

23rd

Annual Dinner

Thursday 17th October
Hilton Hotel, Belfast



In partnership with:

Danske **Bank**

Brian Irwin, Chairman
Irwin's Bakery



The largest independent
cold store operator in
Northern Ireland.



COLD STORAGE & SHIPPING SERVICES

STEEPLE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
ANTRIM BT41 1AB
TELEPHONE: +44 (0) 28 9446 4599
EMAIL: info@interfrigo.co.uk

www.interfrigo.com

NIFDA is a voluntary organisation committed to helping Northern Ireland food and beverage companies compete successfully and to represent and promote their interests. It was established to provide services to enhance, promote, inform, educate and develop member businesses.

PAST CHAIRPERSONS

1996 – 1998	Dr Trefor Campbell CBE, F.R.Ag.S Managing Director of Moy Park Ltd
1998 – 2000	Mr Arthur Anderson General Manager, Tayto NI Ltd
2000 – 2002	Mr Alan Gibson Purchasing Director, Moy Park Ltd
2002 – 2003	Mr. Michael Moreland Managing Director of Andrews Holdings
2004 – 2006	Mr John Barrett Executive Director of Coca-Cola Bottlers (Ulster) Ltd
2006 – 2008	Mr David H Malseed Managing Director of United Molasses (Ireland) Ltd
2008 – 2010	Mr Richard Moore Joint Managing Director of Linden Foods
2010 – 2014	Mr Tony O'Neill OBE Marketing & Business Development Director, Moy Park Ltd
2014 – 2016	Dr David Dobbin CBE Chief Executive, United Dairy Farmers
2016 – 2018	Mr Declan Billington MBE Managing Director, John Thompson & Sons
2018 – present	Mr Brian Irwin Chairman, Irwin's Bakery

NIFDA ANNUAL DINNER SPEAKERS

1997 Terry Leahy	2005 Ewan Venters	2013 Justin King
1998 Dino Adriano	2006 Guy Farrant	2014 Malcolm Walker
1999 Malcolm Walker	2007 Sir Terry Leahy	2015 Jason Tarry
2000 Allan Leighton	2008 Justin King	2016 George Eustice MP
2001 Feargal Quinn	2009 Peter Robinson	2017 Andy Adcock
2002 Eoin McGettigan	2010 Andy Clarke	2018 John Paul Scally
2003 Sir Peter Davis	2011 Mark Price	2019 Jo Whitfield
2004 Dr Jon Bell	2012 Martin Agnew	

PROGRAMME

6.30 pm	Drinks Reception with the Industry
7.15 pm	Introduction and Welcome
7.20 pm	Danske Bank
7.30 pm	Brian Irwin, Chairman, NIFDA
7.45 pm	Jo Whitfield, CEO, Co-op Food
8.05 pm	Thank you
8.10 pm	Dinner
10.00 pm	Close

Danske Bank

The 2019 NIFDA Annual Dinner is in partnership with Danske Bank.

NIFDA would like to acknowledge the support of Interfrigo, Dale Farm, Moy Park and Dunbia.



GUEST SPEAKER



Jo Whitfield
CEO Co-op Food



Jo is Chief Executive for Food at the Co-op. She was promoted to the role after less than a year with the organisation and has devised and led a strategy that is delivering rapid and radical change for the business.

Jo is a positive, modern leader who has a deep understanding of retail. Since joining the executive team she has introduced new ideas such as partnering with festivals including Glastonbury and other events such as Parkrun. Her successful leadership is also highlighted in strong financial numbers with recent results reflecting an excellent growth and profit increase of 12% and like-for-like of 4.4%.

As the retail market continues to become more competitive, Jo has driven the Food strategy reset, has successfully led the acquisition of the Nisa business and continues to push forward the innovation agenda at the Co-op.

Outside her executive role Jo drives a passion for listening, understanding and developing people. She is currently an Ambassador for Girls Out Loud, a not-for-profit focusing on the development of young female talent, and has recently launched a network into the grocery industry called 'Grocery Girls' which aims to bring together major retailers and allow a space for them to share experiences, career journeys and inspirations.

This year marked a huge success story for Jo, as her continuous contribution and efforts across all aspects of working life were honoured and rewarded by winning the Veuve Clicquot Business Woman of the Year Award 2019.

