



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 24, 2026
RE: 2026-27 Winter Bull and Heifer Test

Please find enclosed the various forms which must be filled out and returned to the Maritime Beef Test Station regarding the 2026-27 Winter Bull and Heifer Test. Please contact the office at 902-661-2855 with questions. Applications can be faxed to 902-661-0372, emailed to maritimebeef@eastlink.ca, or mailed to the address at the top of this page.

Please return the enclosed forms to the Test Station before October 9, 2026.

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 producer feedback, we anticipate approximately 90 bulls and 40 heifers will be entered on test this year. The Test Station has capacity to accept up to 60 heifers.**

This year's testing fee will include the following:

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

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.

Sale selection and sale order are based on the Global Index ranking.

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***

NEW – MBTS Raffle Heifer Fundraiser:

MBTS will be introducing a new annual raffle heifer fundraiser, beginning with the upcoming testing season. MBTS will purchase a quality heifer for \$6,000 from consignments in the fall, with the heifer entering the regular MBTS development and testing program.

Tickets will be sold throughout the winter at \$50 each, with the winning ticket drawn at the Breeding Stock Sale on April 3, 2027.

The heifer will be featured in MBTS communications throughout the winter, highlighting her pedigree, development and performance. Proceeds from the raffle will support a clearly identified improvement or priority at the Test Station, with infrastructure updates being the focus for this year. The fundraiser provides another way for producers, businesses and supporters to support MBTS while showcasing a quality female developed through the program.

If you are consigning a heifer to this year's test and would be interested in having her considered for selection as the raffle heifer, please indicate this on the enclosed Cattle Application for Entry Form.

The 2026-27 Test Fee will be as follows:

- **Bulls: \$1,001.58 + HST per bull, with an estimated feed cost of \$441.00** (based on the estimate of 6,300 pounds consumed at \$0.07* per pound, variable by bull). The Test Fee will decrease if more than 85 bulls are consigned.
- **Heifers: \$650.00 + HST per heifer, feed included****

**Note: feed costs have been increased to \$0.07 per pound, from \$0.06 per pound previously.*

***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 the subsidy.*

We continue to make changes to our program to improve the testing program, including:

- 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.
- A 50% deposit of the total entrance fee [per animal] for bulls and heifers is required at the time of consignment. See Payment Information section for additional details.
- 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
- **NEW THIS YEAR:** Semen testing will be conducted later in the Test, closer to the sale date, to minimize the impact of winter conditions and provide more accurate results. Scheduling will be coordinated to maximize the pass rate of bulls. Semen testing will be completed only once, eliminating the need for re-testing. All sale eligible bulls will be included in the sale catalogue. A supplement sale sheet will be provided to buyers on sale day identifying any bulls that have subsequently been scratched and/or deferred.
- If the Test Station office does not receive registration papers for purebred bulls/heifers by February 1, 2027, the bull/heifer will be classified as commercial for ultrasound purposes. If registration papers are not received by March 1, 2027, the bull/heifer will not be eligible for the sale. If the Test Station office does not receive sire and dam registration papers for F1 bulls/heifers by March 1, 2027, the bull/heifer will not be eligible for the sale.
- The birthdate range for animals consigned to the test will be from December 1, 2025, to March 1, 2026.
- The minimum on-arrival weight for bulls will be 700 lbs, and for heifers will be 600 lbs (must be open).

Check with your provincial Agriculture Department for incentives for consignors and buyers of bulls tested at Nappan:

Province	Contact Person	Phone Number
New Brunswick	Beth Trueman	506-953-4563
Prince Edward Island	Maggie McCormick	902-314-0827
Nova Scotia	Rebecca Sooksom	902-956-4665

Payment Information:

- Half of the total entrance fee must be paid by the time the bull or heifer arrives at the Test Station. This covers all Test fees, aside from feed and vet visits (if required):
 - Bulls: A 50% deposit of the total entrance fee is now due; \$570.90 (\$500.79 +HST) per bull.
 - Heifers: A 50% deposit of the total entrance fee is now due; \$370.50 (\$325.00 +HST) per heifer.
- Payment methods: cheque, made payable to the Maritime Beef Test Society, credit card (Visa, Mastercard, and American Express; *a 3.5% surcharge will be applied*) made by calling 902-893-7455, or e-transfer to mbts@agricommodity.ca.
- Cattle entries will only be accepted by breeders who do not have an outstanding balance with the MBTS.
- All producers who enter a bull or heifer must be a member of the MBTS; the fee is \$28.50 (\$25.00 +HST). The application is included on page 5 this package.
- A late payment fee of \$100.00 per head will be charged for entrance payments not received by Nov. 30, 2026.
- A \$150.00 per head payment is due by Feb. 1, 2027. No invoice will be sent for this. This deposit will be reflected on your final billing.
- Bulls/heifers of owners with outstanding account balances will not be eligible for the 2027 Breeding Stock Sale.

