

## AGRI-FUTURES NOVA SCOTIA

### ANNUAL REPORT

#### 2004 - 2005

Agri-Futures is a non-profit Association registered in Nova Scotia. Its membership is the Council of Leaders of the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture. Ten directors are appointed by the membership to conduct the business of the Association. In addition, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries each appoint an ex officio member to the Board. The sole mandate of the Association is to administer the CARD funds and ACAAF funds allocated to the province. As Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is the only provider of those funds, it sets out general guidelines under which the Association must conduct its business.

The allocation of CARD funds was completed with the approval of eight projects and no further funds will be allocated to that program. On August 31, \$1,120,000 was committed against 45 uncompleted CARD projects. The program was approximately \$36,000 over committed. It is anticipated that future decommitments and interest earned in the investment account will cover the over commitment and future administration expenses.

Agri-Futures received approval from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for delivery of the ACAAF program and Year 1 funds of \$813,117 were received prior to March 31, 2005. New guidelines, policies and application procedures were developed for the program. The web site has been updated and applications may be submitted on-line.

#### Activity to August 31, 2005

In the past year, the Board met six times and convened ten conference calls to consider business of the Association and to review applications. In addition, the Executive Director attended two meetings and the Chair attended one meeting in Ottawa to review issues concerning the

#### Board of Directors

Laurie Hennigar  
*Chairman*

Jean Ward  
*Vice-Chair*

Doug Bacon  
*Director*

Ron Boyle  
*Director*

Albert Craswell  
*Director*

Sandra Fisher  
*Director*

Glayne MacQueen  
*Director*

Lester Palmer  
*Director*

Kyla Pierik  
*Director*

Gerry van Dyk  
*Director*

Susan Simpson  
*Ex Officio*

Shelley Manning  
*Ex Officio*

Rick Williams  
*Executive Director*

implementation of the ACAA program.

To August 31, 2005, 273 applications were approved under the CARD program and \$5,019,995 had been paid or remained committed under the program. Total funds received under the ACAA program were \$1,405,371 and \$1,271,035 was committed to 27 approved projects. A summary of approved projects is presented in Appendix I for CARD projects and in Appendix II for ACAA projects.

A summary of activity under the CARD program is provided under Appendix III and for the ACAA program under Appendix IV.

### **Appendix I: CARD Projects Approved during 2004 -2005**

#### **Project 387.**

**Technical Video:** The Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Producers' Association developed a video to demonstrate best management practices. The video is an educational tool for producers and a support for Minor Use Pesticide Registration for new bio-pesticides.

*Total Cost: \$ 12,300*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 2,800*

#### **Project 390.**

**Maple Syrup Quality:** The Maple Producer's Association of Nova Scotia will develop guidelines and fact sheets and hold educational meetings on food safety and syrup quality.

*Total Cost: \$ 36,320*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 13,160*

#### **Project 391.**

**Conference:** The Soil and Crop Improvement Association of Nova Scotia in cooperation with the Atlantic Grains Council held a conference covering production practices and environmental issues.

*Total Cost: \$ 23,800*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 7,100*

#### **Project 392.**

**Science Technology Workshop:** AgraPoint International in cooperation with the Nova Scotia Agricultural College organized the Atlantic Agricultural Science and Technology Workshop. The workshop was designed to provide information sharing on research and technology transfer to research and extension workers.

*Total Cost: \$ 43,500*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 8,100*

**Project 394.**

**Honeycrisp Apple Production Workshop:** The Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association held a workshop to increase growers' knowledge of Honeycrisp apple production, storage and marketing.

*Total Cost: \$ 3,365*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 950*

**Project 396.**

**Apple Industry Strategy:** The Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association held an industry strategy workshop to identify industry issues, new initiatives and program direction prior to the Association's Annual Meeting.

*Total Cost: \$ 2,500*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 940*

**Project 397.**

**Direct Marketing Conference:** Noggins Corner Farm coordinated travel for four agri-businesses representatives to attend the 2005 North American Farmers Direct Marketing Association Conference.

*Total Cost: \$ 8,000*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 2,000*

**Project 398.**

**Strategic Planning:** The Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network will organize three round table meetings to plan strategy for alternative marketing, product branding and transition management.

*Total Cost: \$ 15,700*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 5,000*

**Appendix II: ACAAF Projects Approved during 2004 -2005**

**NS0001.**

**Nutrient Management Planning:** The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture will hire a person to do a survey of soil, crop and manure research over the last twenty years, identify research deficiencies and improve soil test reports.

*Total Cost: \$ 119,088*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 61,588*

**NS0002.**

**Commodity Board Implementation:** The Nova Scotia Cattlemen's Association will communicate with Nova Scotia beef producers about the formation of the new Nova Scotia Cattle Producers organization and its impact.