NIFDA MEMBERS 2019

A.N. Irwin & Sons	Echlinville Distillery	Hughes Mushrooms
AB Vista	Elliott's Tradition	James Doherty (Meats) Ltd
ABP Lurgan	Fane Valley Co-Op Society Ltd	James Neill Ltd
ABP Newry	Fane Valley Dairies	James Tolland & Co Ltd
Agri-research (Ireland) Ltd	Fane Valley Feeds	John Thompson & Sons Ltd
Allied Bakeries Ireland	Fane Valley Stores	Johnson Brothers (Belfast) Ltd
Alltech Northern Ireland	Farmgate Nutrition	Karro Foods Ltd
Andrews Flour	Ferris & Co. (Belfast) Ltd	Kerry Food Commercial Group
Ballinaskeagh Grains Ltd	Finnebrogue	Kerry Food Northern Ireland, Located in Coleraine
Burke Shipping Services	Foyle Food Group	Kerry Food Northern Ireland, Located in Enniskillen
Cargill Animal Nutrition	Frylite	Kerry Food Northern Ireland, Located in Omagh
Cavanagh Free Range Eggs	F S Herron Ltd	Kerry Food Northern Ireland, Located in Portadown
Cefetra Ltd	Gilfresh Produce	Linden Foods Ltd
Chestnutt Animal Feeds	Glastry Farm Ice-Cream	Linergy
Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland	Glens of Antrim Potatoes	Mackie Petfoods
Cranswick Country Foods (Ballymena)	Golden Cow Dairies Ltd	Mash Direct Ltd
D S M Nutritional Products (UK) Ltd	Gortavoy Feeds & Farm Supplies Ltd	Masons Animal Feeds
Dale Farm Dairies Limited	Goulding NI	McGuckian Milling
Devenish Nutrition Ltd	Harnett's Oils	Moores Animal Feeds
Dungannon Proteins	Hilton Meats	
Dunbia Ltd	Hilton Meat Products	
	Hovis (Ireland) Ltd	

Morelli Ice Cream

Morrow Foods

Moy Park Ballymena Ltd

Moy Park Craigavon Ltd

Moy Park Dungannon Ltd

Moy Park Feeds Ltd

Northern Ireland Grain Trade
Association (NIGTA)

Northern Ireland Meat Ex-
porters Association (NIMEA)

Nutec Ltd

Nutrition Services (Interna-
tional) Ltd

Omagh Meats

Precision Liquids

Premier Nutrition
(Ireland) Ltd

Pritchitts (Lakeland Dairies)

Provimi Ireland

Punjana Tea Co Ltd

R & H. Hall Ltd

Rademon Estate Distillery Ltd

Rich Sauces

SHS Group Ltd

Skea Egg Farms Ltd

Strabane Mills

Strathroy Dairy Ltd

Tayto (NI) Ltd

Thomas Hutchinson &
Sons Ltd

T J Booth and Sons Ltd

Trouw Nutrition

Tullyherron Farm Feeds Ltd

U-Bake Ltd

United Feeds Ltd

United Molasses (Ireland) Ltd

W & R Barnett Ltd

Irwin's Bakery

W.D. Meats Ltd

Western Brand Poultry Prod-
ucts NI Ltd

White's Speedicook Ltd

Wilson's Country Ltd

NIFDA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS 2019

Andrew Ingredients Ltd

Bank of Ireland

Carson McDowell

Danske Bank

Deloitte LLP

DWF Law

Foods Connected

HSBC Bank Plc

Interfrigo Ltd

ISL Waste Management

KPMG

Lockton Companies LLP

L P Associates NI

McCulla Ireland Ltd

Morrow Communications

Northern Ireland Water

Ogilvie Fleet Ltd

Stena Line Freight

Sysco Software

Tughans

Ulster Bank Ltd

Vickerstock

NORTHERN IRELAND FOOD AND DRINK ASSOCIATION LTD BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019

CHAIRMAN

Brian Irwin

Chairman
Irwin's Bakery

OFFICE BEARERS

Vice Chairman (Incoming)

Nick Whelan

Group Chief Executive
Dale Farm

Vice Chairman (Outgoing)

Declan Billington MBE

Managing Director
John Thompson & Sons Ltd

Hon Treasurer

Peter Henry

Managing Director
Allied Bakeries Ltd

Executive Director

Michael Bell

Northern Ireland Food and Drink
Association Ltd (NIFDA)

