

# 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

[www.agendaNi.com/events](http://www.agendaNi.com/events)

## 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.



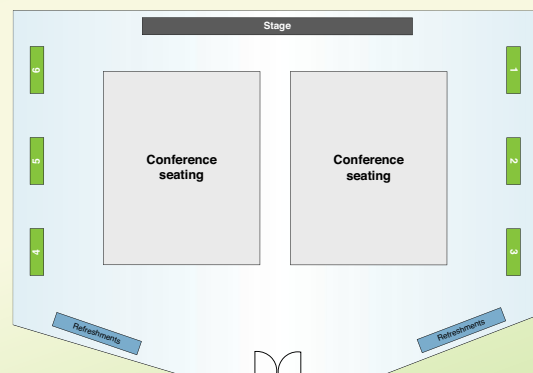
## Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities

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](mailto:fiona.mccarthy@agendani.com)

## Exhibition floorplan





## Conference programme

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



I wish to:

- ☐ Reserve \_\_\_\_ places at the Agri-business Conference  
Delegate fee £195 + VAT @ 20% = £234
- ☐ Receive details of **sponsorship opportunities** at the conference
- ☐ Receive details of **exhibition opportunities** at the conference

#### Delegate details

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr): \_\_\_\_\_

Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Payment options

- ☐ I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_  
Payable to 'bmf Business Services'

☐ Please invoice me

☐ Please debit my Visa / Mastercard

Card number

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Name of card holder \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

Security code \_\_\_\_\_

(Please provide card billing address if different from company address)

#### Cancellations / substitutions

For those unable to attend, a substitute participant may be sent at any time for no additional charge. Alternatively for cancellations received in writing, by fax or email, the following charges will apply:

- More than 14 days before the conference: 25% fee
- Less than 14 days before the conference: 100% fee
- Failure to attend: 100% fee

#### Acknowledgement of registration

Confirmation of registration will be sent to all delegates. Joining instructions will be sent out following receipt of registration details. If you have not received your acknowledgement seven days prior to the start of the conference, please contact Michelle Davidson at [registration@agendaNi.com](mailto:registration@agendaNi.com) to confirm your booking.

## Who should attend?

This conference should be attended by key stakeholders from across the agriculture and food industries, and wider economic sectors in Northern Ireland. This will include:

- Government departments and agencies
- Representative groups in agriculture and food
- Agricultural producers
- Food processing companies
- Economic policy-makers
- Legal and financial advisors
- Consultants advising agri-food industry
- Agricultural and food science educators
- Local government officers and councillors
- NGOs and community organisations
- Rural interest groups
- Academics and researchers

## Benefits of attending conference

Delegates attending the conference will:

- Hear directly from agri-food policy makers
- Discuss the impact of Brexit on the farming industry
- Meet with fellow industry professionals
- Understand the challenges & opportunities facing the local agri-food industry
- Gain an in-depth understanding of the strategies for the long-term growth in agri-food
- Get an overview of global agricultural and food security issues

## How to register



**Online**

[www.agendaNi.com/events](http://www.agendaNi.com/events)



**By email**

[registration@agendaNi.com](mailto:registration@agendaNi.com)



**By telephone**

+44 (0)28 9261 9933



**By fax**

+44 (0)28 9261 9951



Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee (Yes/ No)
Jaipur Literature Festival	22/1/17	1	India	No (Funded Arts Council)
Celtic Connections Trade Workshop, Glasgow	24/1/18	1	Glasgow	£350 + return flight
Annual Local Authority VAT Conference	28/2/17	1	London	£300 + return flight

#### **Retrospective Approvals – Conferences/Seminars**

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee (Yes/ No)
Local Authority Bar Association Conference	1/12/17	1	Derry	£75 + vat
Improving Engagement in Plan making	5/12/17	1	Derry	£20