

Media Release

AANB-Industry Vet & Lab Response Committee Calls for Collaborative Plan on Veterinary Service Changes

Fredericton, NB (April 9, 2026) — The Agriculture Alliance of New Brunswick and stakeholder industry associations have formed the AANB-Industry Vet & Lab Services Response Committee. This committee is comprised of all livestock organizations including dairy, beef, chicken, turkeys, eggs, pork, equine, the Young Farmers of NB, and the NB Veterinary Medical Association in developing a response and collective request to government.

While recognizing the fiscal pressures facing government and recent investments in agricultural growth, this committee emphasizes that veterinary and laboratory services are essential to the viability of New Brunswick's livestock sector. These services underpin animal welfare, food safety, emergency response, and biosecurity across the province.

“The provincial lab provides more than testing - it offers timely diagnostics, expert interpretation and direct communication with producers and boards. That combination helps farmers make informed decisions quickly and supports overall animal health and food safety. We will work collaboratively with the Government of New Brunswick and industry partners to identify and implement service solutions that ensures continued access to veterinary expertise, diagnostic services, and the strong oversight that consumers expect and trust.” – Egg Farmers of NB, Chicken Farmers of NB, and Turkey Farmers of NB

Producers across the province are raising urgent concerns about the potential impacts of the decision, particularly in rural and remote regions where private veterinary capacity is limited. Identified risks include reduced access to 24/7 emergency care, increased strain on existing veterinary services, potential loss of veterinarians, and disruptions to food safety systems. The committee is especially concerned about the loss of critical lab services that protect livestock and the public from harm.

AANB and its member organizations are calling on government to take immediate action in four key areas:

- Engage directly with livestock commodity groups
- Co-develop a phased transition plan that ensures continuity of essential services
- Identify and prepare for service disruptions in advance
- Maintain ongoing dialogue throughout the transition process

The dairy industry in New Brunswick, which contributes more than 330 million to the provincial GDP and approximately 3600 jobs, is greatly dismayed by the lack of consultations with all livestock sectors and vets within the province, asks for a pause of at least a year to engage in meaningful consultations. The precarious situation for NB livestock producers and their animals that has been created will leave our farms vulnerable with an inability to receive professional veterinary care in a timely fashion. – Dairy Farmers of NB

The committee stressed that industry is ready to be part of the solution and is open to exploring new, sustainable service delivery models in partnership with government.

The Sheep Breeders are happy to work with government and AANB to develop a cost recovery model that retains the lab and guarantees province wide large animal veterinary access. – Sheep Breeders of NB

The committee's position and related requests were submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries with all in agreement to meet again to discuss next steps to ensure a coordinated path forward for the sector.

Agriculture is the solution to help build a stronger NB.