



25th Annual Dinner

Thursday 21st October 2021
Hilton Hotel, Belfast

Sponsored by:



NIFDA is a voluntary organisation committed to helping Northern Ireland food and beverage companies compete successfully, representing and promoting 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	Arthur Anderson General Manager, Tayto NI Ltd
2000 – 2002	Alan Gibson Purchasing Director, Moy Park Ltd
2002 – 2003	Michael Moreland Managing Director, Andrews Holdings
2004 – 2006	John Barrett Executive Director, Coca-Cola Bottlers (Ulster) Ltd
2006 – 2008	David H Malseed Managing Director, United Molasses (Ireland) Ltd
2008 – 2010	Richard Moore Joint Managing Director, Linden Foods
2010 – 2014	Tony O'Neill OBE Marketing & Business Development Director, Moy Park Ltd
2014 – 2016	Dr David Dobbin CBE Chief Executive, United Dairy Farmers
2016 – 2018	Declan Billington MBE Managing Director, John Thompson & Sons
2018 – 2020	Brian Irwin Chairman, Irwin's Bakery
2020 – present	Nick Whelan Group Chief Executive, Dale Farm

NIFDA ANNUAL DINNER SPEAKERS

1997 Terry Leahy	2006 Guy Farrant	2015 Jason Tarry
1998 Dino Adriano	2007 Sir Terry Leahy	2016 George Eustice MP
1999 Malcolm Walker	2008 Justin King	2017 Andy Adcock
2000 Allan Leighton	2009 Peter Robinson	2018 John Paul Scally
2001 Feargal Quinn	2010 Andy Clarke	2019 Jo Whitfield
2002 Eoin McGettigan	2011 Mark Price	2020 Roger Burnley
2003 Sir Peter Davis	2012 Martin Agnew	2021 Jason Tarry
2004 Dr Jon Bell	2013 Justin King	
2005 Ewan Venters	2014 Malcolm Walker	



The 2021 NIFDA Annual Dinner is
sponsored by HSBC UK

NIFDA wishes to thank HSBC UK for their ongoing commitment, as well as the NIFDA member companies featured in this brochure for helping to make this event happen.

25TH NIFDA ANNUAL DINNER

6:30 pm	Drinks Reception with Industry
7:15 pm	Introduction & Welcome; Michael Bell, NIFDA Executive Director
7:20 pm	Allan Wilkinson, Head of Agrifoods, HSBC UK
7:25 pm	Nick Whelan, NIFDA Chairman
7:35 pm	Keynote Delivery; Jason Tarry, Chief Commercial Officer, Tesco
7:55 pm	Thank You; George Mullan, NIFDA Vice-Chairman
8:00 pm	Dinner
10:00 pm	Event Close

GUEST SPEAKER



TESCO **Jason Tarry**
Tesco CEO, UK and ROI

Jason joined Tesco in October 1990 through a graduate recruitment programme into the Finance division. At the end of 1993, he moved to Commercial and held a number of positions in both Food and Non Food divisions, including impulse and bakery category director, non food sourcing director and clothing category director.

Following promotion to Commercial Director for UK General Merchandise in 2005, Jason returned to clothing in 2008, taking on responsibility for clothing across Central Europe and Turkey as well as the department store operation in the Czech and Slovak Republics.

In 2012 Jason was appointed CEO Group Clothing adding UK and Ireland store and online operations to his remit as well as taking F&F to Tesco's Asia business and further afield via franchise partnerships.

In January 2015, Jason was appointed to the Exec Board as Chief Product Officer, responsible for commercial policies and supplier relationships across the Group, and directly responsible for product, range, price, promotions and supply chain for the UK.

July 2018, Jason was promoted to CEO, UK and ROI.



