

## Objective:

To increase the competitive position of the targeted livestock commodities by investing in improved genetic material for Nova Scotia flocks/herds.

## Eligibility Criteria:

An eligible applicant must meet the following criteria:

- have a current farm registration under the *Farm Registration Act*;
- be actively farming one of the following commodities: beef, sheep, and goat (different genetic enhancement initiative elements will be offered based on commodity);
- must be registered with the Nova Scotia Cattle Producers and be actively paying levies if you are a beef producer;
- generates an annual eligible gross farming income of \$10,000 or more (exempt for new entrants);
- must have a minimum herd size of 1 cow;
- must be participating in and submitting data to a genetic evaluation program;
- Dairy animals are not eligible.

## Application Process

- Read the application form and guidelines carefully. If you have any questions contact the Programs and Business Risk Management (PBRM) office.
- Applications can be submitted by mail, fax or in person. Only ONE application per registered farm will be considered for processing.
- Applications will be assessed on a first-come first-served basis per commodity.

## 1.0 Beef Genetic Enhancement and Herd Expansion Initiative

### a) Genetic Enhancement

#### Bull

- One bull incentive will be offered per 30 breeding females every two years.
- The bull's registration papers must be transferred to the applicant's name.
- Bulls must have a minimum adjusted yearling weight of 950 pounds.
- Bulls must be purchased from a purebred breeder that has a minimum of 5 bulls of the same breed (proof required). Eligible bulls must have an Average Daily Gain (ADG) on-feed index of 100 or better and a minimum adjusted yearling weight of 950 pounds.

#### Genetic Enhancement Premiums for Bulls

- Test Station bulls having a breed Average Daily Gain on-feed index of 100 (minimum of five bulls in a contemporary group of same breed on test) are eligible for an additional premium.
- Test Station bulls with a minimum of at least three above breed average Expected Progeny Difference on production or carcass merit traits are eligible for an additional premium.

- Consignors of Test Station bulls that meet a minimum on-test weight of 550 pounds (British breeds) or 600 pounds (Continental breeds) may be eligible for assistance for the costs of genetic testing (ultrasound and gene testing) to identify bulls with superior characteristics such as yield, tenderness and marbling.

#### Cow

- Cows must be registered purebred beef five years of age or less.
- Cows that have three production or carcass Expected Progeny Difference (EPD) traits above breed average are eligible.
- Cow registration papers must be transferred to applicant.
- Cows (five years of age or less) that are performance tested/age verified F1 and have proof of registered purebred sire and dam are eligible if they have a herd weaning index of 100 or better.
- Assistance is available for a maximum of five eligible cows.

#### Embryo

Both parents of embryos must have a minimum of three production or carcass trait EPD above breed average to be eligible.

#### Genetic Enhancement Premiums for Cows

- Cows (five years of age or less) that are performance tested/age verified F1 and have proof of registered purebred sire and dam and have a herd weaning index of 100 or better are eligible for an additional premium.

#### b) Beef Herd Renewal (Heifers)

Young bred replacement heifers (retained or purchased) are eligible where pregnancy has been performed by a veterinarian or by an ultrasound technician and confirmed by a veterinarian. **Note: Dairy animals are not eligible.**

#### Genetic Enhancement Premiums for Heifers

Additional genetic enhancement premiums may be approved if documentation is provided for the following:

- the animal qualifies as a two-way cross (F1-hybrid) with a minimum weaning index of 100 or better;
- the animal qualifies as a registered purebred animal with a minimum weaning index of 100 or better;
- the animal has successfully completed a Test Station heifer development program or has been on a home test with index of 100 or better;
- bred purebred replacement heifers that have at least three above breed average Expected Progeny Difference (EPD) on production or carcass merit traits;

#### New Entrant Beef Genetic Enhancement Premium

An additional premium will be paid for a new entrant (those in their first five years of Farm Registration).

**c) Genetic Evaluation**

Purchase of herd genetic evaluation software and enrollment fee in performance recording program (example: BIO or Purebred Association Program) are eligible expenses. Data collection, herd enrollment fees and data entry fees may also be considered.

**2.0 Sheep Genetic Enhancement and Flock Expansion Initiative****a) Genetic Enhancement**Ram Purchase

- Purchase of purebred registered rams that have a Sheep Flock Improvement Program (SFIP) or GenOvis expected progeny difference (EPD) that is positive for maternal or growth index.
- Purebred registered rams without performance data may also be eligible.
- Animals must be in the possession of the applicant.

Sheep AI and Semen Importation

The cost of semen importation and delivery are eligible expenses, as well as breeding costs (i.e., veterinary costs including travel and accommodations).

