

# AgriSearch

Annual Report 2014

The Northern Ireland Agricultural Research & Development Council. A company limited by guarantee. Annual report for the year ended 31 March 2014



REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS  
Year to 31 March 2014

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**Trustees**

James Campbell (Chairman)  
David Workman (Vice Chairman)  
William Hanna  
Henry Jordan  
Mervyn King  
Ian Marshall  
John Martin  
Wilbert Mayne (Appointed 28th October 2013)  
Mary McCormack  
Oisín Murnion  
Phelim O'Neill  
Douglas Rowe (Retired 28th October 2013)

**Name by which charity makes itself known**

AgriSearch

**Registered Office**

Countryside Services Limited  
97 Moy Road  
Dungannon  
Co Tyrone  
BT71 7DX

**Company Secretary\***

David Mark (retired 27 June 2013).  
Jason Rankin (appointed 7 July 2014).

**Project Manager** (Senior staff member delegated day to day management)\*

Jason Rankin

**Charity Number**

XR 23492

**Registered Number**

NI 35855

**Bankers**

Danske Bank  
471 – 473 Antrim Road  
Belfast  
BT15 3BP

Ulster Bank  
22 Frances Street  
Newtownards  
BT23 3DP

**Solicitors**

J McKee & Sons  
The Linenhall  
32-38 Linenhall Street  
Belfast  
BT2 8BG

**Registered Auditors**

RSM McClure Watters  
1 Lanyon Quay  
Belfast  
BT1 3LG

\*Secretariat services provided by Countryside Services Limited

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## Advisers

### Beef Advisory Committee

|                  |                |                            |
|------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Sam Chesney      | -Vice Chairman | (appointed 24 June 2013)   |
| Ian Dickson      |                |                            |
| Ray Elkin        |                |                            |
| Albert Johnston  |                | (Non-voting CAFRE liaison) |
| George McAuley   |                |                            |
| Liam McCarthy    |                |                            |
| William McLroy   |                | (resigned 24 June 2013)    |
| Derek Shaw       |                |                            |
| John Sheridan    |                |                            |
| Dr Raymond Steen |                |                            |
| Ian Stevenson    |                |                            |
| James Taylor     | -Chairman      |                            |
| Maurice Watson   |                |                            |

### Dairy Advisory Committee

|                   |                |                            |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Peter Conway      |                |                            |
| Harper Doupe      |                |                            |
| Albert Foster     |                |                            |
| Andrew Magowan    |                |                            |
| Ian McCluggage    |                | (Non-voting CAFRE liaison) |
| Roger McCracken   |                |                            |
| Drew McConnell    | -Vice Chairman |                            |
| Gary McHenry      | -Chairman      |                            |
| Dr Alan McIlmoyle |                |                            |
| Jonathan Moore    |                |                            |
| David Stewart     |                |                            |

### Sheep Advisory Committee

|                    |                |                            |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Edward Adamson     |                |                            |
| Dr Jonathan Birnie |                |                            |
| Barry Brogan       |                | (retired 31 March 2014)    |
| Crosby Cleland     | -Vice Chairman |                            |
| Isaac Crilly       |                | (retired 31 March 2014)    |
| Albert Johnston    |                | (Non-voting CAFRE liaison) |
| Seamus Maginn      |                |                            |
| Dr Raymond Steen   |                |                            |
| Campbell Tweed     |                | (appointed 1 April 2013)   |
| David Wallace      |                |                            |
| Samuel Wharry      | -Chairman      |                            |

### Committee Secretary

Jason Rankin

# Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council



## AgriSearch Chairman's Report

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In this annual report the company secretary and project manager, Jason Rankin, has provided a summary of the activities of AgriSearch over the past year. I will restrict my comments to extraordinary issues with which the trustees have been concerned during the period and to an expression of thanks to all who have assisted and supported AgriSearch through a time of transition.

The departure of David Mark from his role as managing director of Countryside Services Limited in June 2013, which meant that he was no longer company secretary of AgriSearch, was acknowledged in the last annual report. The organisation continued to be well served by Jason Rankin as project manager and acting company secretary. The trustees decided to appoint Jason as company secretary, with effect from July 2014.

In the meantime, the outworking of issues arising from the September 2013 report of the Northern Ireland Comptroller and Auditor General and the costing of research work to be carried out by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) – also referred to in last year's report – assumed considerable significance for AgriSearch. This is because AFBI has traditionally been the provider of much of the research work co-funded by

AgriSearch working in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD).

During the past year, AgriSearch committees worked their way through the consultation processes of DARD's Evidence and Innovation Strategy and had several projects approved in principle before the matter of the new costing model at AFBI dealt a major blow – the outcome being that none of these projects will begin for at least a year.

