



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 18th, 2024
RE: 2024-25 Winter Bull Test

Please find enclosed the various forms which must be filled out and returned to the Maritime Beef Test Station regarding the 2024-25 Winter Bull Test.

Please return the enclosed forms to the Test Station before October 11th, 2024.

We want to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for your support and confidence in our program at Nappan. Please review the enclosed information carefully. **Based on feedback, we expect to have approximately 80 bulls on test and several bulls on the new Bull Development Program. For more information on the Bull Development Program, please phone Kara directly at 902-957-2699.**

This year's testing fee will include the following:

Overhead costs	ADG measure	Carcass ultrasound
Arrival health protocol	RFI measure	Breeding soundness
Adjustment period		

Based on the new fee structure, the Test Fee per bull will be \$1,176.25 + HST and the feed cost will be \$0.06 per pound consumed. The Test Fee will decrease if more than 85 bulls are consigned.

Updated Sale Commission Policy:

The MBTS administers a spring breeding stock sale after the completion of the testing program. The sale is an opportunity for consignors to market animals collectively. To cover the costs of administering the sale, the MBTS shall charge all animals that sell a commission of 10% of the sale price for bulls and heifers. Any animal which does not sell for a predetermined floor price will be charged the cost of cataloguing the animal.

In pursuing the original MBTS 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 \$1,176.25 (\$1,352.69 with HST). Full details are enclosed with the *MBTS Payment Memo*. A Deposit of \$588.13 (\$676.35 with HST) is required at the time of consignment.**
- The MBTS Board is very aware of the cost of performance testing and continues to investigate ways to reduce these costs and pass them along to consignors.
- **All fees must be paid before animals are accepted to the Test Program. Animals will not be accepted from consignors with outstanding payables to the MBTS.**
- Please check the website for all MBTS policies: www.maritimebeefteststation.ca/policies
- Semen testing will be conducted, and scheduling will be coordinated to maximize the pass rate of bulls.
- If the Test Station office does not receive registration papers for purebred bulls by **February 1st, 2025**, the bull will be classified as a commercial bull for ultrasound purposes. If registration papers are not received by **March 1st, 2025**, the bull will not be eligible for the sale. If the Test Station office does not receive sire and dam registration papers for F1 bulls by **March 1st, 2025**, the bull will not be eligible for the sale.
- **The birthdate range for animals consigned to the test will be from December 1st, 2023, to March 1st, 2024.**
- **The minimum on-arrival weight for bulls will be 700 lbs.**

The Maritime Beef Test Station's Annual General Meeting will be held virtually December 4th at 7:00 PM via Zoom as a business meeting only. Please register on the MBTS website. Watch the MBTS social media for winter educational workshops.

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	Elizabeth Morgan	902-890-6885

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

PLEASE NOTE:

- (A) The test period will continue to be 112 days in length.
- (B) The adjustment period will be shortened by one week to a total of 11-12 days before the bulls go on-test, versus the previous 18-19 days. This also means the 112-day test period will end one week earlier than usual.
- (C) Bulls entering the test must be born between December 1st, 2023, and March 1st, 2024.
- (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 at the Test Station.
- (G) Please sign and return the enclosed forms to the Test Station.
- (H) **Please sign and return the enclosed information by October 11th, 2024.** The next group of bulls will be accepted on **Friday, November 1st and Saturday, November 2nd, 2024.** No animals will be accepted 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 in this package.
- (J) The Test Fee is \$1,176.25 + HST per animal.
- (K) The deposit fee of \$588.13 + HST is due with the animal upon arrival
- (L) All fees are payable before animals are accepted to the Test Program. Cheques can be made payable to the Maritime Beef Test Society. Credit Card payments (Visa, Mastercard, and American Express, plus a 3.5% surcharge will be applied) can be made by calling 902-893-7455.
- (M) **A late payment fee of \$100.00 per bull will be charged for entrance payments not received by Nov. 30th, 2024.**
- (N) The price structure component regarding vet costs will be in effect again this fall. In an attempt to bring vet costs in line, any vet costs incurred will be charged back to the consignor, with the consignor being notified. Charges will be billed after the test period. This structure was brought into place to combat increasing drug costs and promote proper conditioning of cattle before entry.
- (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 or 902-694-9946.
- (P) All cattle must be tagged with a CCIA identification number before 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 will be accepted to the testing program. This means that an F1 bull must have a verified sire and dam of a different breed, and 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 and receive an on-arrival BRD drug, such as Zuprevo.
- (S) A Reproductive Physical Exam will be performed on the bulls, and the cost will be 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 include a physical examination for abnormalities, examination of the genital organs, libido evaluation, and scrotal circumference measurement. Examining bulls for breeding soundness allows the consignor to identify bulls that are potentially poor breeders and allows them to improve fertility rates in their herd. **The cost of the reproductive physical exam is included in the Testing Fee.**
- (T) Semen Testing will be performed by the Atlantic Veterinary College on all bulls, and the cost is included in the Testing Fee.
- (U) Ultrasounds will be done on all bulls, and the cost is included in the Testing Fee. **If the Test Station office does not receive registration papers for purebred bulls by February 1st, 2025, the bull will be classified as commercial.**
- (V) Fecal samples will be collected from all bulls and used, along with the Green Feed system, to measure methane output for a research project with Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture.
- (W) A small fee (\$10.00) is charged to the consignor, which goes into a compensation fund. Please see the MBTS Compensation Fund Guidelines for more information.
- (X) **If registration papers for purebred bulls are not received by the Test Station office by March 1st, 2025, 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, 2025, the bull will not be eligible for the sale.**
- (Y) Bulls are required to be pre-weaned and bunk ready.

Current Board of Directors

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

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please notify your representative, which 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 Maritime Beef Testing Society members 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, they must be in good standing with the Society for the current year. This additional funding is being utilized in the program's administration and provides 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 endeavours 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 complete the provided form and return it to our office with your entry form. The \$28.75 (incl. HST) payment must be made at the 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 DETACH AND COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORM AND RETURN IT WITH YOUR APPLICATION:

✂ -----

MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

FAX _____

EMAIL _____

DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

If an opportunity became available and there was room at the Test Station to hold an additional winter test at the same time as the winter bull test, would you be interested in sending any of the below (if so, please disclose how many you would be interested in consigning):

• **Off-Age Bulls**

_____ # of bulls *older* than winter bulls on test (older than Dec. 1, 2023)
 Bull birthdate: _____

_____ # of bulls *younger* than winter bulls on test (younger than Mar. 1, 2024)
 Bull birthdate: _____

• **Heifers**

_____ # of open heifers
 Heifer birthdate: _____

_____ # of bred heifers
 Heifer birthdate: _____