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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"In waking a tiger, use a long stick."

Mao Tse-Tung

NSAC sows research-cash success

Ranks first among Atlantic universities

BIBLE HILL —A recently released national survey ranks the Nova Scotia Agricultural College as No. 1 among Atlantic Canadian universities in terms of attracting research dollars per faculty member.

Research Infosource Inc., a consulting company that tracks research and development activities among Canadian businesses, universities and governments, released the rankings late last year in its annual Top 50 Research Universities list.

NSAC public relations staff issued a news release Monday promoting the designation.

"We're small but mighty," said David Fullerton, industrial liaison at the NSAC, where there are roughly 65 faculty members and 750 students.

His job is to promote industry-sponsored research and find business spinoffs for research already being conducted.

"This really helps me to declare to everyone that we might be called the Nova Scotia Agricultural College but we're a university that does really good research and our ranking shows that, in terms of dollars we bring in from national and international competitions for research dollars."

The Bible Hill campus obtained an average of \$103,700 in research money per full-time faculty member, based on 59 faculty, in the fiscal year 2004. Its research income was \$6.1 million, a 40.5 per cent gain over fiscal 2003.

By comparison, according to Research Infosource's list, Dalhousie University in Halifax raised \$96,000 per faculty member, based on 967 faculty.

Dalhousie was, however, the overall top-ranking Atlantic university, bringing in \$92.9 million in research income. It placed 16th nationally. The University of Toronto, McGill University and Universite de Montreal were the top three.

Much of the NSAC's research is focused on, but not limited to, agriculture, food and the environment. For example, researchers are working with Oxford Frozen Foods on ways to increase blueberry and carrot crop yields and improve food quality with reduced use of chemicals and lower production costs.

Another of many projects involves developing a cow-feed supplement containing Omega-3 fatty acids that would also be present in milk.

NSAC president Philip Hicks said such research impacts the lives of everyday Canadians, and students benefit by being taught in classrooms by the people who are actually doing the research.

Data for the top 50 list were obtained from Statistics Canada and Research Infosource's Canadian University R&D Database. Acadia University in Wolfville experienced the biggest jump in research income in Atlantic Canada, increasing 67.6 per cent over the previous year to \$5.2 million. Saint Mary's University in Halifax underwent a 39.6 per cent increase to \$4.2 million.

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Research technician Tennille Crossman works with high-tech equipment in the molecular facility at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. (CATHY VON KINTZEL / Truro Bureau)

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