To say the least, this is frustrating for the members of the committees, who have given substantial time and thought to consider research projects on behalf of the industry.

Difficulties with availability of government funding have been coming to a head, with cuts in departmental budgets (including that of DARD) posing real threats to funding for future research projects. The concerns of the trustees have been expressed in writing to DARD. We believe that the competitiveness of the local agri-food sector is at risk if investment in research is scaled down, while governments in other regions are increasing their investment in research. These cutbacks and changes in the way that AFBI incorporates overhead costs into its charges for research work are

## AgriSearch Chairman's Report

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matters for DARD and AFBI to address. AgriSearch has urged them to act for the good of the agri-food industry and the Northern Ireland economy and to grasp the opportunities that are available for Northern Ireland to be at the forefront of agricultural research and innovation.

Co-incidentally, the UK government's 'Agri-Tech Strategy' has made £160m available to support advances in 'sustainable intensification' and we have been informed that the livestock sector will be prioritised in the next call for projects. AgriSearch sees an opportunity here and we are working to find ways in which the sector in Northern Ireland can benefit from those funds.

At the same time, the EU Commission's Horizon 2020 programme (running from 2014 to 2020) has an enhanced budget of over €4bn (euro) to be invested in research and innovation in agri-food. There are opportunities for Northern Ireland to be involved.

AgriSearch supports the Agri-Food Strategy Board's recommendation on research, which urged government to commission research into 'best practice' systems for sustainable intensification on-farm and double the draw-down of European funding in support of agri-food innovation over the next three years. We

are working towards that objective.

These opportunities are changing the 'environment' in which AgriSearch works to obtain the maximum research payback from the investment of levy money collected from producers of milk, beef cattle and sheep.

The possibility of government funds being available for capital expenditure on facilities at the AFBI Hillsborough site has encouraged AgriSearch to believe that there could be a major development of the beef cattle housing there. Such an initiative is strongly supported by AgriSearch, as we would hope to see Hillsborough become a centre of excellence in beef research. But it is clear that the officers and board of AFBI have serious work to do if the organisation is to find its way to a bright new future.

It has proved timely that the trustees of AgriSearch had agreed to initiate a strategic review of the organisation, its purpose and its funding. That review is ongoing as this report goes to print. Other funding opportunities have become available, as described in the report of the company secretary. It is possible that AgriSearch may be able to pursue these funds. This may require some changes in the way that the organisation operates.

The trustees are maintaining an

## AgriSearch Chairman's Report

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open minded approach and seeking to implement changes that will be positive for the sectors that are served by AgriSearch. This type of approach brought AgriSearch to consider and agree on an initiative to assist the work of Animal Health and Welfare Northern Ireland (AHWNI). This involves the use of the terms of trade levy that provides funds to AgriSearch and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) whereby a pre-determined portion of those funds will be transferred to AHWNI. In agreeing this at an extraordinary general meeting in March 2014, the Council also took the decision to increase the levy that is collected on cattle slaughtered in Northern Ireland. A change in the wording

of the objectives of the Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council was proposed by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and this was agreed at a further extraordinary general meeting in July 2014.

The new rate of levy at 40 pence per bovine animal includes 10pence for AHWNI and this was implemented in August 2014. This means that the sum available to AgriSearch has increased to 30 pence, having been at 20 pence per head since 1997. The rates of levy on milk (0.02p/litre) and sheep (5 pence per animal slaughtered in NI) are unchanged. The latter has been augmented over the past two years by an allocation from



## AgriSearch Chairman's Report

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the research budget of the Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland. I believe that it is a very practical arrangement for this contribution to be managed through AgriSearch, with the sheep advisory committee able to play its part in determining the best use of the funds.

In closing my report for the year 2013-14, I wish to thank all of the trustees and members of the advisory committees who give freely their time to serve the organisation on behalf of fellow farmers. In particular, I want to thank Douglas Rowe, who retired from the position of trustee in October 2013 after serving the full term of nine years during which he provided wise counsel and a great depth of experience. The same is expected from his successor, Wilbert Mayne, who joined the board as a nominee of the Ulster Farmers' Union. I also wish to record special thanks to Gary McHenry for his input as chairman of the dairy advisory committee for three years until the end of March 2014 and for his earlier time as a highly valued member of the committee. AgriSearch is fortunate to have people of the calibre of Gary and his successor, Drew McConnell. Drew has stepped up

from the position of vice-chairman and that role has been undertaken by another excellent nominee, David Stewart. These and the officebearers in the other committees are essential to the operation of AgriSearch, providing great support to Jason Rankin and the trustees. Finally, I wish to record personal thanks to Jason for his outstanding service and to the vice chairman, David Workman, who has willingly served and brought particular skills and experience to the organisation over the past six years.





