



Maritime Beef Test Society

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

To: MBTS Consignors

From: Management Committee, Maritime Beef Testing Society

Date: February 18, 2022

RE: 2022 Spring Heifer Consignment Intent

Over the last several years, the MBTS has made considerable progress in financial forecasting, recording, and tracking. The MBTS also continues the path forward to improving the financial sustainability of the organization and the Test Station in which it operates. The Board has implemented several cost-saving measures, as well as looked at additional revenue streams.

New Development and Testing Programs

The MBTS recognizes that overall activity does not present a lot of opportunities for reducing testing costs for consignors. The primary way to reduce costs for consignors and ensure the financial sustainability of the organization is to offer more programs and services.

The MBTS is committed to developing testing programs that increase and improve performance evaluation programs for livestock producers in Atlantic Canada. There are opportunities to offer programs outside of the traditional winter test program.

Based on your feedback, the MBTS will be offering the following spring program:

	Spring Heifer Program
Health Protocol	Same as test bulls
Age Range	One-year minimum <i>*Heifers must be born prior to April 1, 2021</i>
Minimum Delivery Weight	800 lbs
Included Test Measures	Average Daily Gain (ADG) Weight per Day of Age (WDA) Carcass ultrasound Breeding soundness RFI Genomics Breeding Program (not guaranteed)
Delivery Date	March 18-April 3, 2022 <i>*If delivered prior to April 1, there will be an additional \$30 fee to cover feed costs</i>
Test Range	49 days (April 14-June 2)
Exit Date	June 3-5, 2022
Breeding Program	Herd bull <i>*Bull selection will be March 14</i>
Estimated Costs:	
Yardage	\$200
On Arrival Health Treatment	\$30
Testing Costs	\$20 (carcass ultrasound) \$25 (breeding soundness) \$50 genomics

Individual feed and health treatments will be billed at actual cost. The feed cost is \$0.058 per pound consumed.

There is a two-pen minimum required for this test.

New MBTS Policy

The MBTS Board approved the below new policy, which was implemented for the 2021-22 test season:

Animal Management Policy

The MBTS is committed to the health and safety of consignors, staff, visitors, and animals while they are at the Maritime Beef Test Station. While animals are consigned, they are under the care and control of Test Station Management. This means that only designated MTBS staff and contractors are permitted to handle and manage animals, including testing activities, health treatments, and cataloging (preparing for and recording videos and pictures). No visitors (including consignors) can enter the barn area without staff present or written permission from the Station Manager.

Consignors who are deemed to act against this policy will have their animals removed from the test program for the remainder of the current test season. Consignors will remain responsible for all testing costs if animals are removed. The MBTS Management Committee may determine a penalty to a consignor from Test Station programming and sales for a subsequent period of up three years.

To help us get a better estimate of the number of heifers we can expect this year for the Spring Test, we are asking you to email the Test Station (maritimebeef@eastlink.ca) with the breed and number of heifers you are considering sending this year prior to March 9, 2022.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation as we continue to improve our processes and planning for the future of the Test Station and the breeding stock producers in the Maritimes.

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact Jacy or Brad.

Sincerely,

MBTS Management Committee