



Information for Livestock Owners

APRIL 2017

VETERINARY SERVICES PROGRAM

Contact

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Easier access to veterinary care for your livestock

As part of the Yukon Livestock Health Program, the Government of Yukon is offering a pilot program to reduce the cost of veterinary care to farmers who raise animals for food. This pilot Veterinary Services Program will complement the Yukon government's promotion of local food sources.

Farmers that live a long distance from a veterinary clinic can have better access to health care for their livestock now. The Veterinary Services Program provides up to \$1,000 per farm premises to cover the fees charged by a veterinarian to travel to/from your farm, for their professional services, and for up to three phone consultations. Livestock owners are still responsible for paying fees for testing samples and for drugs, vaccines or treatments required for the animals.

Only for livestock raised for food

The pilot program is in place until March 31, 2018, with enrollment on a first-come-first-served basis as space in the program is limited. Qualifying species are:

- ▶ Domestic livestock animals (beef cattle, dairy cattle, goats, sheep, poultry, swine, alpacas, llamas and yaks), meat rabbits
- ▶ Game farmed animals (elk, bison and muskox), and
- ▶ Farmed fish raised for human consumption.

People with six or fewer poultry will be eligible for up to \$250 per premises. Horses are not covered by the program because they are not raised for food in Yukon. The program is being evaluated and if it is successful and funding remains available, it will be continued.

Enrollment process

An enrollment package is available from veterinary clinics and from the Yukon government's Animal Health Unit (AHU). In order to enroll, livestock owners must complete an application for a Premises ID number and a separate program enrollment form – both to be sent to the AHU. Each premises enrolled must have a Premises ID number as well as a completed Veterinary Services Program enrollment form.

Livestock owners who are not enrolled in the program when an emergency strikes may still be able to join, provided a completed application package is submitted to the AHU

Livestock Health

A healthy livestock population is essential for producing safe, wholesome food and contributes to food security in Yukon.

Veterinarians have specialized knowledge of animal health and disease and can help farmers in planning for the best productivity from their livestock.

The Animal Health Unit has veterinarians who are specialists in disease diagnosis (pathology) and the spread of disease in populations, as well as in the relationship of animal disease to public health.

The AHU supports veterinarians who participate in the Veterinary Support Program by ensuring access to disease testing and keeping track of the health of Yukon livestock.

within seven days of the veterinarian's visit. The veterinarian, who must be a participant in the program, will provide the paperwork.

Program benefits

Veterinary care for specific livestock concerns is a major benefit but not the only one. You can contact a participating veterinarian for one or more of the following services:

- ▶ Herd or flock health assessment,
- ▶ Biosecurity evaluation,
- ▶ Recommendations for preventative health care, and/or
- ▶ Information about livestock nutrition and productivity.

There are also benefits for the agriculture sector overall. Through the information you provide on the enrollment form, the AHU will gain a greater understanding about the concerns of Yukon livestock owners. The data will help them assess livestock health – an important consideration for food security – as well as the potential for expanding production of desirable food commodities.

Required information

The information on the program enrollment form is kept confidential and individual privacy is to be protected by both government and private sector veterinarians. In addition to your contact information, you will be asked to provide information about:

- ▶ Livestock species and numbers you now have,
- ▶ Livestock species and numbers you might have in future,
- ▶ Factors that might prevent you from expanding,
- ▶ Key challenges to keeping your livestock healthy,
- ▶ Which products/services would help you maintain healthy livestock, and
- ▶ Any illnesses experienced by your livestock in the past five years (with details).

The AHU will provide participating veterinarians with the names of enrolled livestock owners, along with your Premises ID number and remaining balance on your \$1,000 allowance. After a veterinarian's visit, you will have to pay only the **Owner Invoice** and you will receive a copy of the **Project Invoice**, which shows the fees covered by the Veterinary Services Program. The Owner Invoice includes fees for sampling, testing, shipping, drugs and treatments required for the animals.

Enroll now

Livestock owners are encouraged to enroll at their earliest convenience by contacting the AHU at 667-5600, 1-800-661-0408 ext. 5600 or animalhealth@gov.yk.ca. Packages of application forms with program information have been distributed to all Yukon veterinary clinics as well.

...tracking animal health...