## Project Manager's Report

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The past year has seen a step change in the level of activity within AgriSearch as the organisation adapts to the changing environment in which it is operating.

### Potential new funding streams

In January 2014, the European Commission released its first call under the Horizon 2020 programme. This seven year programme is to administer over €4 Billion of European Union funding on research, development and innovation in the Agri-Food, Forestry and Marine sectors. The thrust of Horizon 2020 is to involve researchers across several regions of the EU in joint projects and to have the research findings implemented at farm level. In anticipation of this new programme, AgriSearch, along with sister organisations in the European Cattle Innovation Partnership worked with a group of dairy scientists on an application entitled “EuroDairy”, which seeks to create a thematic network to promote knowledge exchange and innovation within the European dairy sector. This is a follow-on from the ‘Dairyman’ programme, in which Northern Ireland was involved through the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) and the College of Agriculture Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) along with a number of participating farms. The process from initial concept towards agreement on the detailed application for Horizon 2020 was

protracted, with 26 regions participating in the bid. Agreement was reached in time for submission of the application in June 2014 and the Commission’s decision on allocation of grant aid should be known by the end of 2014.

AgriSearch also took up a position as ‘industry representative’ in a “multi-actor platform” for another Horizon 2020 application entitled GENiUS, in which the research aspects were to be conducted by Aberystwyth and other leading research institutions including Northern Ireland’s Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI). The theme of GENiUS was “Connecting Genetics, Nutrition, Management and Diversification of Feed Resources for Improving Efficiency and Sustainability of European Livestock Production”. Unfortunately this application did not make it past the first application stage.

Linked to the Horizon 2020 process are “Operational Groups” and “Innovation Brokers”. It is anticipated that these will be part-funded under the next rural development programme. The aim of these new structures is to foster a ‘bottom-up’ approach to research and to ensure that the useful results of such research get put into practice. There are significant opportunities for AgriSearch to play a key role in these areas.

## Project Manager's Report

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In July 2013, the British Government launched the UK Agricultural Technologies Strategy better known as "AgriTech". This has a total budget of £160 million, of which £90 million is to be allocated to 'centres of excellence' in research and innovation and £70 million is to fund "Catalyst" calls. AgriSearch has taken an active interest in this process with a view to being involved in applications under this programme.

### Projects commenced

During the year several AgriSearch co-funded research projects got underway. The largest of these is a Liverfluke Study being led by Liverpool University, mainly funded by the UK Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) through an Industrial Partnership Award (IPA). This project is the first in which all of the UK ruminant R&D levy bodies have come together (EBLEX, HCC, QMS, DairyCo and AgriSearch).

April 2013 saw the start of the latest GrassCheck project. This project seeks to provide farmers with current and predicted grass growth. It should be noted that the grass growth data provided by GrassCheck was pivotal in providing the necessary evidence for the DARD Fodder Transport Scheme which provided around £1 million of aid to local farmers

through subsidised transport of fodder from Great Britain and elsewhere during the highly abnormal Spring of 2013.

A new project on soil compaction also got underway. This included a survey of soil compaction on 100 farms across Northern Ireland as well as an evaluation of various remediation methods across a number of farms. Farm Walks to highlight the results of this study will be held in 2015.

AgriSearch also provided funding for two PhD students who started their doctoral studies in September 2013.

Mark Little is from a dairy farm in Fermanagh. In 2002 he graduated with a degree in veterinary medicine from UCD. He has spent ten years in veterinary practice in Northern Ireland and since 2006 he has worked as a dairy vet, concentrating on herd health. In 2012 he completed a post graduate certificate in dairy herd health from UCD and for the 12 months prior to starting his PhD studies he worked for Pfizer Animal Health / Zoetis as their Area Veterinary Manager for Northern Ireland. The objective of his PhD study is to identify relationships between nutrition and immune function in dairy cattle, especially during early lactation, and their impact on cow health and fertility (especially uterine health).

## Project Manager's Report

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Mark Little



Amanda Dunn



Amanda Dunn who graduated from Queens with a Degree in Agricultural Technology is working on a study under the broad heading "Colostrum for Beef and Dairy calves in Northern Ireland".

Two small sheep projects were undertaken during the year. The first of these was a sheep lameness guide produced by AFBI and printed by AgriSearch. This was printed on durable PVC 'paper' in a 'pocket-sized' format. Over 1000 have been issued to flock owners and advisers. A reprint was needed to keep up with demand.