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ABP Lurgan

ABP Newry

Agri-research (Ireland) Ltd

Allied Bakeries Ireland

Alltech Northern Ireland

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Ballinaskeagh Grains Ltd

Burke Shipping Services

Ballyrashane

Bama UK

Barnett-Hall

Biosearch Ltd

Burke Shipping Services

Cavanagh Free Range Eggs Ltd

Cefetra Ltd

Chestnutt Animal Feeds

Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland

Cottagequinn Enterprises Ltd

Cranswick Country Foods (Ballymena)

D S M Nutritional Products (UK) Ltd

Dale Farm Dairies Limited

Devenish Nutrition Ltd

Dunbia Ltd

Echlinville Distillery

Elliott's Tradition

Fane Valley Co-Op Society Ltd

Fane Valley Feeds Ltd

Fane Valley Stores

Farmgate Nutrition

Finnebrogue Artisan

Foyle Food Group

Frylite

F S Herron Ltd

Genesis Bakery

Gilfresh Produce

Glastry Farm Ice-Cream

Glens of Antrim Potatoes

Golden Cow Dairies Ltd

Gortavoy Feeds & Farm Supplies Ltd

Goulding NI

Granville Food Care Ltd

Harnett's Oils

Hinch Distillery

Hovis Ireland Bakeries Ltd

Hughes Mushrooms

James Doherty (Meats) Ltd

James Neill Ltd

James Tolland & Co Ltd

John Thompson & Sons Ltd

Johnson Brothers (Belfast) Ltd

Karro Foods Ltd

Kerry Dairy Consumer Goods

Linden Foods Ltd

Linerger

Linwoods

Mackle Pet Foods

Mash Direct Ltd

Mason's Animal Feeds

McGuckian Milling

Moore's Animal Feeds Ltd

Morelli Ice Cream

Morrow Foods

Moy Park

Norbev Ltd

Northern Ireland Grain Trade Association (NIGTA)

Northern Ireland Meat Exporters Association (NIMEA)

Precision Liquids Ltd

Premier Nutrition (Ireland) Ltd

Pritchitts (Lakeland Dairies)

Provimi Ireland

Punjana Tea Co Ltd

Rademon Estate Distillery Ltd

Rich Sauces

SHS Group Ltd

Skea Egg Farms Ltd

Strabane Mills Ltd

Tayto (NI) Ltd

Thomas Hutchinson & Sons Ltd

T J Booth and Sons Ltd

Trouw Nutrition

Tullyherron Farm Feeds Ltd

United Feeds Ltd

United Molasses (Ireland) Ltd

W & R Barnett Ltd

W. D. Irwin & Sons Ltd

Western Brand Poultry Products NI Ltd

White's Speedicook Ltd

Wilson's Country Ltd

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Bank of Ireland

Carson McDowell

Danske Bank

Deloitte LLP

Derry Bros Customs Clearance Ltd

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Ulster Bank Ltd

NORTHERN IRELAND FOOD AND DRINK ASSOCIATION LTD BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021

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Group Chief Executive
Dale Farm

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Managing Director
ABP Food Group

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Chairman
Irwin's Bakery

Hon Treasurer

Peter Henry

Managing Director
Allied Bakeries Ltd

Executive Director

Michael Bell

Northern Ireland Food and Drink
Association Ltd (NIFDA)

BOARD MEMBERS 2020

Declan Billington MBE

Managing Director
John Thompson & Sons Ltd

Tracy Hamilton MBE

Brand Director
Mash Direct

Bronagh Owens

Director of Poultry Division
Devenish Nutrition

Seamus Carr

Chief Operating Officer
Karro Food Group

Ursula Lavery

Technical Director, Europe
Moy Park Ltd

Tim Acheson

General Manager of Food Service
Operations, Lakeland Dairies

Arthur Richmond

Chief Operating & Financial Officer
SHS Group

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

I am delighted to welcome you back to the Hilton Hotel as we celebrate our 25th annual dinner – and thus 25 years of NIFDA. It is great to be able to meet in person once again, having hosted the event virtually last year due to the pandemic.

