

Northern Ireland Agri-business Conference

Looking beyond 2022

Thursday 15th February 2018 • Craigavon Civic Centre, Co. Armagh

Organised by

agendaNi

Supported by



**Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon**
Borough Council



**Food
Heartland**
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon

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Looking beyond 2022

Irrespective of the final outcome to the Brexit negotiations, farming and food in Northern Ireland is primed for further growth. The world's population is set to increase by 50 per cent between now and the middle of this century.

Given that approximately 85 per cent of the food produced locally is destined for export, these international developments will have a major impact on the future prospects of the local economy as whole.

In tandem with this, the inexorable rise of the middle classes in countries like China will ensure that the global demand for high quality animal protein-based foods will increase exponentially. Moreover, new trade deals linking Northern Ireland with the likes of the Philippines and China, specifically where pork is concerned, genuinely raise the bar regarding the local food industry's export-focussed expectations for the period ahead.

Yes, Brexit will be a major issue for agri-food in Northern Ireland to address. However, the experience of the past year is pointing to the probable upside of a post-Brexit world for our farming and food sectors, more so than the challenges that it might pose. The weakening of Sterling relative to the Euro, in the wake of the EU referendum, has led to a genuine boom in farmgate prices where dairy, beef, pork and lamb are concerned.

There are many reasons for farmers and food processors throughout Northern Ireland to be optimistic regarding their future prospects.

One of the big imponderables, moving forward, will be the shape of the farm support policies put in place by the UK, once Brexit becomes a reality. However, the coming months will provide London with an opportunity to put some flesh on this all-important issue for farming in Northern Ireland.

All of these themes will be addressed by leading industry figures at agendaNi's 7th Agri-business conference. So, if farming and food are important to your business, why not make the conference a must-attend occasion?

Key discussion topics

- 🕒 Brexit: What will it mean for the agriculture and food sector?
- 🕒 Extending the recovery and an indepth look at individual sectors
- 🕒 Future economic and political prospects
- 🕒 The Food Heartland
- 🕒 Challenges facing the dairy industry
- 🕒 Looking to the future of farming

Food Heartland Forum

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has identified the agri-food sector as one of its priority growth sectors and has established The Food Heartland Forum – a network of people from all parts of the sector who work together to drive the sector forward. The Forum is developing the sector by highlighting the importance of food and drink competitions and awards, as well as encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship within the agri-food industry throughout the borough.



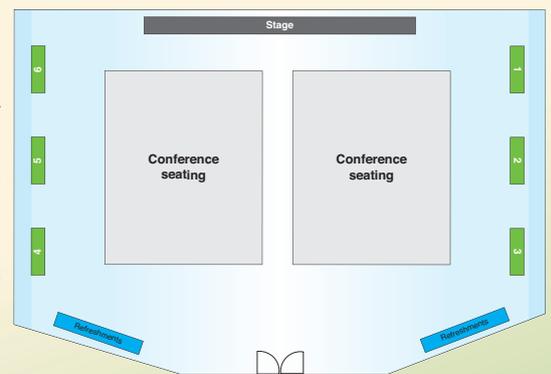
Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities

There are a number of available sponsorship and exhibition opportunities at this conference. Sponsorship of this event is an excellent way for organisations to raise their profile with a key audience of senior decision-makers from across the agri-food sector in Northern Ireland. The event also offers a limited number of high quality exhibition opportunities which will be of interest to companies and organisations with products or services they wish to promote to this key audience.



For further information on how your organisation can benefit, contact **Fiona McCarthy** on +44 (0) 28 9261 9933 or email fiona.mccarthy@agendani.com

Exhibition floorplan



Conference programme

0900	Conference chair: Richard Halleron, Agricultural Journalist
	Welcome from Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, Alderman Gareth Wilson
	Outlook for Northern Irish agriculture post Brexit Richard Halleron, Agricultural Journalist
	The future economic direction of UK agriculture and food Michael Haverty, Senior Agricultural Economist, The Andersons Centre UK
	Farming and growth in Northern Ireland Wesley Aston, Chief Executive, Ulster Farmers' Union
	The Food Heartland: Promoting the local agri-food sector Roger Wilson, Chief Executive, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
	Questions & answers / Panel discussion
	Panel: Outlook: Extending the recovery
	Conall Donnelly, Director, Northern Ireland Meat Exporters' Association Nick Whelan, Chief Executive, Dale Farm Robin Irvine, Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Grain Trade Association James Speers, President, Young Farmers' Club Michele Shirlow, Chief Executive Officer, Food NI
1100	Morning coffee / exhibition viewing
1130	Interview: Addressing the challenges facing the dairy industry Michael Hanley, Chief Executive, Lakeland Dairies
	Impacts of Alternative Post-Brexit Trade Agreements on UK Agriculture Myles Patton, Senior Agricultural Economist, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute
	Questions & answers / Panel discussion
	Panel: The impact of Brexit: Challenges and opportunities
	Ken Fletcher, Deputy Editor, The Scottish Farmer William Irwin MLA, DUP Declan McAleer MLA, Sinn Féin Patsy McGlone MLA, SDLP Robin Swann MLA, UUP Joe Healy, President, Irish Farmers' Association
1330	Conference networking lunch, exhibition viewing and conference close