We also re-launched the Hillsborough Flock Recording scheme, through which farmers are given lambing and weaning

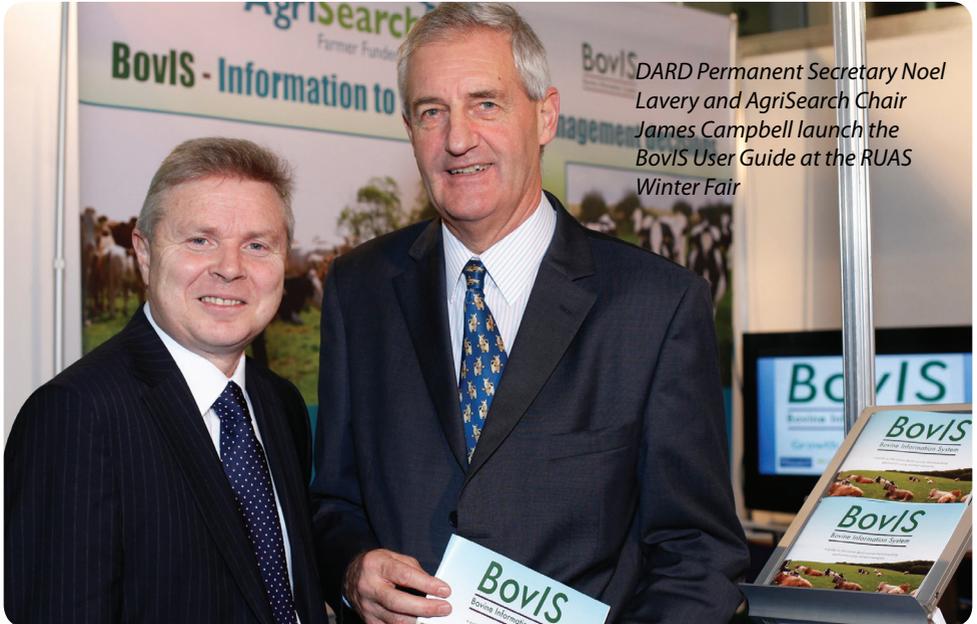
booklets to record a range of lambing and performance data. These are then returned to AFBI who analyse the results and provide the farmers with a printed report to aid breeding decisions in their flocks.

AgriSearch wishes to acknowledge the Livestock and Meat Commission for providing financial assistance for the above projects and CAFRE for their help in distributing and retrieving the recording booklets.

During the year two further additions were made to the BovIS suite of management tools. The first of these was a growth recording tool which assists farmers to check the progress of their cattle (whether they be dairy or suckler replacement heifers or store / finishing stock). This tool

## Project Manager's Report

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*DARD Permanent Secretary Noel Lavery and AgriSearch Chair James Campbell launch the BovIS User Guide at the RUAS Winter Fair*

enables farmers to identify any animals which are falling 'behind' and they can then take remedial action. It also advises farmers of the liveweight gain that each animal will need to achieve in the next three months to meet target.

The second new tool to be launched was a 'greenhouse gas' benchmarking tool for use in dairy farming. A greenhouse gas benchmarking tool for use in beef farming is to be launched on the DARD rural portal shortly.

### **Knowledge Transfer**

During the financial year AgriSearch was involved in seven farm walks. The first focused on the role of synchronisation within the suckler herd, at the farm of Sam Chesney. Later in 2013 AgriSearch featured results of recent research work during two CAFRE upland events held at Glenwherry Hill Farm and the farm of Russell Scott.

In December AgriSearch shared a stand at the RUAS Winter Fair with Animal Health and Welfare Northern Ireland. This increased the stand size and we had

## Project Manager's Report

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a much improved location. At the Fair we launched a booklet detailing the results of the BVD prevalence study as well as a user guide for the BovIS carcass benchmarking tool. The Winter Fair also provided an opportunity for our Global Research Officer Gareth Arnott to inform dairy farmers of the initial results of his desktop review into 'Confinement versus Pasture Based' systems and afforded him an opportunity to talk to farmers on the issue. It was also an opportunity for dairy farmers to participate in our survey of future research needs. Results from that

survey are being used to guide decisions by the AgriSearch dairy committee.

In January, a series of four sheep farm walks took place on the farms of Isaac Crilly, Samuel Wharry, John Martin and Seamus Maginn, with 460 attending over the four days. AgriSearch wishes to express thanks to the farmers who hosted these events and to the CAFRE and AFBI staff for their involvement, without which these events would not be possible.

During the year a further meeting was



## Project Manager's Report

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held of the Dairy Nutrition Stakeholder Forum. This forum was established by AgriSearch to facilitate a flow of information between leading feed-trade and independent nutritionists and AFBI research scientists.

### Funds

Year-on-year the total levy collected by AgriSearch fell by 1.8%. It is particularly disappointing to note the reduction in dairy levy during a period of increase in milk production in Northern Ireland. The work that AgriSearch undertakes is for the benefit of all dairy farmers and the industry in NI. Dairy processors are urged to collect levy on behalf of AgriSearch on all the milk they purchase ex-farm. We have published a small booklet outlining the work that AgriSearch does within the dairy sector for distribution to farmers via milk processors.