*Total Cost: \$ 59,719*

*AFNS Contribution: \$20,000*

**NS0003.**

**Value Added Product Development:** The Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association, in cooperation with the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, will conduct a five-year project to develop technologies and protocols for the production of value-added food and feed ingredients and other phenolic-based bio-products from apples and their by-products (pomace and skin).

*Total Cost: \$ 2,138,587*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 282,587*

**NS0004.**

**Stakeholder Consultation:**

Pork Nova Scotia will engage stakeholders in a consultation process, leading to the identification and exploration of issues of concern to the Nova Scotia pork industry and to provide input into a strategic and operational planning process for the industry.

*Total Cost: \$35,103*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 13,373*

**NS0007CO.**

**Wild Blueberry Entomology Research Chair:** This project, initiated by the Wild Blueberry Association of Nova Scotia, will establish a blueberry research chair to develop technology-based products, services and processes for wild blueberries with particular focus on applied entomological research. This is a collective outcome project and involves the ACAAF councils and the wild blueberry producer organizations in Nova Scotia, Quebec, New Brunswick, PEI and Newfoundland and Labrador.

*Total Cost: \$521,500*

*Total ACAAF Funds: \$210,000*

*AFNS Contribution: \$108,650*

**NS0008CO/QP001CO.**

**Dairy Production Software:** This is a collective outcome project initiated by the Programme d'analyse des troupeaux laitiers du Quebec (PATLQ) - Quebec Dairy Herd Analysis Program. It will develop a software based program to aid dairy producers in better matching milk production to demand.

*Total Cost: \$162,303*

*Total ACAAF Funds \$87,572*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 3,000*

**NS0010.**

**Strategic Planning:** The Chicken Farmers of Nova Scotia will develop a five year strategic plan. The strategic plan will be initiated through an educational session and developed through a series of facilitated meetings with “ grassroots” industry

stakeholders.

*Total Cost: \$ 41,000*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 9,200*

#### **NS0011CO/SK0001CO.**

**Enhancing Vaccine Efficiency:** The Veterinary Infectious Diseases Organization will test a vaccine additive for cattle going into feedlots, with a view to increasing the speed and magnitude of the animal's response against shipping fever. This is a collective outcome project involving all ten provincial ACAAf councils.

*Total Cost: \$1,200,000*

*Total ACAAf Funds \$597,480*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 4,380*

#### **NS0012CO.**

**Strategic Planning:** The HortEast Association will engage in a strategic planning exercise designed to improve its biennial trade show and thereby increase the chances of transforming it from a break-even to a revenue generating event. This is a collective outcome project involving Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI and Newfoundland and Labrador.

*Total Cost: \$26,350*

*Total ACAAf Funds \$14,4000*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 7,200*

#### **NS0014CO.**

**Fur Research Technician:** The Nova Scotia Fur Institute will retain a technician to provide the human resources for research activities involving the use of specified risk materials as feed ingredients by the mink industry; metabolic diseases in mink during growth and reproduction; testing and development of housing and husbandry technology; and producer education and management skills development. This may become a collective outcome project involving the Canadian Mink Breeders Association and ACAAf councils in BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick and PEI.

*Total Cost: \$233,125*

*Total ACAAf Funds \$ 170,625*

*AFNS Contribution: \$170,625*

#### **NS0015.**

**On Farm "Sharps" Disposal:** The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture has initiated this project to make Nova Scotia livestock farmers aware of the correct procedures for handling, storage and safe disposal of on-farm sharps (used hypodermic needles, etc.) Nova Scotia livestock farms will be provided with an information sheet and approved "sharps" container and also given information on how to safely dispose of the sharps container when it is full.

*Total Cost: \$ 11,373*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 3,000*

**NS0017.**

**Strawberry IPM Workshop:** AgraPoint International Inc. will conduct a two day interactive workshop to expose producers to new and innovative ways to manage pests in their strawberry operations.

*Total Cost: \$ 34,020*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 4,700*

**NS0019.**

**Primary Production Value Chain Recovery:** The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture will initiate research on legislative tools and techniques for recovering farm-provided public goods that cannot be recovered from the marketplace.

*Total Cost: \$ 64,024*

*AFNS Contribution: \$47,000*

**NS0021CO/PE003CO.**

**Beef Cutting Room Traceability:** Atlantic Beef Products Inc. will install a system for keeping track of beef products from “farm gate to consumer plate”.

*Total Cost: \$2,430,000*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 250,000*

**NS0022CO/ON0005CO.**

**The evaluation of production, reproduction, disease resistance, and profitability of the NRF x Holstein heifers and purebred heifers:** Gencor will compare purebred vs. crossbred dairy cows for economically significant traits. The animals used for crossbreeding are Norsk rodt fe. ( Norwegian Red Cow)

*Total Cost: \$ 1,150,000*

*Total ACAA Funds \$ 550,000*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 12,100*

**NS0023CO/BC0038CO.**

**Innovative uses of Dairy By-product:** Vitalus Nutrition Inc. will research the feasibility of using dairy permeate (liquid by-products from dairy processing) for animal feed.