BOARD MEMBERS 2019

Michael Howard

Non Executive Director
SHS Group

Tracy Hamilton

Sales & Marketing Director
Mash Direct

Bronagh Owens

Director of Poultry Division
Devenish Nutrition

Seamus Carr

Chief Operating Officer
Karro Food Group

George Mullan

Managing Director
ABP Food Group

Ursula Lavery

Technical Director, Europe
Moy Park Ltd

Tim Acheson

General Manager of Foodservice
Operations, Lakeland Dairies

Tony O'Neill OBE

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

These are challenging times for our local economy and for the industry – just weeks away from Brexit and the risk of a potential 'no deal'. NIFDA continues to lobby the UK Government on behalf of our members, working on a number of committees to put forward the case for our food and drink sector, which overall employs in the region of 100,000 people.

NIFDA is actively involved in the Food and Drink Federation Roundtable Brexit Forum which has met over 25 times. NIFDA is also represented on the Food Council at national level and is involved in many other liaison groups. NIFDA's Executive Director, Michael Bell and outgoing Vice Chair Declan Billington also sit on the Technical Alternative Arrangements Advisory Group, which was established in June 2019.

NIFDA is working closely with local government departments, including DAERA, FSA NI and Invest NI, to ensure that our members are given the most up-to-date information about labelling and packaging, export documentation requirements, tariffs and duties, new legislation to be applied to food products as a third country etc. We recently



Brian Irwin, Chairman, NIFDA

ran a Brexit Q & A Event which was well attended by members who had many questions to ask.

We are working hard to ensure the best possible outcome following Brexit for our members and, therefore, their customers. Food and Drink is the largest manufacturing sector in Northern Ireland and has continued to grow at a time when many other industries are contracting. Whilst we cannot ignore the challenges and uncertainty surrounding Brexit, our focus remains on producing high quality food, ensuring continuity of supply for our customers and building on our successes.

2019 REVIEW



**CRAFTING GREAT TASTING DAIRY & SUPPORTING
SUSTAINABLE FARMING FOR GENERATIONS**

NIFDA'S ROLE

NIFDA's role is to work in partnership with existing providers, associations, government and companies to promote the competitiveness of the industry. We adopt a '**One Voice**' approach to industry matters including:



Exporting



Research & Development



Regulation



Technology & Innovation



Marketing & Promotion



Sector Attractiveness & Skills Development



Food & Drink Sector Strategy

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- **Keep up to date** with the latest industry news and developments
- **Lobbying of government** on key issues affecting the industry
- **Network and build relationships** with industry colleagues, hear from expert speakers and share best practice
- **Develop your business** with insights and trends, member discounts on relevant events and training courses
- Access relevant **grants and support** programmes for your business
- Understand the retail environment with **specialised training and reports**
- **Help** with challenging media issues and crisis management

LAKELAND DAIRIES FOODSERVICE EXECUTIVE APPOINTED TO NIFDA BOARD

NIFDA has appointed the General Manager of Foodservice operations for Lakeland Dairies, Tim Acheson, to its Board. Mr. Acheson, from Banbridge in Co. Down, is a graduate of Queen's University Belfast and holds a bachelor of Science (Hons) degree in Food Science. He has been instrumental in the development of Lakeland Dairies' operations in Northern Ireland including the implementation of capital investment strategies which have created world class dairy foodservice operations.

Tim Acheson said, "I'm very pleased and honoured to take on this role to represent the interests of the foodservice sector in Northern Ireland. Food and drink represents a £5 billion industry for Northern Ireland and foodservice forms an integral part of this. NIFDA plays a valuable role in supporting our local food and drink sector, working with members, government and stakeholders to create the right conditions for sustainable, export-led growth for the industry. I am delighted to be joining NIFDA in helping to grow this vital industry."



NORTHERN IRELAND FOOD & DRINK AWARDS 2019

Over 400 guests turned out in style to celebrate the achievements of our leading food and drink companies at the 2019 Northern Ireland Food and Drink Awards. A total of eight awards were presented at the gala ceremony, hosted by Jo Scott in the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Supported by Ulster Bank, the awards are widely recognised as a crucial measure of commercial success for food and drink manufacturers and processors. The event also offers local companies a unique opportunity to showcase their commitment to excellence in front of industry stakeholders and customers.