While funds collected through levies have fallen slightly, overall income during 2013-14 was up marginally due to an increased donation from the Livestock and Meat Commission towards our sheep research programme. In addition funds received from DARD as grant aid for projects carried out under the Research Challenge Fund (RCF) increased from £31,322 to £56,895. With three new RCF projects approved, it is anticipated that this source of funding will increase

further during 2014-15. There was also a modest increase in investment income. AgriSearch would also wish to thank the Northern Ireland Meat Exporters' Association (NIMEA) for a very helpful donation towards the costs of catering at farm walks.

While the accounts for 2013-14 show a significant fall in direct programme expenditure this was mainly due to the timing of invoices. Funds for three new RCF projects were not formally committed in the accounting year and will represent a further cash commitment by AgriSearch of £387,791.

### New Funding Commitments

During the financial year 2013/14 AgriSearch agreed to fund 10 projects, committing a total of £360,218. This was on the understanding that there would be complementary funding in the region of £1,354,988 from other sources, including the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD). After the end of the financial year we learned that no new projects would be committed under DARD's Evidence and Innovation Strategy in 2014/15. These projects have been rolled into the 2015/16 Evidence & Innovation call.

During the past year AgriSearch has hosted meetings in Northern Ireland of

## Project Manager's Report

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both the European Cattle Innovation Partnership and the UK Red Meat Joint R&D Committee. The former visit linked into a knowledge transfer conference being held in Dublin as part of the Irish presidency of the European Union. This gave AgriSearch an opportunity to showcase its on-farm research work, which is a template that we believe fits very well into the EU vision for future agricultural research projects.

### **Future Strategy**

The last few years have seen AgriSearch move from simply being a co-funder of research to a much more pro-active role. This presents challenges. We are critically reviewing all aspects of the organisation – from our purpose, to the way we are funded, to the benefits we can bring to the agri-food industry and to farming. This strategic review gives us an important opportunity to remodel our organisation and our way of working for long term sustainability and success.

The main aim of this remodelling is to open up research based opportunities from which the industry can benefit. The

opportunities include European Union projects such as Horizon 2020, the UK Agri-Tech Strategy, the NI 'Going for Growth' initiative and the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme.

In August 2014, the trustees of AgriSearch and members of the advisory committees met to consider future strategy and a draft strategy document was subsequently published for consultation.

### **Acknowledgements**

In July 2014, the trustees appointed me as company secretary in addition to my role as project manager. In concluding this report I would like to thank the trustees and members of advisory committees who have encouraged me in these roles and all those who have assisted me in my work. In particular I wish to thank the CAFRE technology team who are always willing to help in any way they can and last but by no means least the staff at AFBI Hillsborough for their ongoing support and for always making me feel at home.

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- Impact of compaction on soil quality and nutrient availability for sustainable and competitive production in grassland and arable farming systems in Northern Ireland
  - Grass Check 5 - Grass growth monitoring and the provision of information to improve grassland utilisation efficiency.
  - Research to characterise the development of immunocompetence from birth to weaning in artificially-reared dairy and suckled beef calves differing in neonatal passive immunity (PhD Studentship)
  - Provision of a ewe-recording service to the Northern Ireland Sheep Industry (Hillsborough Recording Scheme)
  - Development of a field guide to lameness diagnosis and treatment in sheep
  - The role of higher protein forages and home grown protein sources within Northern Ireland dairy systems.
  - An evaluation of grouping and housing systems for Northern Ireland beef cattle
  - Mart Data Project (BovIS) enhancement
  - Feed Into Lamb (FIL): an investigation of the metabolizable energy requirements of sheep
  - Review and pilot study to assess the accuracy and robustness of an EID sheep tag reading system

## Research Challenge Fund projects expected to start by end of 2014

- Economics, dynamics and diagnosis of bovine herpesvirus / (BO HV-1) infection in dairy herds in Northern Ireland
- An examination of late lactation management strategies to improve the body condition score of thin cows, and the effects of these strategies on cow performances during subsequent lactation
- An evaluation of the ability to improve output of the Northern Ireland suckler herd through novel breeding methods coupled with high genetic merit sires.

