



## Agriculture

PO Box 890  
Hancock Building  
Truro, NS  
B2N 5G6

### Swine Herd Health Assistance Policy (SHHAP)

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- Purpose:** To minimize disease in swine herds through herd inspections, recording of disease findings, adoption of procedures to reduce or eradicate common disease already present, and to prevent the introduction of other diseases. The program is not intended to certify a “swine disease-free status”, but to aid swine breeders in upgrading herd health.
- Eligibility:** Nova Scotia producers of commercial and / or purebred swine, who are registered under *The Farm Registration Act*.
- Assistance:** Assistance is available for a maximum of twelve (12) visits to enrolled swine production premises. The following portions of the veterinarian’s fees will be paid to the veterinarian by the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture –
1. The ‘basic call fee’ not to exceed twenty dollars (\$20.00) per program visit; and,
  2. The professional fee for veterinary consultation and service at the rate of \$19.00 per hour, but not to exceed \$28.50 (i.e. 1.5 hours of professional time).
- Application:** Owners of eligible swine production premises shall apply, using a “Swine Herd Health Application Form”. The completed form should be forwarded to:

**Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture  
Agriculture Protection  
P.O. Box 890, Hancock Building  
Truro, NS B2N 5G6**

**ph: 902-893-6540  
fax: 902-895-6684**

**Herd Owner's  
Responsibility:**

Owners of enrolled swine production premises shall agree -

- (a) to maintain "up-to-date" records;
- (b) to arrange with his veterinarian for regular visitation to the swine production premise at minimum intervals approximating four (4) weeks (ie. 12 visits per year maximum);
- (c) to sign, or have one's agent sign, the veterinarian's herd health report form at the conclusion of each visit;
- (d) to pay the veterinarian a fee based on the hourly rate set out in the Livestock Health Services Agreement;
- (e) to carry out a program of internal and external parasite control as recommended by the veterinarian;
- (f) to submit carcasses of dead pigs for postmortem examination; or, other specimens as requested by the veterinarian in order that the cause of any disease problem may be determined;
- (g) to permit the veterinarian to inspect the swine production premise, and the pigs kept at that site, at any reasonable time;
- (h) to carry out a sanitation program as prescribed by the veterinarian; and,
- (i) to take any steps necessary, and reasonable, to prevent the introduction of disease into the swine production premise.

Owners of enrolled swine production premises shall be responsible for the cost incurred for -

- (a) medicine and surgical procedures provided by the veterinarian / veterinary practice center;
- (b) the collection of specimens for laboratory tests unless done in conjunction with a scheduled program visit; and,
- (c) cost of laboratory tests.

**Veterinarian's  
Responsibility:**

The designated veterinarian shall be responsible for -

- (a) making herd health program visits to each enrolled swine production premise at least six (6) times annually; and, with the agreement of the owner of the swine production premise, the number of visits may increase to a maximum of twelve (12) visits per year;

- (b) making a clinical examination of the swine herd and completing a swine herd health report at each visit;
- (c) collecting, or requesting from the owners of enrolled herds, such specimens as may be required for the surveillance of disease on the premise;
- (d) discussing with the owner, those clinical and laboratory test results applicable to the swine production premise;
- (e) keeping abreast of current developments in the swine sector of the livestock industry that pertain to the efficient delivery of health and production medicine programs; and,
- (f) taking a lead role to provide owners of enrolled swine production premises with the expertise of others to assist in the resolution of the particular problem.

**NSDA's  
Responsibility:**

Nova Scotia of Agriculture (NSDA) shall be responsible for the administration of the swine herd health program, and -

- (a) periodically review the operation of the program with owners of enrolled swine production premises and their veterinarians;
- (b) provide additional herd or animal inspections and / or collection of specimens for laboratory testing when requested by the Director of Agriculture and Food Protection;
- (c) be responsible for the operation of a veterinary diagnostic laboratory; and,
- (d) provide necessary program report forms.

**Claims:**

- (a) Claims by the veterinarian / veterinary practice center, for the assistance provided to the owners of enrolled swine production premises, are made by forwarding a detailed invoice to:

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Agriculture Protection  
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- (b) Claims made under this program must be received within four (4) months of the end of the month in which the call being claimed is made by the veterinarian /veterinary practice center.
- (c) Claims being made for visits to enrolled premises which are submitted after the period stated above [in subsection (b)] will be considered stale-dated and not eligible for payment.

**Termination:**

- (a) The Director of Agriculture and Food Protection may investigate the operation of the Program within any enrolled herd; and, may drop a producer's enrollment if the producer fails to carry out the terms of the agreement.
- (b) A designated veterinarian may, at any time, terminate his participation in the Program for one or more herds by notifying the Director of Agriculture and Food Protection.
- (c) A producer may discontinue enrollment in the Program, at any time, by notifying his / her designated veterinarian who should, in turn, notify:

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