



Agriculture

65 River Road
Truro, Nova Scotia
B2N 5E3

Cattle Herd Health 2011-2012

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 are either;

1. enrolled in Atlantic **Dairy** Livestock Improvement Corporation (ADLIC); or,
2. 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 -

1. Fifty percent (50%) of the 'basic call fee' not to exceed ten dollars (\$10.00) per program visit; and,
2. The professional fee for veterinary consultation and service at the rate of seventeen dollars (\$ 17.00) per hour; and, in addition,
3. 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, Quality Evaluation
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
65 River Road
Truro, NS B2N 5E3**

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 herd at minimum intervals of four (4) weeks; and, in the case of **beef** herds, at maximum intervals of six (6) months;
- (c) understand that when calls are made by the veterinarian under this program, the veterinarian cannot be expected to deal with other unrelated problems;
- (d) agree that artificial insemination technicians must not treat cows for infertility problems, except as directed by the supervising veterinarian;
- (e) 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,
- (f) 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, Animal Health Laboratory, Quality Evaluation (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 -
Animal Health Laboratory (see address below).
- (b) Claims made under this program must be received within four (4) months 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 the Quality Evaluation 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 his participation in the Program, for one or more herds, by notifying the Director of the Quality Evaluation.
- (c) A producer may discontinue enrollment in the Program, at any time, by notifying his / her designated veterinarian who should, in turn, notify:

**Animal Health Laboratory, Quality Evaluation
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
65 River Road
Truro, NS B2N 5E3**

Termination:

March 31, 2012