# The Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council

## Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account) For the year ended 31 March 2014

|   | Notes | Unrestricted Funds |           |
|---|-------|--------------------|-----------|
|   |       | 2014               | 2013      |
|   |       | As Restated        |           |
|   |       | £                  | £         |
| <b>Incoming resources</b>   |       |                    |           |
| <b>Incoming resources from generated funds:</b>                   |       |                    |           |
| <b>Voluntary Income</b>   |       |                    |           |
| Milk income   |       | 315,602            | 323,123   |
| Beef income   |       | 77,089             | 79,243    |
| Sheep income  |       | 22,307             | 20,663    |
| Sheep Income – Contribution from Livestock and Meat Commission    |       | 35,000             | 20,000    |
| Grant income (DARD Research Challenge Fund)                       |       | 56,895             | 31,322    |
| Dissemination income (Conference Fees)                            |       | 1,606              | -         |
|   |       | 508,499            | 474,351   |
| <b>Investment income</b>  | 7     | 24,963             | 23,393    |
| <b>Total incoming resources</b>                                   |       | 533,462            | 497,744   |
| <b>Resources expended</b>   |       |                    |           |
| <b>Costs of charitable activities</b>                             |       |                    |           |
| Direct programme expenditure                                      |       | 405,091            | 499,957   |
| Dissemination costs   |       | 43,222             | 41,843    |
| <b>Governance costs</b>   |       |                    |           |
| Management and administration                                     | 2     | 69,516             | 62,881    |
| <b>Total resources expended</b>                                   |       | 517,829            | 604,681   |
| Net movement in funds for the year                                | 3     | 15,633             | (106,937) |
| Fund balance brought forward at 1 April 2013                      |       | 386,866            | 493,803   |
| Fund balance carried forward at 31 March 2014                     | 13    | 402,499            | 386,866   |
| <b>Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses</b>             |       |                    |           |
| Net Movement in funds for the year                                |       | 15,633             | (106,937) |
| Prior year adjustment   |       | (113,630)          | -         |
| Total gains and losses recognised since last financial statements |       | (97,997)           | (106,937) |

There is no material difference between the net outgoing resources and the funds for the financial year stated above and their historical cost equivalents.  
The notes on pages 19-24 form part of these financial statements.

# The Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council

## Balance Sheet As at 31 March 2014

|  | Notes | 2014        | 2013      |
|--|-------|-------------|-----------|
|  |       | As Restated |           |
|  |       | £           | £         |
| <b>Fixed assets</b>  |       |             |           |
| Tangible assets  | 6     | -           | -         |
| Investments  | 7     | 402,328     | 401,947   |
|  |       | 402,328     | 401,947   |
| <b>Current assets</b>  |       |             |           |
| Debtors  | 8     | 229,177     | 112,300   |
| Cash at bank and in hand                                       | 9     | 556,536     | 726,824   |
|  |       | 785,713     | 839,124   |
| <b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>          | 10    | (639,801)   | (632,026) |
| <b>Net current assets</b>                                      |       | 145,912     | 207,098   |
| <b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>                   |       | 548,240     | 609,045   |
| <b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b> | 11    | (145,741)   | (222,179) |
| <b>Net assets</b>  |       | 402,499     | 386,866   |
| <b>Funds</b>   |       |             |           |
| Unrestricted funds   |       | 402,499     | 386,866   |
| Total funds  | 13    | 402,499     | 386,866   |

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements on pages 17 to 18 were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 15th September 2014 and signed on their behalf by:

James Campbell  
**Trustee**

**Company Registration number: NI 35855**

The notes on pages 19-24 form part of these financial statements.

## Notes To The Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2014

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### 1. Accounting policies

These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" published in March 2005, the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). The principal accounting policies are set out below.

#### Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The cost of tangible fixed assets is their purchase cost, together with any incidental costs of acquisition. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual values, on a straight line basis over the expected useful economic lives of the assets concerned. The principal annual rates used are as follows:  
Computer equipment - 20% straight line

#### Investments

Investments are valued at Open Market Value as at 31 March 2014. Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis and arises from interest bearing deposit accounts.

#### Incoming resources

Income represents all monies, on an accruals basis, collected on behalf of the charity by its agents. The levy rates charged to producers are as follows:-

- Milk - 0.02p per litre
- Beef - 20p per head
- Sheep - 5p per head

Included within sheep income in the year is a contribution of £35,000 from the Livestock & Meat Commission.

#### Grants receivable

Grants are recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which they are receivable. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfill conditions before becoming entitled to it, or where the funder has specified that the income is to be expended in a future period.

#### Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

#### Direct programme expenditure

Direct programme expenditure represents research and development grants approved for payment. These are charged as expenditure in the year in which the commitment is made and are carried forward as a liability until paid or until a change which requires restatement.

#### Management and administration expenditure

These represent costs incurred in the management of the company's assets, organisational administration and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and other support functions.

#### Value Added Tax

The company is not registered for VAT purposes; therefore expenditure in total is shown gross of VAT.

