



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: August 13, 2025
RE: 2025-26 Test Station Announcements and Consignment Intent

The MBTS Board thanks all consignors for sending bulls to the 2024-25 Test Season evaluation and for selling bulls and heifers at the Sale on April 5, 2025. Your continued support allows the MBTS to continue the testing program.

In recent years, MBTS has improved its financial forecasting and sustainability through cost-saving measures and exploring new revenue streams. One area under review is the yardage fee for consigned bulls, last significantly updated in 2015 with smaller changes in 2019 and 2022. The Board remains committed to a transparent review of this fee structure.

New this year, we will be reducing maximum number of bulls on test to allow for a pen of heifers to be testing alongside the bulls. There has been interest in a heifer test for a few years but finding the right time of year has been a challenge. In the Spring of 2025, the MBTS board decided to dedicate one pen for heifers during the 2025/2026 annual test, which will reduce the testing fee for all consignors, but increasing the total number of animals on test.

For the 2025-26 test a maximum of 90 bulls and 25 heifers will be accepted.

Bull Testing Fee Structure

Following consignor feedback and financial review, MBTS will maintain the 2022–23 pricing structure. This approach ensures testing costs are more accurately distributed, so higher-consuming bulls no longer subsidize lower-consuming ones.

The single testing fee will continue to include the following:

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

Individual feed and health treatments will also be billed at the actual cost, significantly reducing feed costs.

Please note that **for the 2025-26 season:**

- **Bulls will be delivered October 31 and November 1**, with an adjustment period of 9-10 days before going on-test. The **test will begin on November 10, 2025**, with the 112-day test period ending on March 2, 2026.
- Across Breed Comparisons (ABCs) will not be available this season, as GrowSafe will again handle RFI calculations. GrowSafe, used by MBTS, continuously records feed intake using real-time tag readings.
- The GrowSafe system was upgraded in the fall of 2023, so **this testing season will again offer self-weighing waterers for extra data collection.**
- **Bulls must be born between December 1, 2024 – March 1, 2025**, for the regular bull test.

If you are interested in consigning over-age bulls for the 2025-26 test, please include that in your response (this will only be offered if there is enough interest).

The Maritime Beef Testing Station 53rd Annual Breeding Stock Sale will be held on April 4, 2026, as a hybrid sale with both in-person and online auction capabilities. Additional information will be provided throughout the testing season.

Based on the previous group of bulls and average feed consumption, we **estimate** the 2025-26 testing fees will be as follows (*note that these are only estimates, and final fees will be set when the consignor memo is sent in early September*):

# of Bulls	Testing Fee	Feed*	Total Testing Fee
90	\$955.00	\$378.00	\$1,333.00
85	\$1,001.58	\$378.00	\$1,379.58
80	\$1,053.33	\$378.00	\$1,431.33
75	\$1,111.18	\$378.00	\$1,489.18

*Based on the estimate of 6,300 pounds at \$0.06/pound and would be variable by bull.

New Heifer Test Fee Structure

The single testing fee will include the following:

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

Individual feed and health treatments will also be billed at the actual cost.

The parameters for the heifer test program include:

	Heifer Testing Program
Health Protocol	Same as test bulls
Age Range	Born between December 1, 2024 – March 1, 2025
Minimum Delivery Weight*	600 lbs
Breeding Status	Open
Delivery Date	October 31 and November 1
Test Dates	The test will begin on November 10, 2025, with the 112-day test period ending on March 2, 2026
Sale Eligibility	Eligible and will be accepted over non-tested heifers

# of Heifers	Testing Fee	Feed*	2025/26 CALP Subsidy**	Total Testing Fee
25	\$600	\$168.00	\$118	\$650
20	\$750	\$168.00	\$268	\$650
15	\$950	\$168.00	\$468	\$650
10	\$1,400	\$168.00	\$918	\$650

*Based on the estimate of 2,800 pounds at \$0.06/pound and would be variable by heifer. Heifer ration is under development and cost per pound may decrease.

The Climate Adaptation Leadership Program (CALP) will be subsidizing the heifer test this year to provide an incentive to consign to the first RFI heifer test at MBTS. **This is intended to be a one-time subsidy for the 2025-26 test.

To help us get a better estimate of the number of bulls and heifers we can expect for this testing season, please email the Test Station (maritimebeef@eastlink.ca) with the breed and number of bulls and/or heifers you are considering sending this year prior to September 2nd, 2025.

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 do not hesitate to contact Jacy or Kara.

Sincerely,
MBTS Management Committee