**b) Sheep Flock Renewal**

- Yearling ewes, retained or purchased, equaling 30% of the producers existing breeding ewe flock are eligible expenses.
- The flock owner must be enrolled and submitting data to GenOvis and be able to prove that the yearlings have an index of 95 or better in the multi index.
- Applicant must provide receipts from the breeder with the animal being identified with Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) tags.
- Purebred animals must also be identified as per the national identification requirements for purebred sheep.
- Animals must be in the possession of the applicant.

**Note: Dairy animals are not eligible.**

**New Entrant Sheep Genetic Enhancement Premiums**

An additional premium will be paid for a new entrant (those in their first five years of Farm Registration).

**c) Genetic Evaluation**

Purchase of flock genetic evaluation software and enrollment fee (example: GenOvis) are eligible expenses. Data collection and data entry fees may also be considered.

**3.0 Goat Genetic Enhancement and Flock Expansion Initiative****a) Genetic Enhancement**

- Purchase of purebred bucks, registered does (Canadian Livestock Records Corporation), and doe kids are eligible expenses.
- Animals must be in the possession of the applicant.

**b) Goat Flock Renewal**

- Purchase of superior commercial does and doe kids for breeding stock replacement or expansion are eligible expenses.
- Applicant must provide receipts from goat producers with non-registered animal being identified by an ear tag number or tattoo.
- Registered animals must be identified by tattoo in accordance with CLRC requirements.
- Animals must be in the possession of the applicant.

**Note: Dairy animals are not eligible.**

**New Entrant Goat Genetic Enhancement Premiums**

An additional premium will be paid for a new entrant (those in their first five years of Farm Registration).

**c) Genetic Evaluation**

Purchase of herd genetic evaluation software and flock enrollment fees are eligible expenses. Data collection and data entry fees may also be considered.

Application Processing

The Genetic Enhancement Program is subject to annual budget approval. Therefore, the number of applications and amounts committed will determine the closure of the program.

Applications will be reviewed in sequence based on the date the application is received.

Once the original Letter of Agreement has been generated, project changes may be submitted in writing only once within 30 days of the date noted on the original Letter of Agreement.

In the event of a dispute or disagreement regarding the program administration staffs' interpretation of any aspect of the program, the decision of the program administration staff will prevail and is final.

Claiming

Upon approval, applicants will receive a Letter of Agreement which identifies the eligible project activities, assistance offered and the Terms and Conditions to which the offer of assistance is subject.

General Program Claiming Criteria:

- All claims must be postmarked by the post office or received in the PBRM office by March 1, 2013. Late claims will not be processed.
- Signed copy of the Letter of Agreement must be submitted.
- Submission of a Genetic Enhancement Claim Form, based on the amount of the original approval or the actual activity costs, whichever is less.
- Copies of all invoices with proof of payment (i.e., cancelled cheques, credit card statements, debit slips or official invoices marked paid and signed by supplier) to support completed approved project activities must be submitted.
- Payments will be made based on date of eligible project activity NOT invoice date.

Table 1 - Genetic Enhancement Program Financial Summary

|                                               | Assistance        | Cap                                                      | Genetic Enhancement Premium                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BEEF</b>                                   |                   | <b>\$5,400/applicant</b>                                 |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>a) Genetic Enhancement</b>                 |                   |                                                          |                                                                                                                  |
| Bull                                          | 20% purchase cost | \$300/head                                               | \$100 - Test Stn bulls (ADG req't)<br>\$100 - Test Stn bulls (EPD req't)<br>\$100 - consignors of Test Stn Bulls |
| Cow                                           | \$300/head        | \$1,500/applicant                                        |                                                                                                                  |
| Embryo                                        | 20% purchase cost | \$1,500/applicant                                        |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>b) Beef Herd Renewal</b>                   |                   |                                                          |                                                                                                                  |
| young bred heifers<br>(retained or purchased) | \$300/head        | 30% of the<br>applicants mature<br>cow herd<br>inventory | \$100 (specific requirements) *See<br>Section 1.0(a) Cow<br>New entrant - \$50/head                              |
| <b>c) Genetic Evaluation</b>                  | 75% purchase cost | \$200/herd                                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>SHEEP</b>                                  |                   | <b>\$3,500/applicant</b>                                 |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>a) Genetic Enhancement</b>                 |                   |                                                          |                                                                                                                  |
| Purebred registered ram                       | 50% purchase cost | \$300/head*                                              | * GenOvis EPD that is positive for maternal<br>or growth index                                                   |
| Purebred registered ram                       | 50% purchase cost | \$150/head**                                             | ** If no performance data for ram                                                                                |
| Sheep AI & Semen                              | 50% of costs      | -                                                        |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>b) Sheep Flock Renewal</b>                 |                   |                                                          |                                                                                                                  |
| Yearling ewes                                 | 50% purchase cost | \$80/yearling                                            |                                                                                                                  |
|                                               |                   | 30% of applicants<br>existing breeding<br>ewe flock      | New entrant - \$25/head                                                                                          |
| <b>c) Genetic Evaluation</b>                  | 75% purchase cost | \$200/flock                                              |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>GOAT</b>                                   |                   | <b>\$1,700/applicant</b>                                 |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>a) Genetic Enhancement</b>                 |                   |                                                          |                                                                                                                  |
| Purebred buck                                 | 50% purchase cost | \$300/head                                               |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>b) Goat Flock Renewal</b>                  |                   |                                                          |                                                                                                                  |
| CLRC registered does,<br>doe kids             | 50% purchase cost | \$200/head                                               | New entrant - \$25/head                                                                                          |
| Superior commercial doe,<br>doe kids          | 25% purchase cost | \$50/head                                                |                                                                                                                  |
| <b>c) Genetic Evaluation</b>                  | 75% purchase cost | \$200/herd                                               |                                                                                                                  |