# The Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council

## Notes To The Financial Statements (Continued) For The Year Ended 31 March 2014

### Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are amounts received or generated and which are expendable at the discretion of the company in furtherance of its objectives.

|   | 2014   | 2013   |
|---|--------|--------|
|   | £      | £      |
| <b>2 Management and Administration</b>  |        |        |
| Promotion, publications and advertising | 8,125  | 8,082  |
| Administrative costs                    | 61,391 | 54,799 |
|   | 69,516 | 62,881 |

### 3 Net incoming (outgoing) resources

This is stated after charging:

|                        | 2014  | 2013  |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| Auditors' remuneration | 2,250 | 2,250 |

### 4 Trustees' emoluments and expenses

The chairman received an honorarium of £6,375 during the year (2013: £6,250). No other emoluments or pension costs were accruing to trustees in either year.

The Trustees received expenses of £2,188 during the year (2013: £3,134) for travel.

### 5 Taxation

The company is a registered charity, and as such is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments, and surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the charity's primary objectives, if these profits and surpluses are applied solely for charitable purposes.

# The Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council

## Notes To The Financial Statements (Continued) For The Year Ended 31 March 2014

| <b>6 Fixed assets</b>              | <b>Computer Equipment</b> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                                    | <b>£</b>                  |
| Cost                               |                           |
| At 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014  | 12,713                    |
| Accumulated depreciation           |                           |
| At 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014  | 12,713                    |
| Net book value                     |                           |
| At 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2014 | -                         |

### 7 Investments

Investments purchased during the year are primarily held to provide an investment return for the charity. The movements in investments in the year were

|  | <b>2014</b> |
|--|-------------|
|  | <b>£</b>    |
| Market Value at 1 April 2013   | 401,947     |
| Change in Market Value   | 381         |
| Market Value at 31 March 2014  | 402,328     |
| Income generated from these investment amounted to £24,963 (2013: £23,393) |             |

| <b>8 Debtors</b>               | <b>2014</b> | <b>2013</b> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| Trade debtors – levy debtors   | 125,619     | 102,387     |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 56,346      | 9,913       |
| Other Debtors                  | 47,212      | -           |
|                                | 229,177     | 112,300     |

| <b>9 Cash at bank and in hand</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>2013</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                   | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| Cash at bank                      | 556,536     | 726,824     |

# The Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council

## Notes To The Financial Statements (Continued) For The Year Ended 31 March 2014

|   | 2014        | 2013        |
|---|-------------|-------------|
|   |             | As Restated |
|   | £           | £           |
| <b>10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>  |             |             |
| Trade creditors   | 22,878      | 91,232      |
| Other creditors - committed expenditure (note 12)         | 562,778     | 529,375     |
| Accruals and deferred income                              | 54,145      | 11,419      |
|   | 639,801     | 632,026     |
| <b>11 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year</b>   | <b>2014</b> | <b>2013</b> |
| Other creditors — committed expenditure (note 12)         | 145,741     | 222,179     |
|   | <b>2014</b> | <b>2013</b> |
| <b>12 Committed Grant Expenditure</b>                     |             | As Restated |
| Committed expenditure at 1 April 2013                     | 751,554     | 666,929     |
| Prior year adjustment                                     | -           | 113,630     |
| Committed expenditure at 1 April 2013 as restated         | 751,554     | 800,559     |
| Further commitments during the year                       | 360,218     | 491,148     |
| Increased Project in year                                 | 1,785       | -           |
| Amounts owing from DARD                                   | 47,212      | -           |
| Paid during the year                                      | (452,250)   | (540,153)   |
| At 31 March 2014  | 708,519     | 751,554     |
| <b>13 Reconciliation of movement in accumulated funds</b> |             | <b>2014</b> |
| At 1 April 2012 as previously reported                    |             | 607,433     |
| Prior year adjustment                                     |             | (113,630)   |
| Balance at 1 April 2012 as restated                       |             | 493,803     |
| Net incoming (outgoing) resources for the year 2012/13    |             | (106,937)   |
| At 31 March 2013  |             | 386,866     |
| Net incoming (outgoing) resources for the year 2013/14    |             | 15,633      |
| At 31 March 2014  |             | 402,499     |

### Prior year adjustment- Project Funding

Research Challenge Fund projects approved by the Trustees are initially funded in full by AgriSearch and with provision for third party support usually amounting to 50% of the project cost. These provisions should be cleared when external funds are received but in a number of cases these funds were not specifically identified to the projects to which they related but rather were credited directly to income. Consequently, the reserves had been overstated by £113,630 and an adjustment has been made to reflect this correction.

