

Information for livestock owners

April 2018
Veterinary Services Program

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 Government of Yukon's promotion of local food sources.

Farmers that live a long distance from a veterinary clinic can now have better access to healthcare for their livestock. 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, and for their professional services. Livestock owners are still responsible for paying fees for drugs, vaccines or treatments required for the animals.

Only for livestock raised for food

This program will be renewed annually, but enrollment is limited by the available funding. Farms on the program are renewed when funding is approved in April of each year. Qualifying species are:

- domestic livestock animals (beef cattle, dairy cattle, goats, sheep, poultry, swine, alpacas, meat rabbits, llamas and yaks);
- 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 Government of Yukon's Animal Health Unit (AHU). In order to enroll, livestock owners must complete an application for a Premises Identification Number (PID) and a separate program enrollment form – both to be sent to the AHU. Each premises enrolled must have a PID number as well as a completed Veterinary Services Program enrollment form.



Contact

Animal Health Unit
Government of Yukon
867-667-5600 or
1-800-661-0408, ext. 5600

P.O. Box 2703 (V-7)
Whitehorse, YT
Y1A 2C6

Program Veterinarian:
867-667-8663

Livestock Health Technician:
867-333-9471

Email:
animalhealth@gov.yk.ca

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 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 livestock 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 drugs and treatments required for the animals.

Enroll now

If you have not yet enrolled, we remind you that program funding is limited and enrolment is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact the AHU at 667-5600, 1-800-661-0408, ext. 5600 or animalhealth@gov.yk.ca. Packages of application forms with program information are available at Yukon veterinary clinics as well.



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.