- f) The applicant consents to the release of his/her name and the amount of any support received under the program as public information, to be actively disseminated by the Department of Agriculture.
- g) Any funded projects can be selected for on-site verification of expenditures prior to release of payment.

**Note: Multiple claims may be submitted at any time prior to the March 1, 2013 deadline for all final claims.**

### Financial Assistance Interpretive Guidelines

#### BEEF

The total financial assistance per applicant is \$5,400.

##### a) Genetic enhancement

###### Bull

20% of the purchase price of a Test Station bull or a bull from a purebred breeder, to a maximum of \$300/head.

###### Cow

\$300 per eligible genetically superior cow, to a maximum of \$1,500 per applicant.

###### Embryo

20% of the purchase price of genetically superior embryos, to a maximum of \$1,500 per applicant.

##### Genetic enhancement premiums

- An additional \$100 may be approved for Test Station bulls meeting the ADG requirement.
- An additional \$100 may be approved for Test Station bulls meeting the EPD requirement.
- An additional \$100 premium may be approved for consignors of Test Station bulls.

##### b) Beef herd renewal component

\$300 per head for young bred replacement heifers (retained or purchased) where pregnancy has been performed by a veterinarian or by an ultrasound technician and confirmed by a veterinarian.

Maximum assistance is 30% of the applicant's mature cow herd inventory.

##### Genetic enhancement premiums

An additional \$100 may be approved per qualified bred replacement heifer that meets the genetic enhancement criteria.

##### New entrant beef genetic enhancement premium

- An additional \$50/head may be approved for applicants meeting the Beef Genetic Enhancement Program definition for New Entrant (as per Section 1.0).

##### c) Genetic evaluation

Assistance is 75% of the purchase cost to a maximum of \$200 per beef herd.

#### SHEEP

The total financial assistance per applicant is \$3,500.

##### a) Genetic enhancement

Assistance for:

- purebred rams is up to 50% of the purchase cost, with a maximum of \$300 per animal that has SFIP of Genovis EPD that is positive for maternal or growth index.
- purebred rams is up to 50% of the purchase cost, with a maximum of \$150 per animal that has no performance data.
- ram semen importation, delivery and breeding costs will be cost shared at 50%.

##### b) Sheep flock renewal

Assistance for:

- yearling ewes up to 50% of the purchase cost, with a maximum of \$80/yearling. Maximum of 30% of applicants existing breeding ewe flock.

##### New entrant sheep genetic enhancement premiums

An additional \$25/head may be approved for applicants meeting the Sheep Genetic Enhancement Program definition of New Entrant (as per Section 2.0).

##### a) Genetic evaluation

Assistance is 75% of the purchase cost to a maximum of \$200 per flock.

#### GOAT

The total financial assistance per applicant is \$1,700.

##### a) Genetic enhancement

Assistance for:

- purebred buck is up to 50% of the purchase cost, with a maximum of \$300 per animal.

##### b) Goat flock renewal

Assistance for:

- CLRC registered does and doe kids is up to 50% of the purchase cost, with a maximum of \$200 per animal.
- superior commercial doe and doe kids for breeding stock replacement or expansion is up to 25%, with a maximum of \$50 per animal.

##### New entrant goat genetic enhancement premium

An additional \$25/head may be approved for applicants meeting the Goat Genetic Enhancement Program definition of New Entrant (as per Section 3.0).

##### c) Genetic evaluation

Assistance is 75% of the purchase cost to a maximum of \$200 per goat herd.

How to contact us:

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Programs and Business Risk Management Division  
176 College Road, PO Box 550, Truro, NS B2N 5E3

Tel: (902) 893-6510 or 1-866-844-4276 (4BRM) Fax: (902) 893-7579 Email: [prm@gov.ns.ca](mailto:prm@gov.ns.ca) Website: [www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/agri/prm/)