Our response to Covid-19 demonstrated the very best of our industry, and the food heroes working within it. As the world went into lockdown, key workers across the food supply chain kept going – working harder than ever to feed the nation. Food manufacturers had to, in a very short period of time, rapidly respond to a fast-moving situation. Factories were transformed and processes reimagined almost overnight to adapt to changes in demand and implement social distancing measures.

That resilience and ability to adapt and innovate is crucial to addressing the many challenges we face at present. The pandemic, Brexit and other global factors, have seen all parts of industry impacted by labour shortages and strain on supply chains. Brexit and the Protocol have been challenging, and we have been engaging with policymakers to push for an approach that delivers affordability, certainty, simplicity and stability. While adapting to the more



Nick Whelan, Group Chief Executive, Dale Farm

difficult elements of our new trading relationships, we also stand to capitalise on the benefits of our unique position within both the UK and EU markets.

Looking forward one of the key priorities for industry is sustainability. For our customers and consumers, environmental sustainability is a necessity. At the same time, improving our environmental footprint will be a key pillar in future government food policy. We welcome the move by Minister Poots locally to focus agriculture policy on enhancing sustainability outcomes. In fact, this presents a great opportunity for innovative firms here - we are already world leading when it comes to sustainability, animal welfare, quality and commercial success.

Those credentials, combined with the innovative spirit that defines NI food and drink, will see the industry be part of the solution on climate change, while continuing our growth over the coming 25 years and beyond.

Nick Whelan

ADVERTORIAL

Specialist relationship banking for the food chain in Northern Ireland

Reaching out to the right people can be the key to success. Our Corporate Managers are industry specialists and have the knowledge that could help your business to grow.

Talk to us about how we could support your growth:

Gillian Morris, Head of Corporate Banking, Northern Ireland

✉ gillian.a.morris@hsbc.com

☎ 07387 246057

A NOTE FROM OUR SPONSOR



Support in uncertain times

At HSBC UK we're extremely proud of our ongoing relationship with NIFDA and its members.

Against the backdrop of Covid-19 and Brexit, the food industry in Northern Ireland is certainly facing a testing period.

Food businesses are having to adapt to a fast-changing environment and respond to a wide range of challenges from structural changes in the seasonal labour market to product scarcity, with gaps on supermarket shelves likely to increase in the run up to Christmas. They're also having to review their supply chains in the face of reducing trade with the EU, and face up to increased pressure on margins.

The industry has shown remarkable resilience in the face of this disruption, and businesses remain open to opportunities as they arise. Every business will have their solutions to tackle ongoing uncertainty. At HSBC UK, we'll work with you to find yours, and to support your future ambitions.

We'd like to congratulate NIFDA for its excellent work and support for the industry over the past 25 years. We recognise your powerful contribution to the food trade – an industry now worth some £5bn per year – and we believe we're well placed to help navigate such a fast-changing environment. Our experience of the food chain dates back to the bank's launch, over 150 years ago. Today our local 17-strong team works to understand and support firms in every field of Northern Ireland's food sector.

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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