On the night, there were joint winners in the 'Ulster Bank Best New Product in a Large Company' category – **Linden Foods** for its 4 Lamb Loin with Honey Roasted Parsnips and **Finnebrogue Artisan** for Naked Unsmoked Back Bacon. **Mash Direct** picked up the award for 'Best New Product in a Medium Company' for Beer Battered Onion Rings while **Cloughbane Farm Foods** won the Small Company category with its Spicy Lentil and Root Vegetable Casserole.

The Deloitte Service Sector Award was won by **Gilfresh Produce**, while the DAERA Agri-Food Supply Chain Excellence Award was presented to **ABP** for the Blade Farming Project. **Kestrel Foods** took home the Invest Northern Ireland Best International or GB Product Launch in recognition of the introduction of its Forest Feast Fruit Ball Range.

Two individual awards were presented at the event; **Hilary Faith, Pritchitts**, won the safefood Food Safety Champion Award while **Trevor Lockhart, Chief Executive, Fane Valley Foods** was honoured for his Outstanding Contribution to the Industry.

2018 NIFDA ANNUAL DINNER



NIFDA AGM 2019

NIFDA was delighted to welcome Dr Denis McMahon, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, to the 2019 AGM. Dr McMahon shared insights into DAERA's work to support the local food and drink sector. He talked about the huge impact of Brexit and said that uncertainty was one of the biggest difficulties. He also said he valued the input NIFDA had provided to Government to date. He outlined



DAERA's focus on three key principles: supporting the flow of agri trade; supporting contingency planning and protecting from public and animal health crime.

MICHAEL BELL RE- APPOINTED TO SAFEFOOD EXPERT GROUP

NIFDA's Executive Director, Michael Bell, has been re-appointed to the Safefood Knowledge Network Expert Group for a three year period. This is an extension to his original three year appointment.

The Expert Group is an advisory body that provides strategic, technical

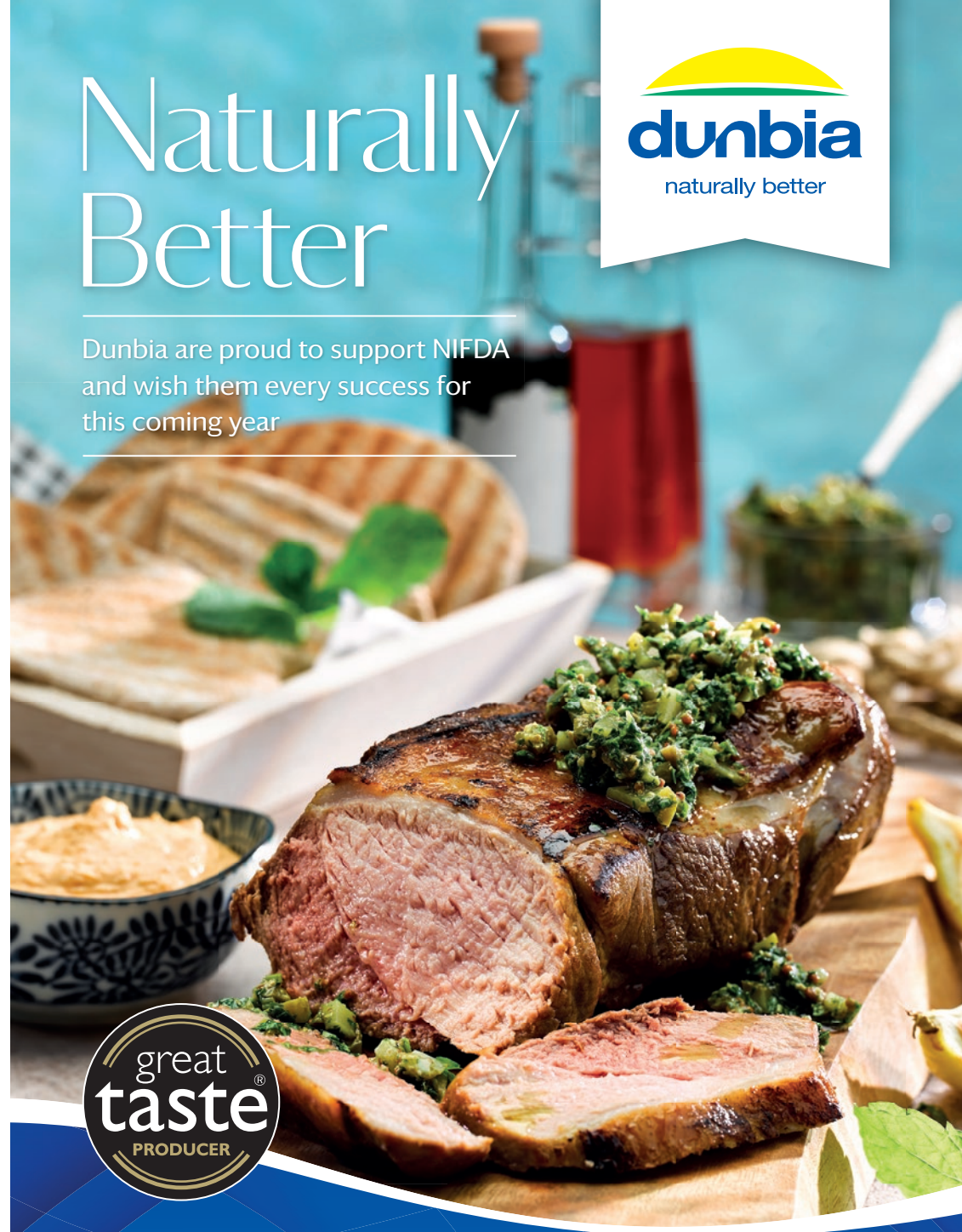
and operational advice to ensure the successful delivery of the Safefood Knowledge Network's objectives. It is unique on the island of Ireland in that it brings together a diverse set of expertise right across the food chain from science and research to environmental health to industry and trade.



