



Agriculture

Animal Health Laboratory
65 River Road
Bible Hill, NS
B2N 5G6

Cattle Herd Health Assistance Program (CHHAP)

- Purpose:** To encourage cattle owners to utilize the professional services of a veterinarian, on a regular basis, for the maintenance and improvement of herd health, through the application of the principles of preventative medicine.
- Eligibility:** Cattle owners who are registered under *The Farm Registration Act*, with a herd of fifteen or more mature cows and who have employed a veterinarian for the above stated purpose, at regular intervals of 4-12 weeks for the past year.
- Assistance:** Assistance is available for a maximum of thirteen (13) properly recorded visits per year for dairy herds, and for a maximum of four (4) properly recorded visits per year for beef herds. The following portions of the veterinarian's fees will be paid to the veterinarian by Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture -
- (a) Fifty percent (50%) of the 'basic call fee' not to exceed ten dollars (\$10.00) per program visit; and,
 - (b) The professional fee for veterinary consultation and service at the rate of seventeen dollars (\$ 17.00) per hour; and, in addition,
 - (c) Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture agrees to provide suitable recording forms without charge.

Application: Eligible cattle owners should complete an Agreement Form and forward it to:

Animal Health Laboratory
65 River Road
Bible Hill, NS B2N 5G6
ph: 902-893-6540
fax: 902-895-6684

**Herd Owner's
Responsibility:**

Enrolled cattle owners must -

- (a) agree to maintain "up-to-date" records on approved, individual cow recording forms;
- (b) arrange with his veterinarian for regular visitation to their dairy herd at minimum intervals of four (4) weeks; and, in the case of beef herds, at maximum intervals of six (6) months;
- (b) understand that when calls are made by the veterinarian under this program, the veterinarian cannot be expected to deal with other unrelated problems;
- (c) agree that artificial insemination technicians must not treat cows for infertility problems, except as directed by the supervising veterinarian;
- (d) agree to report any reproductive abnormalities discovered by the artificial insemination technician, or by the owner, to the veterinarian supervising the on-farm program at the time of next regular visit; and,
- (e) sign, or have one's agent sign, the veterinarian's herd health report form at the conclusion of each visit.

**Veterinarian's
Responsibility:**

The veterinarian supervising the on-farm program must -

- (a) cooperate in making the necessary arrangements for regular herd visits [as listed under previous Section (b) of this program];
- (b) make a conscientious effort to keep abreast of current developments in the livestock industry that pertain to the efficient delivery of health and production medicine programs;
- (c) assist in the dissemination of current and new knowledge and

technical information to the livestock industry;

- (d) assist with the interpretation of health and production indices within the enrolled herd;
- (e) take the lead role to provide owners of enrolled herds with the expertise of others to assist in the resolution of a particular problem;
- (f) agree to apply the principles of preventative medicine in enrolled herds, especially with respect to -
 1. the breeding program (reproduction);
 2. control and prevention of mastitis;
 3. metabolic disease;
 4. herd vaccination program;
 5. parasite control;
 6. all aspects of herd management (including herd replacements);
 7. traumatic reticulitis (“hardware”) prevention; and,
 8. other diseases which are deemed to be of increased importance from time-to-time by the veterinarian in consultation with the Program Veterinarian, Agriculture Protection (NSDA).
- (g) complete a “herd health summary report” form outlining the particular aspect of the herd health program addressed on each visit made to the enrolled herd;
- (h) have the herd owner, or an employee, sign the “herd health summary report form”; and,
- (i) agree to keep confidential all information discussed with the herd owner or his employees.

Claims:

- (a) Claims by the veterinarian / veterinary practice center for the assistance afforded to enrolled herds under this program, are made by forwarding a completed copy of the “herd health summary report form”, along with a statement of account to the Animal Health Laboratory at the address below;
- (b) Claims made under this program must be received within one (1) month of the end of the month in which the call being claimed is made by the veterinarian.
- (c) Claims being made for visits to enrolled herds which are submitted after the period stated in the foregoing section (b) will be considered stale-dated and not

eligible for payment under this program.

Termination:

- (a) The Director of Agriculture and Food Protection may investigate the operation of the Program within any enrolled herd and may drop a producer's enrollment if the producer fails to carry out the terms of the agreement.
- (b) A designated veterinarian may, at any time, terminate their participation in the Program for one or more herds by notifying the Director of Agriculture and Food Protection.
- (c) A producer may discontinue enrollment in the Program at any time by notifying their designated veterinarian who should, in turn, notify the Animal Health Laboratory at the address above.