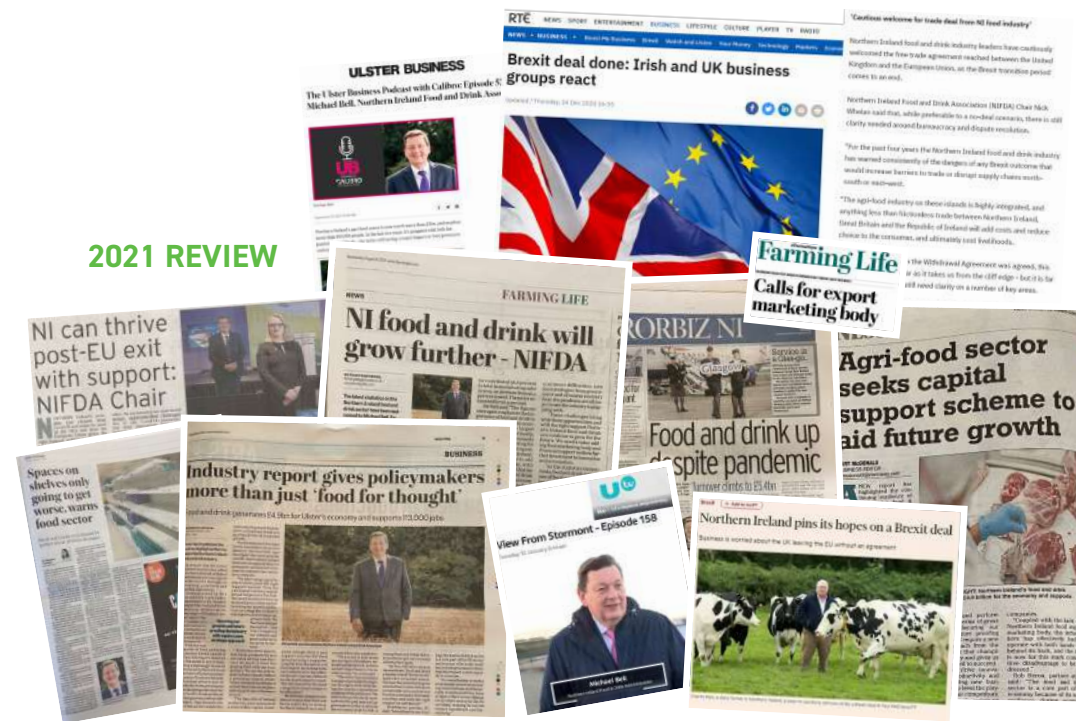
Food & Drink Sector Strategy

Join the discussion with peers and colleagues by becoming a NIFDA member. To find out more please contact jill@nifda.co.uk

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

2021 REVIEW



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PROUD TO WORK WITH NIFDA
AND ITS MEMBERS TO CHAMPION
NORTHERN IRELAND FOOD AND DRINK

2021 CIPR
PR CONSULTANCY OF THE YEAR



NIFDA ANNUAL DINNER VIRTUAL EVENT 2020

The NIFDA 24th Annual Dinner Virtual event took place on 15th October 2020. Held in partnership with HSBC UK, it was broadcast remotely from Belfast's Hilton Hotel as a hybrid event studio.

The event was attended virtually by over 100 industry leaders and political representatives from across the agriculture, food and drink sector.

Keynote speaker at this year's event was ASDA CEO Roger Burnley, who was joined in an Industry Insights panel discussion by NIFDA chairman Nick Whelan, and Allan Wilkinson, Head of Agrifoods at HSBC UK.



Celebrating 25 years of NIFDA

*We wish them every success
for the coming year*

One of Europe's leading producers of beef and lamb, the desire to create better food naturally is the driving force behind everything we do.

Supplying all market sectors, our sites are strategically located to offer the widest range of Northern Irish and UK regional products.

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MESSAGE FROM NIFDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

25 YEARS OF NIFDA

I hope you will forgive me the indulgence of a few reflections on 25 years of NIFDA. This was, and is, my passion. Those 25 years have been essentially 25 years of continuous growth for Northern Ireland food and drink and today, we remain Northern Ireland's largest single manufacturing industry, and a key driver for economic growth in Northern Ireland.

Our industry is part of our society's fabric at every level and in every area. Indeed, an EY report published earlier this year revealed that not only is NI food and drink a £4.9 billion industry, it plays a vital role in our regional development. With 86% of our firms based outside Belfast, food manufacturing is providing good jobs and supporting communities right across Northern Ireland.



For 25 years, NIFDA has championed this great sector. Over that time we have engaged with numerous prime ministers, direct rule ministers, NI Executive ministers and politicians at all levels – giving the industry a voice and ensuring that voice is heard by lawmakers where it matters.