*Total Cost: \$75,000*

*Total ACAA Funds \$ 37,500*

*AFNS Contribution: \$12,375*

**NS0024.**

**Addressing bird welfare and equipment modifications for the Atlantic**

**Canadian Centre for Poultry Research:** The Atlantic Poultry Research Centre will send two staff on investigative travel concerning poultry behaviour and welfare and poultry research cage design.

*Total Cost: \$7,600*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 3,800*

**NS0025.**

**Development and evaluation of value-added poultry feed from apple by-products:** The Atlantic Poultry Research Centre will develop and evaluate broiler feed incorporating apple waste products.

*Total Cost: \$ 97,007*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 20,000*

**NS0026.**

**Composting: Development and Industry Demonstration Initiative: Management of Slaughterhouse waste Materials:** The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture's Deadstock Committee proposes to evaluate the suitability of composting slaughterhouse waste with a focus on the elimination of pathogens.

*Total Cost: \$295,000*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 68,600*

**NS0027CO/SK0006CO.**

**Agriculture in the Classroom Canada:** Agriculture in the Classroom Saskatchewan will organize an initiative to create a national clearing house for agricultural information destined for the educational system.

*Total Cost: \$171,600*

*Total ACAA Funds \$87,920*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 8,792*

**NS0028CO/QP0003CO.**

**Demonstration Dairy Farm Network:** Novolait, a Quebec corporation representing dairy producer and processor interests, will test dairy research results through on farm demonstrations.

*Total Cost: \$ 2,012,000*

*Total ACAA Funds \$ 400,000*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 4,436*

**NS0030.**

**Start Small, Stay Smart:** AgraPoint International Ltd. will manage a workshop for new entrants to agriculture, including a keynote speaker on direct marketing, and also exposure to key personnel in the agricultural support organizations.

*Total Cost: \$33,340*

*AFNS Contribution: \$5,765*

**NS0032.**

**International Association of Milk Control Agencies 69th Annual Conference:**

Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia will organize a conference for milk industry regulators focusing on environmental requirements, food safety, changing consumer trends and the BSE induced closure of the U.S.-Canadian border.

*Total Cost: \$ 49,000*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 1,925*

**NS0033.**

**Growing NS Phase Two:** The Nova Scotia Agricultural Awareness Committee will manage a program comprised of five projects: a classroom activity book, a national conference on managing crisis in agriculture, a provincial conference on the same, development of pamphlets with food quality and safety, environment and innovativeness as content and will develop materials for provincial teacher in-service on food safety and security.

*Total Cost: \$ 98,100*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 25,000*

**NS0034.**

**International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit:** Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia will send two representatives to the I.D.F. conference. Information will be mailed to DFNS membership.

*Total Cost: \$ 8,800*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 4,125*

**NS0035.**

**September Harvest Festival:** The Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture in cooperation with the Ecology Action Centre will address the lack of information city dwellers have regarding the environmental stewardship of modern agricultural operations, the quality benefits of locally grown food and the importance of the local industry to the provincial economy.

*Total Cost: \$ 12,406*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 4,000*

**NS0036.**

**Study Tour of Danish Mink Industry:** The Nova Scotia Mink Breeders will send two representatives to Denmark to determine the factors allowing the Danish mink industry, with high labour costs and a stringent regulatory environment, to remain profitable.

*Total Cost: \$7,514*

*AFNS Contribution: \$ 6,264*

**Please Note:** Until all potential partners in a collective outcome project have been heard from, the level of commitment by the parties may vary as more partners join a project. Also, figures shown for collective outcome (CO) projects do not reflect the amounts received back from AAFC; thus if a CO project shows a commitment of \$7,200 as in NS0012CO, Agri-Futures Nova Scotia will have received half of that back from AAFC. The above reflects all projects and levels of commitment at fiscal year end ( August 31, 2005).

**Appendix III : CARD Activity to August 31, 2005**

	<b>Total Program</b>
Applications Received	398
Applications Approved	273
Applications Not Approved	104
Applications Withdrawn	21
Total Funds Received from AAFC	\$4,856,026.00
Interest & Capital Gains Received	\$560,030.00
Funds Paid on Projects	\$3,899,969.00
Agri-Futures Funds Committed to Projects	\$1,120,026.00
Administration Costs	\$432,941.00

**Appendix IV : ACAAF Activity to August 31, 2005**

	<b>Total Program</b>
Applications Received	41
Applications Approved	27
Applications Not Approved	4
Applications Withdrawn	1
Applications Pending at Year End	9
Transferred to CARD	1
Total Funds Received from ACAAF(Includes base grant, plus collective outcome amounts and translation reimbursement)	\$1,405,370.79
Interest Received	\$10,734.70

	<b>Total Program</b>
Funds Paid on Projects	\$289,372.90
Agri-Futures Funds Committed to Projects	\$981,662.00
Administration Costs	\$75,750.30