



New Brunswick Cattle Producers

Statement on NBDAAF's Plan to Phase-out of Provincial Veterinary Services and Laboratory Services in New Brunswick

April 24, 2026

The New Brunswick Cattle Producers (NBCP) are deeply concerned with the Government of New Brunswick's plan to discontinue Provincial Veterinary Field Services and transition Provincial Veterinary Laboratory services.

While we recognize the fiscal pressures facing government the proposed approach raises significant concerns regarding the potential impacts on animal health and welfare, food safety, and the overall affordability of beef for consumers. Reliable and timely access to veterinary services and diagnostic laboratory support is foundational to maintaining herd health, responding to emergencies, and ensuring the integrity of the food system.

Producers across New Brunswick rely on accessible, consistent veterinary care—particularly in rural and underserved regions where private service capacity is already nonexistent. The proposed transition to a private-sector model, without a clearly demonstrated and fully operational replacement system, risks creating service gaps that could compromise animal care, delay disease detection, and increase production costs. These pressures will inevitably be passed along the value chain, contributing to higher beef prices for consumers.

NBCP is actively engaged with the Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick's organized committee to assess the full implications of this decision and to ensure that the voice of producers is clearly represented throughout this process.

We want to be clear: New Brunswick Cattle Producers are willing partners in working with the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries to modernize veterinary service delivery. However, any path forward must ensure that:

- Veterinary services remain accessible across all regions of the province;
- Emergency and after-hours care is reliably available;
- Provincial laboratory services are maintained at a level that ensures timely, accurate diagnostics;
- Animal health, welfare, and food safety standards are not compromised.

We urge the Province to reverse this directive until a comprehensive, transparent, and fully resourced plan is developed in collaboration with industry. Maintaining strong veterinary infrastructure is not optional—it is essential to the sustainability, resilience, and public trust of New Brunswick's cattle sector.

NBCP remains committed to working constructively with government and industry partners to find a solution that protects producers, supports veterinarians, and safeguards the long-term viability of the province's livestock industry