

AANB-Industry Veterinary & Lab Services Response Committee

April 1, 2026



Beef Cattle



Dairy Cattle



Poultry

Beekeeping



Equine

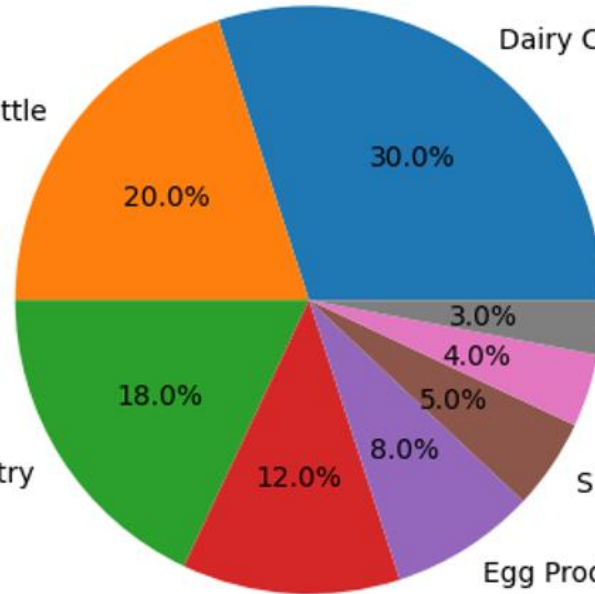


Sheep & Goats



Pork

Egg Production



New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association
Association des médecins vétérinaires du Nouveau-Brunswick

Agricultural Alliance of New Brunswick

Represented by Danielle Connell

The lack of consultation is a serious concern. We ask that DAAF to commit today to conducting meaningful consultations with industry.

Agriculture is the solution to help build a stronger NB. We ask that DAAF collaborate with the AANB and commodity reps to address this issue using the same mindset that the DAAF team is bringing to the shared work on the Action Plan; we're making incredible progress by walking the path together. Collaboration makes us stronger.

What problem does this announcement solve?



Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick

Represented by Mike Bouma / Paul Gaunce / Katie Bleakney

Immediate Impact

The proposed changes present immediate risks to the dairy sector. A well-documented shortage of large animal veterinarians in North America already exists. The transition timeline does not allow enough time for private practices to be established or expanded. In this environment, veterinarians are more likely to choose stable, guaranteed employment, creating a real risk of service gaps before replacement capacity is in place. **We urge the government to pause the removal of services and undertake further consultation, working collaboratively with industry to ensure continuity of veterinary care.**

Rural Access

The geography and population distribution of New Brunswick present challenges for a fully privatized veterinary model. Rural and remote areas often involve increased travel time and smaller client bases, making them less attractive for private practice. Additionally, private clinics are not obligated to provide services to production animals. Without consistent access to veterinary services, dairy producers cannot meet national program requirements (e.g., proAction), which are necessary to maintain their license to ship milk. Simply put, without veterinarians, milk production cannot continue.

Animal Welfare

Access to timely veterinary care is essential to maintaining high standards of animal welfare. Without sufficient veterinary capacity, producers may face delayed or no response in emergency situations, such as difficult calvings, illness, or injury. In addition, veterinarians are required to prescribe and provide access to necessary medications and vaccines. Without this access, producers are limited in their ability to prevent and treat disease, which can lead to increased animal suffering and compromised herd health. Ensuring adequate veterinary services is critical to upholding both animal welfare standards and public trust in the dairy sector.



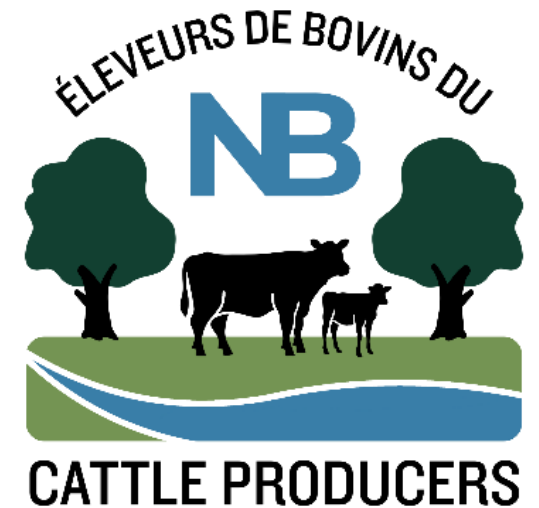
New Brunswick Cattle Producers

Represented by Kara Chisholm / Trevor Welch

We would like to know what a successful transition timeline looks like to NBDAAF and where the pivot point is if targets aren't being met? We ask that NBDAAF provide a timeline with specific completion dates for transition that can be used as check points through this process.

NBCP is concerned with access to large animal vets for regular visits and emergency services, specifically in remote areas.

NBCP is concerned about the impact that reduced access to vets will have on animal welfare and disease monitoring



Pork Producers of New Brunswick

Represented by Denise Cassidy

The importance of maintaining provincial lab services as a 100% cost recovery service.

The effectiveness of the CVO and her team, when dealing with emergency situations. NB CVO participates in ongoing African Swine Fever (ASF) tabletop emergency response exercises with the swine industry; ensuring effective practical response to Foreign Animal Disease risk.

The NB provincial lab is an accredited lab in Atlantic Canada for many Foreign Animal Diseases including HPAI, Africa Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth disease. The privatization of laboratory services may impact our ability to respond effectively in emergency situations.