NIFDA was founded on 17 January 1996. It was a time of great change for Northern Ireland across society, and it was a time of radical change in terms of the retail landscape, as 1996 was also a year that saw three major retailers, including Tesco, come to Northern Ireland. The past 25 years have seen us grow in partnership with our retailers, and we are delighted to have Jason Tarry, Tesco UK and Ireland CEO, with us to mark this important milestone for NIFDA.

So what *is* Northern Ireland food and drink? For me, we are a community of **people** who share three key attributes: **Passion, Professionalism and Pride**. The big company names, and impressive statistics, might sometimes hide the fact that we are people, we feed people and we are all about people. Our industry is both innovative and resilient, and these characteristics have seen NI food and drink continue to grow while



navigating its way through major challenges over the past 25 years.

I would argue that addressing the challenge of Covid-19 has been our industry's finest hour. Our food and drink companies had to rapidly respond to changes in demand while rethinking processes to keep staff safe. Those key workers – food heroes – kept going throughout national lockdown, ensuring we were still able to feed the nation. Not just food processing workers of course, but the whole 'eating ecosystem' of farmers, processors, retailers, and everyone in between. Thanks to their work, a tsunami of turbulence was surmounted.

Looking forward alongside the ongoing challenges of Covid-19 recovery and Brexit, we also have the major challenge of hyperinflation and the revaluation of food, which is already happening. Addressing the climate crisis, and the road to net zero is also a huge issue for all industries and across society.





25 years is a pivotal point for the industry in this changing environment. Addressing these new short- and long-term challenges requires us to re-write the rule book and strategies we have been using for the past 25 years. Given our track record of innovation, ingenuity, and hard work, I know we can do it. I firmly believe that not only is the future bright and green, but we can also accelerate our industry's growth and reduce our carbon footprint.

The work of NIFDA continues to grow with our members. We will continue to work with and for you over the next 25 years and beyond.

Finally, NIFDA would not exist without the volunteer directors, hardworking staff and our steadfast members – thank you.

Michael Bell



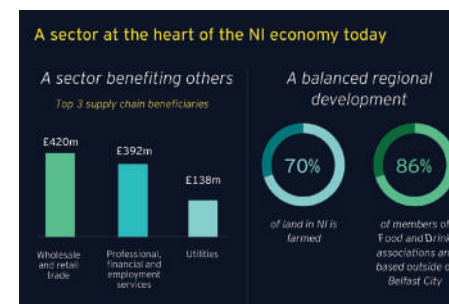
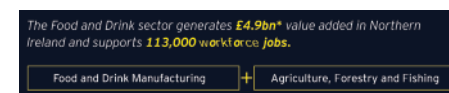
EY REPORT LAUNCH

Industry report gives policymakers 'food for thought'

In May, the food industry locally joined up with EY to launch a new report highlighting the true value of Northern Ireland food and drink. It revealed that the sector generates £4.9bn value added in Northern Ireland, with Food and Drink supporting 113,000 workforce jobs through its operations, its purchases and the spending it generates.

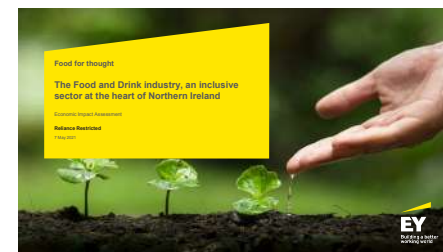
Commissioned by Northern Ireland's food and drink trade bodies, and produced by EY, **Food for thought: The Food and Drink industry, an inclusive sector at the heart of Northern Ireland** quantifies the industry's contribution to the economy as a resilient, innovative and export-driven sector.

With the vast majority of Food and Drink firms based outside of Belfast, the report observes that the sector is key to maintaining a regionally balanced economy and plays a vital role at the



heart of rural communities across Northern Ireland. Food and Drink is also revealed to be Northern Ireland's second largest goods exporter, with 77% of total Food and Drink produced in Northern Ireland being consumed outside the region. Significantly, the value of the sector's exports is substantially greater than imports, so Food and Drink acts as a key driver of economic growth.