# The Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council

## Notes To The Financial Statements (Continued) For The Year Ended 31 March 2014

### **14 Share capital limited by guarantee**

The Northern Ireland Agricultural Research & Development Council is a company limited by guarantee. The liability of the members is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

# The Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council

## Management and Administration Expenditure Year Ended 31 March 2014

|  | 2014   | 2013   |
|--|--------|--------|
|  | £      | £      |
| <b>Management and Administration Expenditure</b> |        |        |
| Annual report publication                        | 793    | 1,021  |
| Advisory support costs                           | 7,332  | 7,061  |
| Management charge: Countryside Services Limited  | 27,205 | 21,381 |
| Audit and accountancy fees                       | 2,250  | 2,704  |
| Insurance  | 2,553  | 2,554  |
| Miscellaneous expenses                           | 3,341  | 3,084  |
| Web Design and Upkeep                            | 163    | 111    |
| Venue costs                                      | 450    | -      |
| Computer software support                        | 734    | 816    |
| Chairman's honorarium                            | 6,375  | 6,250  |
| VAT costs  | 12,426 | 11,347 |
| Postage  | 414    | 716    |
| Rental Fee                                       | 5,000  | 5,000  |
| Bank fees  | 480    | 836    |
|  | 69,516 | 62,881 |

# AGRISEARCH BOOKLETS

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## **1 SHEEP**

The Effects of Genetics of Lowland Cross-Bred Ewes and Terminal Sires on Lamb Output and Carcass Quality

## **2 DAIRY**

A Comparison of Four Grassland-Based Systems of Milk Production for Winter Calving High Genetic Merit Dairy Cows

## **3 DAIRY**

Dairy Herd Fertility - Examination of Effects of Increasing Genetic Merit and other Herd Factors on Reproductive Performance

## **4 SHEEP**

Developing Low Cost 'Natural-Care' Systems of Sheep Production

## **5 BEEF**

An Examination of Factors affecting the Cleanliness of Housed Beef Cattle

## **6 BEEF**

The Effects of Housing System on Performance, Behaviour and Welfare of Beef Cattle

## **7 DAIRY**

Developing Improved Heifer Rearing Systems

## **8 BEEF**

The Influence of Suckler Cow Genetics and Terminal Sire on Performance of the Suckler Herd

## **9 DAIRY/ BEEF**

Reducing Organic Nitrogen Outputs from Dairy Cows and Beef Cattle in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

## **10 DAIRY**

The Effect of the Type of Dietary Supplement on the Performance of the Grazing Dairy Cow

## **11 DAIRY**

Are International Dairy Sire Genetic Evaluations Relevant to Milk Production Systems in Northern Ireland?

## **12 DAIRY/ BEEF**

Holstein Bull Beef

## **13 DAIRY**

Effective Footbathing of Dairy Cows

## **14 DAIRY**

Effects of Feeding Forage Maize and Whole Crop Silages on the Performance of Dairy Cows Offered Two Qualities of Grass Silage

## **15 BEEF**

Maximising Beef Output from the Suckler Herd Through the Production of Heavy Bulls

**16 DAIRY**

The Effect of Reducing the Protein Content of the Diet on the Performance of Dairy Cows

**17 DAIRY**

Comparisons of Dairy Cow Management Strategies which Differ in Labour Inputs

**18 DAIRY**

Reducing Phosphorous Levels in Dairy Cow Diets

**19 DAIRY**

The Effect of Applying Slurry During the Grazing Season on Dairy Cow Performance

**20 BEEF**

Contribution of Meat (Beef and Lamb) From Grass-Fed Ruminants to the Total Human Dietary Intake of Long Chain N-3 Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids

**21 BEEF**

Maximising Returns from Beef Sourced from the Dairy Herd

**22 DAIRY**

A Comparison of the Performance of Holstein-Friesian and Norwegian Red cows on Northern Ireland Dairy Farms

**23 DAIRY**

The Effect of a Number of Novel Supplementation Strategies on Milk Production and Fertility of High Yielding Dairy Cows

**24 DAIRY**

A Comparison of the Performance of Holstein-Friesian and Jersey Crossbred Cows across a Range of Northern Ireland Production Systems

**25 DAIRY**

The Effect of Applying Cattle Slurry as the Sole Source of Nutrients over a Four Year Period on the Yield and Persistency of Seven Perennial Forage Crops

**26 DAIRY**

Grassland performance and its relationship with profitability on 10 Northern Ireland dairy farms

**27 DAIRY**

The Effect of offering concentrates during the dry period on dairy cow performance

**28 DAIRY / BEEF**

Prevalence of BVD in Northern Ireland Dairy and Suckler Herds

**29 DAIRY**

Developing improved concentrate feeding and grazing strategies for dairy cows

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS:**

- BovIS User Guide (Carcass Benchmarking Application)
- Diagnosis and Treatment of Lameness in Sheep





# AgriSearch

Farmer Funded Research

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