



Maritime Beef Test Society

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To: All Beef Producers

From: Management Committee, Maritime Beef Testing Society

Date: September 4, 2012

RE: 2012-13 Winter Bull & Heifer Test

Please find enclosed the various forms which must be filled out and returned to the Maritime Beef Test Station.

Please review the enclosed information carefully. There have been a number of changes to our program. We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to you for your support and confidence with our program at Nappan.

We have undergone many changes financially and administratively, however, the new governing officers have not lost sight of the original 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 financial appeal of our industry.

Enclosed are the bull and heifer application forms and supporting forms. In order for the heifer test to be offered this fall, a minimum of 40 heifers must be entered. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office at 902-661-2855.

PLEASE NOTE:

- (A) The test period will be 112 days in length.
- (B) The adjustment period will be 21 days in length, allowing bulls and heifers time to adjust to Test Station conditions.
- (C) Bulls entering the test must be born between December 15, 2011 and March 15, 2012. Heifers entering the test must be born between December 1, 2012 and April 30, 2012.
- (D) Transportation of cattle entering the Test Station will no longer be provided as in the past. The 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 consider enclosed health recommendations to help reduce health cost and ensure your bulls and heifers get off to a healthy start.
- (F) Please sign and return the enclosed forms to the Test Station.
- (G) The next group of bulls and heifer will be accepted on November 9th, 10th, 11th, 2012. **No animals will be accepted for Winter Test after these dates.** **Please return the enclosed information by October 12, 2012.**
- (H) The program's annual membership fee is \$25.00 per farm to assist in addressing our financial commitments. The application is include with this package.
- (I) 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.
- (J) All cattle must be tagged with a CCIA identification number prior to 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.
- (K) Crossbred bulls will be accepted in the fall of 2012, if they are F1 bred. This means that they have a registered sire and registered dam.
- (L) The price structure component pertaining to vet costs will again be in effect this fall. In an attempt to bring vet costs in line, any vet costs over \$50.00 will be charged back to the breeder, with the breeder being notified. Charges will be billed at the completion of the test period. This structure was brought into place to combat increasing drug costs as well as to promote proper conditioning of cattle prior to entry.
- (M) All cattle will be dewormed upon arrival as well as receiving an on arrival BRD drug such as Draxxin. **Cattle will not receive booster shots of vaccines as in past years.**
- (N) A Reproductive Physical Exam will be performed on the bulls and the cost charged back to the producer. Cost is approximately \$12.00 per head. A reproductive physical exam is a prediction of a bull's potential reproductive capacity based on selection criteria. Selection criteria includes a physical examination for abnormalities, examination of the genital organs, libido evaluation, and scrotal

circumference measurement. By examining bulls for breeding soundness it allows the producer to identify bulls that are potentially poor breeders and it allows them to improve fertility rates in their herd.

(O) A Reproductive Exam will be performed on the heifers and the cost charged back to the producer. Cost is approximately \$12.00 per head. A reproductive exam evaluates sexual maturity. An examination of the size and development of the uterus and ovaries offers an indication of a heifer's reproductive readiness. Reproductive exam allows the producer to predict higher pregnancy rates. **In order for the heifer test to be a go this fall, a minimum of 40 heifers must be on test.**

(P) A small fee is charged to producers which goes into a compensation fund. The decision of whether or not an animal qualifies for the compensation fund will be made by the Board of Directors of the Test Station.

(Q) An Igenity test will be offered and the cost charged back to the producer. Cost is approximately \$46.00 per head.

Current Board of Directors

Name	Group	Phone #
Ernest Hunter (President)	Maritime Salers Association	506-375-8459
Sandra Othberg (Vice President)	Maritime Limousin Association	506-433-5245
Larry Ward (Past President)	Maritime Hereford Association	902-384-2878
Brian Trueman	Member At Large	902-667-1137
David Francis	Maritime Charolais Association	902-658-2623
Jim Poole	Maritime Shorthorn Association	902-384-2964
George Smith	NS Cattle Producers	902-759-1078
Guy LeBlanc	NB Government	506-453-5466
Les Halliday	PEI Government	902-569-7639
Peter Gaunce	Maritime Simmental Association	506-383-4829
Jonathan Wort	NS Government (Perennia)	902-896-2345
John Duynisveld	AAFC	902-667-3827
Jacob Fisher	AAFC	902-661-0766
Bertrand Cyr	NB Cattle Producers	506-475-7867
Ivan Johnson	PEI Cattle Producers	902-436-4056

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

The Annual Membership Fee of \$25.00 (two members per farm) will be paid at the time of entry. This membership entitles any members of the Maritime Beef Testing Society to have a voting privilege on Test Station business. Membership will be strictly adhered to at meetings. In order for producers to actively vote on issues, he or she must be in good standing with the Society for the current year. This additional funding is being utilized in the administration of the program as well as to provide 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 endeavors and ensure that we continue to maintain our role in the further development of our Beef Industry.

Membership

Active: Every Maritime Producer of beef cattle who pay 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 fill out the provided form and return it to our office with your entry form. The \$25.00 payment can be made at time of entry or can be debited to your account at the beginning of the testing program. A card will be returned to you at the mailing of the 28 day report.

PLEASE DETATCH THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN WITH YOUR APPLICATION

Membership

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ **FAX:** _____

DATE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

PLEASE NOTE:

Ultrasounds will be done on all bulls and the cost will be charged back to the consignor.

An Igenity test is offered to producers at a cost of approximately \$46.00 per bull. Please inform us of your decision by checking yes or no and by signing your name below.

YES _____ **NO** _____

SIGNATURE: _____

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

In case you miss this in the bull/heifer recommendations, there was a motion made by the Board of Directors stating what Winter Test criteria included. They are as follows:

BULLS: Bulls must weigh a minimum of 650 lbs and be born between December 15th, 2011 and March 15th, 2012. They will not be accepted if they are not within these birth dates and if they do not weigh a minimum of 650 lbs. A reproductive physical exam will be done in the spring.

HEIFERS: Heifers must weigh a minimum of 600 pounds and be born between December 1st, 2011 and April 30th, 2012. Heifers will not be bred and a reproductive exam will be done in the spring. A minimum of 40 heifers is required in order to offer the heifer test this fall.

PLEASE NOTE:

That the Maritime Beef Test Station's Annual General Meeting will be on Saturday November 17, 2012 starting at 10:30 am. The annual meeting will be held at the Nappan Experimental Farm Pavilion.