



Maritime Beef Test Society

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

To: All Sheep Producers
From: Management Committee, Maritime Beef Testing Society
Date: February 13, 2024
RE: 2024 Summer Evaluation Program Intent

We are reaching out to you to gauge interest in the upcoming 2024 Summer Evaluation Program at the Maritime Beef Test Station to run for the months of July and August 2024. The expected delivery date will be July 1, 2024, with the evaluation beginning July 12, 2024.

The Nova Scotia Cattle Producers and Sheep Producers Association of Nova Scotia have received funding through the Department of Environment and Climate Change to implement the Climate Adaptation Strategy. Raising feed efficient livestock has a positive impact on the environment and as a result a portion of the normal testing cost will be covered by this funding for 2024.

We are looking to run the following evaluations:

- Ram Evaluation – potential for two groups
 - Group 1 must be born between March 1, 2024 – April 30, 2024
 - Group 3 must be born between January 1, 2024 – February 29, 2024
- Ewe Evaluation – Must be born between March 1, 2024 – April 30, 2024
- Heifer Evaluation – Must be born December 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

*Priority will be given to purebred/registered stock, but commercial stock will be accepted.

Evaluations completed will be:

- Average Daily Gain
- Residual Feed Intake (RFI)
- Carcas Ultrasound
- On Test Weight, 50-day weight, Adjusted 50-day weight and Weight per day of age

It is very important to have an estimate of the number of animals we can expect to have so that we can provide a more accurate cost estimate to producers when applications open this March and to determine how much program funding is needed as a subsidy. We ask for your cooperation as we go through the planning process.

Please note that we require a minimum of two pens consigned to run the performance evaluation.

To help us get a better estimate of the number of rams we can expect this spring, we are asking you to email the Test Station (maritimebeef@eastlink.ca) with the breed and number of rams you are considering sending prior to February 29, 2024.

If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact Kara Chisholm at 902-957-2699.

Sincerely,

MBTS Management Committee