



Maritime Beef Test Society

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To: MBTS Consignors

From: Management Committee, Maritime Beef Testing Society

Date: July 22, 2026

RE: 2026-27 Test Station Announcements and Consignment Intent

The MBTS Board thanks all consignors for sending bulls and heifers to the 2025-26 Test Season evaluation and for selling bulls and heifers at the Sale on April 4, 2026. Your continued support allows us to continue the testing program.

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

We will again be reducing the maximum number of bulls on test to accommodate a pen of heifers, tested alongside the bulls. Including a group of heifers in the test helps offset overall costs by increasing the total number of animals on test, resulting in lower testing fees for all consignors.

Similarly to last year, for the 2026-27 test a maximum of 90 bulls and 25 heifers will be accepted.

Introducing Our New Herdperson

We are pleased to welcome Carter Bacon as the new Herdperson for the Maritime Beef Testing Society.

Carter Bacon is a third-generation beef farmer, working alongside his father, grandfather, and brother on the family's operation, where they manage a herd of approx. 80 commercial beef cows. Over the past five years, Carter and his brother, Lynden, have become involved in raising and showing purebred cattle. As the Herdperson, Carter looks forward to working with and getting to know consignors throughout the test season. Carter can be reached at: (902) 397-4073.

Please do not contact Jacy on her phone, as it is her personal number. Instead, please direct any inquiries to Carter.

Bull Testing Fee Structure

Following consignor feedback and financial review, MBTS will maintain the 2022–23 pricing structure. This approach more accurately reflects feed consumption, ensuring testing costs are distributed fairly amongst consignors.

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 2026-27 season:

- **Bulls will be delivered October 30 and 31, 2026**, with an adjustment period of 9-10 days before going on-test. The **test will begin on November 9, 2026**, with the 112-day test period ending on March 1, 2027.
- GrowSafe will again handle RFI calculations, as they continuously record 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, 2025 – March 1, 2026**, for the regular bull test.

If you are interested in consigning over-age bulls for the 2026-27 test, please include that in your response (this will only be offered if there is enough interest).

The Maritime Beef Testing Station 54th Annual Breeding Stock Sale will be held on April 3, 2027, 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 2026-27 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.*

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, 2025 – March 1, 2026
Minimum Delivery Weight*	600 lbs
Breeding Status	Open
Delivery Date	October 30 and 31, 2026
Test Dates	The test will begin on November 9, 2026, with the 112-day test period ending on March 1, 2027
Sale Eligibility	Eligible and will be accepted over non-tested heifers

# of Heifers	Testing Fee	Feed*	2026/27 CALP Subsidy**	Total Testing Fee
25	\$600	\$168	\$118	\$650
20	\$750	\$168	\$268	\$650
15	\$950	\$168	\$468	\$650
10	\$1,400	\$168	\$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 again be subsidizing the heifer test this year to provide an incentive to consign to the RFI heifer test at MBTS. This is the final year for this subsidy.**

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 August 28, 2026.

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 Carter or Kara.

Sincerely,
MBTS Management Committee