



Maritime Beef Test Society

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To: All Sheep and Cattle Producers
From: Management Committee, Maritime Beef Testing Society
Date: April 17, 2024
RE: 2024 Summer Feed Efficiency Test

Please find enclosed the various forms which must be filled out and returned to the Maritime Beef Test Station regarding the 2024 Summer Feed Efficiency Test,

Please return the enclosed forms to the Test Station before May 3, 2024.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to you for your support and confidence with our program at Nappan. Review the enclosed information carefully.

The test fee per ram or ewe is \$150.00 per head, with the heifer test fee being \$250.00 per head.

Please note: without the Climate Adaptation Leadership Program (CALP) subsidizing costs, test fees would be an estimated \$500-\$800 (including feed).

Test fees will include:

Average Daily Gain	Breeding Soundness Evaluation (Rams in Group 1 only)
Feed Efficiency	On-Test Weights
50-day Weight	Adjusted 50-day Weight
Yardage	Carcass Ultrasound
Adjustment Period Feed	Test Feed

A minimum of one pen of rams, ewes and heifers each are required to be consigned to hold the Summer Feed Efficiency Test, as 25 is the minimum number for complete valid comparisons.

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

- **The Test Fee is \$150 per ram or ewe (\$172.50 with HST), and \$250 per heifer (\$287.50 with HST). Full details are enclosed with the *MBTS Payment Memo (full payment due on arrival)*.**
- **The MBTS Board is very aware of the cost of performance evaluation and continue to investigate ways to reduce these costs and pass them along to consignors. We are fortunate to have CALP funding subsidize the cost of this summer test for the 2024 season.**
- **Animals will not be accepted from consignors with outstanding payables to the MBTS.**
- **The birthdate range for animals consigned to the test will be:**
 - **Rams: Group 1: born January - February 2024**
 - **Rams: Group 2: born March - April 2024**
 - **Ewes: born March - April 2024**
 - **Heifers: born December 2022 – March 2023**

Enclosed are the summer test application and supporting forms. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Ashley at 902-893-7455.

PLEASE NOTE:

- (A) The test period will be 50 days in length.
- (B) The adjustment period will be 11 days in length, allowing the animals time to adjust to Test Station conditions.
- (C) Animals entering the evaluation must be born between the following:
 - Rams: Group 1: born January – February 2024
 - Rams: Group 2: born March – April 2024
 - Ewes: born March – April 2024
 - Heifers: born December 2022 – March 2023
- (D) Heifers must be identified as “open” or “bred” on the enclosed application form.
- (E) There will be no sale to follow the Test, however, MBTS staff will try to help coordinate transportation and accommodation as much as possible if you are wanting tested animals sold at a fall sale, like the 2024 Annual Fall Sheep Sale or a September Atlantic Stockyards Sale.
- (F) Please follow the enclosed health recommendations to help reduce health costs and ensure your animals get off to a healthy start.
- (G) Please sign and return the enclosed forms to the Test Station.
- (H) **Please return the enclosed information by May 3, 2024.** Animals will be accepted July 1, 2024, only. No animals will be accepted for evaluation after this date.
- (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 with this package.
- (J) The Test Fee is \$150 per ram or ewe, and \$250 per heifer, fully due upon arrival.
- (K) All individual vet fees will be billed back to the consignor.
- (L) Cheques can be made payable to the Maritime Beef Test Society. Credit card (Visa, Mastercard and American Express, *a 3.5% surcharge will be applied*) can be made by calling 902-893-7455.
- (M) ***A late payment fee of \$100.00 per animal will be charged for entrance payments not received by July 15, 2024.***
- (N) If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the office staff at 902-957-2699, you can also fax applications to 902-893-7063 or emailed to coordinator@agricommodity.ca .
- (O) All animals must be tagged with a CCIA or CSIP 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.
- (P) Priority will be given to registered purebred rams but commercial or unregistered rams will be accepted if space is available.

(Q) All animals will be dewormed upon arrival.

(R) All rams and/or ewes must be administered a Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA) Vaccine (i.e. Glanvac 6) 14 days prior to delivery, with date of treatment specified on Health Certification Form.

a. Vaccine boosters (1 mL dose) will be administered by centre veterinarian 4 to 6 weeks after first initial vaccination.

(S) Rams and/or ewes are required to be shorn no later than 14 days prior to arrival with exception to wool breeds. A producer enrolling a wool breed sheep to test can choose not to have their sheep shorn.

Membership

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 members 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.

Active: Every Maritime Producer who pays annual membership dues will be eligible to be a member of the Maritime Beef Testing Society. Everyone who evaluated 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 sheep or cattle.

Please fill out the provided form and return it to our office with your entry form. The \$28.75 (incl. HST) payment must be made at time of entry.

As a member of the Maritime Beef Testing Society and consigning animals for performance evaluation 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 DETATCH THE FOLLOWING FORM AND RETURN WITH YOUR APPLICATION

Membership

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ **FAX:** _____

EMAIL: _____

DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____