Naturally Better



Dunbia are proud to support NIFDA and wish them every success for this coming year



DECLAN BILLINGTON FEATURES IN NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST 2019

Managing Director of animal feed firm John Thompson and Sons Ltd, and outgoing Vice Chairman of NIFDA, Declan Billington, was awarded an MBE for services to economic development in Northern Ireland.

Declan has held a number of posts including chairmanships of both the CBI and Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association (NIFDA). Declan said that lobbying to improve government policy for local businesses has been among his proudest achievements. "I think working towards improving our business environment in Northern Ireland is the right thing to do, so it is nice to be recognised for that."

Declan is the third generation in his family to achieve such recognition.



He continues to work tirelessly on behalf of the local food and drink industry. Congratulations to Declan for this recognition!

NIFDA would like to welcome new members who joined in 2019

NEW MEMBERS 2019

Coca-Cola HBC

Harnett's Oils

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS 2019

Foods Connected

Lockton Companies LLP

McCulla Ireland

GROCERY CODE OF PRACTICE TRAINING

The Groceries Supply Code of Practice was introduced in 2010 with the aim of protecting suppliers from unfair commercial practices and creating a level playing field across the supply chain. NIFDA continues to promote the Grocery Code of Practice, delivering a training session in conjunction with Loughry college on 4th April 2019.

and keep up-to-date with the implications of GSCOP and the GCA and how they can make a difference in trade negotiations. Supermarket staff must be re-trained annually, so it is recommended that suppliers are retrained at least every two years.

Further courses will be scheduled in the year ahead.

Attendees were given the latest information to help them understand



NIFDA has had ongoing engagement with Groceries Code Adjudicator Christine Tacon since 2016

HARVESTING TOMORROW'S SKILLS



June 2019 marked the culmination of the two year Harvesting Tomorrow's Skills project. The project was funded by Invest NI under their Collaborative Growth Programme. The key outputs of the network over this period included:



145 Collaborative Meetings



144 School visits



78 Network Members



8 Workshops & Forums



248 Stakeholders



5 Workforce surveys

The network concluded with a joint information exchange event at Loughry College with over 220 career teachers / advisers from the Northern Ireland Schools and Colleges Careers Association (NISCA).

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Atlantic Area Food Export Project

