are not received by the Test Station office by **February 1st, 2022**, the bull will be classified as commercial for ultrasound purposes. If registration papers are not received by **March 1st, 2022**, 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 1st, 2022** 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 announced at a later date.

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	Terry McKay	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 18 days in length, allowing the bulls time to adjust to Test Station conditions.
- (C) Bulls entering the test must be born between December 1st, 2020 and March 1st, 2021.
- (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) All purebred cattle must be tattooed before arrival to the Test Station.
- (G) Please sign and return the enclosed forms to the Test Station.
- (H) **Please return the enclosed information by October 15th, 2021.** The next group of bulls will be accepted on Friday, October 29th and Saturday, October 30th, 2021. No animals will be accepted for Winter Test after these dates.
- (I) 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.
- (J) The Test Fee is \$1,184.50 (\$1,030 + HST) per animal.
- (K) The deposit fee of \$592.25 (\$515.00 + HST) is due with animal arrival.

- (L) 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.
- (M) 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 3.5% surcharge will be applied) can be made by calling 902-893-7455.
- (N) **A late payment fee of \$100.00 per bull will be charged for entrance payments not received by November 30, 2021.**
- (O) 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.
- (P) 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.
- (Q) Non-purebred (F1 or Upgraded Percentage) bulls be accepted to the testing program. This means that an F1 bull must have a verified sire and dam of a different breed- Proof must be provided. Upgraded Percentage bulls will be accepted if they are at least $\frac{3}{4}$ (75%) purebred and registered with their breed.
- (R) All cattle will be dewormed upon arrival, as well as receiving an on arrival BRD drug, such as Zuprevo.
- (S) 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.
- (T) Semen Testing will be performed by the Atlantic Veterinary College on all bulls and the cost will be charged back to the consignor.
- (U) Ultrasounds will be done on all bulls and the cost will be charged back to the consignor. **If registration papers for purebred bulls are not received by the Test Station office by February 1st, 2022, the bull will be classified as commercial.**
- (V) A small fee (\$10.00) is charged to consignor which goes into a compensation fund. Please see the MBTS Compensation Fund Guidelines for more information.
- (W) **If registration papers for purebred bulls are not received by the Test Station office by March 1st, 2022, 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 1st, 2022, the bull will not be eligible for the sale.**

Current Board of Directors

Name	Group
Brian Walker	Maritime Salers Association
Sandra Othberg	Maritime Limousin Association
Larry Ward	Maritime Hereford Association
Brian Trueman (Secretary- Treasurer)	Member At Large
Grant McCaffrey	Maritime Charolais Association
Marvin Peters	Maritime Shorthorn Association
Duncan Fraser	NB Government
Les Halliday	PEI Government
Peter Gaunce (President)	Maritime Simmental Association
Jonathan Wort	NS Government (Perennia)
Trevor Welch	NB Cattle Producers
Peter Dixon	PEI Cattle Producers
Geoff Larkin	NS Cattle Producers
Ben Bacon	Maritime Angus Association

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 (incl. 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 FOLLOWING FORM AND RETURN WITH YOUR APPLICATION.

Membership

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ **FAX:** _____

DATE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

SIGNATURE: _____