Poultry Farmers of New Brunswick

Represented by Pierre Martin

The privatization of laboratory services may impact our ability to respond effectively in emergency situations.

The effectiveness of the CVO and her team, when dealing with emergency situations, could be impacted when working with private companies.



Egg Farmers of New Brunswick

Represented by Hans Kristensen

Importance of maintaining provincial lab services, as a full cost recovery service.

Our provincial lab along with our CVO participates in annual Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) tabletop emergency response exercises with poultry, ensuring effective practical response when crisis hits. The lab's involvement and expertise is integral in these exercises.

The NB provincial lab is the only accredited lab in Atlantic Canada for HPAI, Newcastle Disease, African Swine Fever, Foot and Mouth.



Young Farmers of New Brunswick

Represented by Jocelyn Donnelly

The provincial laboratory provides critical services and should be maintained as a full cost recovery service. Its work is essential to animal health, public health, and food safety.

We are concerned about access to timely, skilled veterinary care in rural areas and the impact this will have on animal welfare. Rural and remote regions may not be viable for private practices, making it difficult to ensure animals receive urgent care when needed.

Young farmers already face significant financial pressure and uncertainty when entering agriculture. The decision to cut veterinary services adds further strain. With margins already tight, uncertainty around the cost and availability of private veterinary care places an additional burden on young producers in a sector that already faces well-documented mental health challenges.



Equine Associations of New Brunswick

Represented by Deanna Phelan / Karla Anderson / Dave Hayward

Animal Welfare and timely access to emergency services for our animals - private vet services will be hard to access in rural NB.

Access to medications for our animals as we need a vet- client relationship to gain access to medications.

Laboratory services especially post-mortem services that pathologist provides as vet needs to sign off on the cause of death for insurance purposes.



Veterinary Registrar of New Brunswick

Represented by Dr. Mary-Ellen Themens



New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association

Association des médecins vétérinaires du Nouveau-Brunswick

Sheep Farmers of New Brunswick

Represented by Calvin Hicks

The lab should be saved. It is a matter of public health as well as a day to day necessity of the livestock sector. In the event of a serious outbreak and in the prevention of such it can be invaluable.

The Sheep Industry is fast growing and has tremendous growth potential. Access to veterinary services is already a limiting factor in that growth. Reduced access to veterinary care will be detrimental to further investment.

A new fee structure that covers the financial losses of The Field Service is an acceptable alternative to trashing a valuable system. If this is a budget issue, let's balance the budget.



National Farmers Union of New Brunswick // Union nationale des fermiers du Nouveau-Brunswick

Représentée par Suzanne Fournier / Alexis Légère

There is a **farm income crisis** in New Brunswick, in 2024 the realized net income of NB farmers was -1%, this is not sustainable and significant increases to farmers cost for veterinary care and medication will close more farms.

The timing and release of this announcement has created panic and concern with not only farmers, but the public; as accredited agricultural organizations we are required to give government feedback and are here to advise. Lack of consultation has caused substantial mistrust.

Laboratory services are essential to controlling disease outbreak and mitigating animal health emergencies, closing NB provincial labs would mean being the only province in Canada unprepared for such an event.

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Il y a une crise des revenus agricoles au Nouveau-Brunswick. En 2024, le revenu net réalisé des agriculteurs du NB était de -1 %, ce qui n'est pas soutenable et des augmentations significatives des coûts pour les soins vétérinaires et les médicaments entraîneront la fermeture de davantage de fermes.

Le calendrier et la diffusion de cette annonce ont créé une panique et une inquiétude non seulement parmi les agriculteurs, mais aussi parmi le grand public ; en tant qu'organisations agricoles accréditées, nous sommes tenus de donner notre avis au gouvernement et sommes ici pour conseiller. Le manque de consultation a engendré une méfiance considérable.

Les services de laboratoire sont essentiels pour contrôler les épidémies et atténuer les urgences sanitaires animales. La fermeture des laboratoires provinciaux du NB signifierait être la seule province au Canada à ne pas être préparée à un tel événement.



Recap: What problem does this announcement solve?

Full Cost Recovery Model

The industry is offering to work with government over the next 1-2 years to transition veterinary and lab services to a full cost recovery (not subsidized) model.

This would:

- Eliminate the \$4M deficit
- Keep services intact and operational
- Allow producers to pay for what they use
- Achieve government's fiscal goals without service closure

Farmers will help build resilient Economic Infrastructure in NB.

Expectations and timeline

1. Initial government response and commitment to the consultation process – **today**
2. Address the core question: "What problem is this decision solving?" – **today**
3. Remove or, at minimum, pause the plan to phase out services to allow for industry collaboration and consultation to build a sustainable service program – **April 15**
4. Answers to questions provided by the committee shortly - **May 1**
5. Detailed financial breakdown to support cost recovery discussions - **May 1**

Thank you.

We look forward to participating in many meaningful, collaborative, and impactful consultation processes in the future. **Agriculture is the solution to help build a stronger NB.**

Resources

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Calls for Urgent Action on Workforce Crisis and Drug Shortages – Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, November 24, 2025

Priority Area: Veterinary Workforce Shortage - Canadian Veterinary Medical Association resources

Understanding the motivations, deterrents, and incentives for rural Albertan veterinary practice – Frontiers In Veterinary Science, September 17, 2025 vol. 12