Due Dates Throughout Test Period:

- **On Animal Arrival:** 50% Entrance fee due (50% of test fee), per head
- **Oct. 30 and 31, 2026:** Bulls and heifers accepted
- **Nov. 30, 2026:** \$100.00 per head late fee, charged if entrance fees not yet received
- **Feb. 1, 2027:** \$150.00 per head deposit towards final bill
- **Feb. 1, 2027:** Registration papers deadline (or classed as Commercial for ultrasound)
- **Mar. 1, 2027:** Registration papers final deadline (or not sale eligible)
- **Mar. 1, 2027:** Consignor footnote deadline, for sale catalog (maximum 250 characters)

Please Note:

- (A) The test period will continue to be 112 days in length.
- (B) The adjustment period will again be a total of 11-12 days before the bulls and heifers go on-test.
- (C) 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.
- (D) 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.
- (E) All purebred cattle must be tattooed before arrival at the Test Station.
- (F) **Please sign and return the enclosed forms by October 9, 2026.** Bulls and heifers will be accepted on **Friday, October 30 and Saturday, October 31, 2026.** No animals will be accepted after these dates.
- (G) 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.
- (H) 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.
- (I) Non-purebred (F1 or Upgraded Percentage) bulls and heifers will be accepted to the testing program. This means that an F1 bull/heifer must have a verified sire and dam of a different breed, and proof must be provided. Upgraded Percentage bulls/heifers will be accepted if they are at least $\frac{3}{4}$ (75%) purebred and registered with their breed.
- (J) All cattle will be dewormed upon arrival and receive an on-arrival BRD drug, such as Zuprevo, as well as treated with FerApease.
- (K) A Reproductive Physical Exam will be performed on the bulls and heifers. A reproductive physical exam is a prediction of an animal'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 (for bulls). Examining bulls and heifers for breeding soundness allows the consignor to identify bulls/heifers 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.
- (L) Semen Testing will be performed by the Atlantic Veterinary College on all bulls, and the cost is included in the Testing Fee. *Please note updated semen testing scheduling, as identified in on page 2.*
- (M) Ultrasounds will be done on all bulls and heifers, and the cost is included in the Testing Fee. **If the Test Station office does not receive registration papers for purebred bulls/heifers by February 1, 2027, the bull/heifer will be classified as commercial.**
- (N) Additional samples may be collected to support local or national research efforts. These may include fecal, tissue or blood samples. When possible, collection will be done while bulls and heifers are already being handled for routine testing measurements to reduce impact on the bulls or heifers.
- (O) **If registration papers for purebred bulls/heifers are not received to the Test Station office by March 1, 2027, the bull/heifer will not be eligible for the sale. If sire and dam registration papers for F1 bulls/heifers are not received by the Test Station office by March 1, 2027, the bull/heifer will not be eligible for the sale.**
- (P) Cattle are required to be pre-weaned and bunk ready.
- (Q) Sale selection and eligibility will be based on Global index score, as well as semen results, bull temperament, and yearling weight. Global index score will also determine sale order.

Current Board of Directors:

Name	Group
Ben Bacon (Secretary-Treasurer)	Maritime Angus Association
Grant McCaffrey	Maritime Charolais Association
Brian Trueman	Maritime Hereford Association
Vacant	Maritime Limousin Association
Marvin Peters	Maritime Shorthorn Association
Peter Gaunce	Maritime Simmental Association
Geoff Larkin (Chair)	Director at Large
Les Halliday	Industry at Large
Trevor Welch	NB Cattle Producers
Larry Weatherby Jr.	NS Cattle Producers
Nick Green (Vice-Chair)	PEI Cattle Producers
Beth Trueman	NB Government
Jonathan Wort	NS Government (Perennia)
Maggie McCormick	PEI Government

If you have questions, concerns or comments, please notify your representative, which will be addressed at a future meeting.



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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.

The \$28.50 (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.

2026-27 TEST SEASON MEMBERSHIP

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

EMAIL

DATE

SIGNATURE