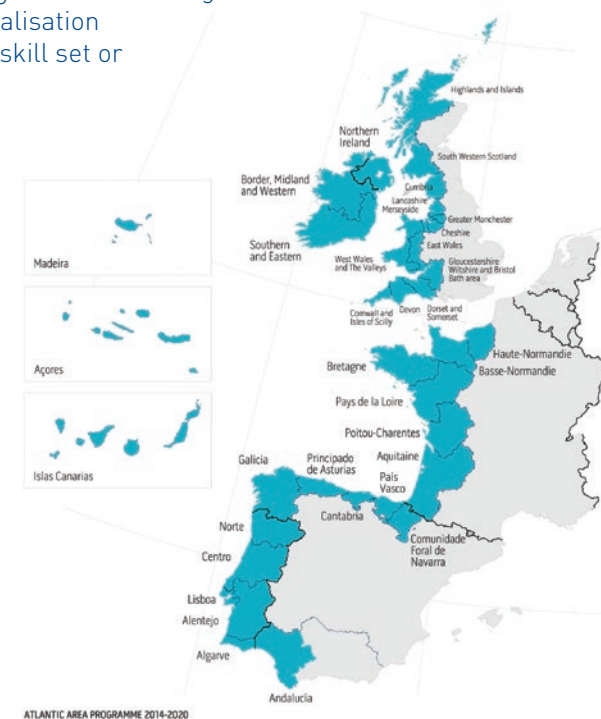
Supported by the EU under the Atlantic Area Interreg Programme this important export development project involves partners from seven European regions - including Northern Ireland via NIFDA. It aims to improve competitiveness and increase exports of Atlantic area food sector SMEs through business cooperation. Much of the focus is on overcoming some of the barriers to internationalisation arising from size, structure, skill set or lack of resources.

As part of the project, NIFDA brought a number of NI food and drink companies to two 'Export Cluster-building' events in 2019 – the first in Asturias, Spain in February and then to Cardiff in March as part of the Taste Wales event.

NIFDA also recently coordinated a group of 20 food and drink SMEs on a trade visit to the Anuga Food show in Cologne in October 2019.

A Quadruple Helix Atlantic Area Healthy Food Ecosystem For Growth Of SMEs

In June 2019, NIFDA also started working on research with the project partners into current trends in healthy food and lifestyles. These insights will be used to benefit food and drink companies in the area of new product development.



WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY...

“

NIFDA represents producers right across the spectrum, from the smaller artisans to Northern Ireland's largest food companies. We all face challenges and issues in our businesses from time to time and I find that NIFDA is the perfect forum to discuss these and seek solutions. The wealth of knowledge and experience within the association is an asset that all members can tap into - advice and guidance which can be invaluable to any small manufacturer.

morelli

”

Arnaldo Morelli, Managing Director

“

NIFDA has become the “strong voice” of our Food and Drink Industry. The organisation has helped enhance the reputation of our members and it continues to promote the importance of the industry and their products within Northern Ireland and beyond. It plays a pivotal role in our discussions with governments and other organisations.

Linden
FOODS

”

Gerry Maguire, Managing Director

“

By lobbying on our behalf, NIFDA works tirelessly to improve the Food and Drink industry. Its “Harvesting Tomorrow's Skills” programme is a great initiative to promote the Food and Drink sector as an exciting industry for prospective employees to work in, especially after the loss of migrant workers due to the uncertainty of Brexit. I also benefit from the networking opportunities provided by NIFDA and love getting the email updates on what is going on in the industry.

CAVANAGH
free range eggs

”

Eileen Hall, Director

“

NIFDA provides support to food companies, and valuable expertise, knowledge and information to its members through dedicated seminars and events. Lobbying is vital across issues that are peculiar and potentially threatening to this region. These initiatives, combined with strong business networking opportunities offer real and tangible benefits to companies.

Punjana

”

Ross Thompson, Managing Director



CREATING BETTER FOOD FOR EVERYONE

Over 75 years' experience of creating fresh, high quality and locally farmed poultry and convenience food products for our customers.

This commitment to quality from farm to fork strengthens Moy Park's position as a trusted food industry partner.

www.moypark.com



We're known for our commitment to business

At Danske Bank we pride ourselves on our sectoral expertise. The Food and Drink Industry is an integral part of the Northern Ireland economy, generating £5.0 billion in sales in 2018¹ and responsible for 100,000 jobs².

We are committed to supporting sustainable and responsible companies, whatever the challenges that lie ahead. We are proud of our support for the sector to date, and the fact that so many of our indigenous food and drinks businesses trust us with their banking needs.

It's our dedication and commitment to serving local businesses that has earned us the title of 'NI Responsible Company of the Year 2019' from Business in the Community.

Thank you to all the Northern Ireland businesses who trust us with their banking needs, and who stay with us on this journey. Your achievements inspire us to maintain our commitment and responsibility to local Food and Drink businesses.



NI Responsible
Company of the Year
Winner 2019

Planning big things for your business?

Talk to:

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Corporate Banking Manager

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Danske Bank

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¹Source: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs 2019

²Source: Northern Ireland Food & Drink Association 2019