The report was commissioned by NIFDA with the support of the Northern Ireland Meat Exporters Association, Ulster Pork and Bacon Forum, Northern Ireland Grain Trade Association and Dairy Council NI. To view the full report, please visit <http://nifda.co.uk>



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FOR 25 YEARS

NIFDA PACKAGING FORUM

In June 2019, NIFDA established its Packaging Forum, bringing together representatives from major companies across the food and drink sector in Northern Ireland to explore ways in which government and industry can work together to deliver practical solutions on plastics and packaging.

Plastic waste is an issue the industry is taking seriously. As a society we need to rethink our use of plastics, and at a government level there needs to be investment in better recycling infrastructure, and a reform of the system to drive up recycling rates. Our Packaging Forum meets on a regular basis to discuss these issues, share best practice and engage with government to assess what business can do to improve sustainability and be part of the solution.

The forum has been engaging with a wide range of stakeholders and had opportunity to visit Bryson Recycling Centre earlier in the year to discuss the important work Bryson is carrying out, what they want to see from government, and how innovations in sustainable packaging are having a positive environmental impact.

Companies involved in the Packaging Forum include Coca-Cola HBC, Moy Park, ABP, Dale Farm, Lakeland Dairies, Allied Bakeries Ireland, Irwin's Bakery, Tayto, Dunbia, Mash Direct, Linden Foods, White's Oats and Foyle Food Group.

Through this forum and other NIFDA initiatives, we will continue to work with government at all levels to help deliver practical, workable solutions that are sustainable environmentally and economically.



TIME HAS COME FOR DIGITAL MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT



Multiple factors have changed the employee marketplace in Northern Ireland in recent years, including the sheer growth of the industry, the trend of young people migrating from Northern Ireland and increased competition from the Republic of Ireland. Facing these long-term challenges, coupled with the pressure caused by the pandemic, the time has come for the industry to explore the opportunities presented by digitisation including robotics and further automation.

New manufacturing technologies have been gaining momentum in recent years. As well as addressing recruitment shortfalls, investing in this area has the potential to improve productivity, bring health and safety benefits, lower costs and ultimately grow our industry even further.

Our universities and colleges have a role to play both in developing and raising awareness of digital manufacturing, and we welcome the robotics and automation pilot project launched by Minister Poots earlier this year.

The potential of digital technologies to tackle recruitment shortfalls, improve health and safety standards and overall productivity is the focus of NIFDA's Automated Food Manufacture network. Supported by Invest Northern Ireland through its Collaborative Growth Programme, the Automated Food Manufacture network is exploring how digital technologies can be integrated into production processes to boost growth for the industry in Northern Ireland, with recommendations due to be published in the coming weeks.



DRIVING SUSTAINABILITY TOGETHER



Ian Stevenson, LMC Chief Executive

Sustainability is a word that has become part of the daily vocabulary and practice of the red meat supply chain from feed to retail. We can see that sustainability assessment and demonstration of continuous improvement has become the new benchmark for trade with many major meat industry customers in domestic and export markets.

Climate change, land use, antimicrobial resistance and animal welfare are key focal points just now but from an industry perspective every pillar of sustainability in terms of economic, social and environmental sustainability are equally important. When we look at our beef and lamb sector we already have a very good sustainability story to tell in Northern Ireland but this is a journey of continuous improvement and our sector is up for the challenge and opportunities which lie ahead. Our industry in Northern Ireland is in a unique position to drive forward sustainability, and has many tools at its disposal.

- Almost 100% of our beef and lamb at slaughter is now independently assured through the Northern Ireland Beef and Lamb Farm Quality Assurance Scheme (FQAS) to a range of quality and sustainability parameters covering animal welfare, care for the environment and food safety;
- FQAS is one of the longest running schemes of its type in the world having reached a 25 year milestone in 2017;
- Our livestock and meat is traced by one of the most sophisticated traceability systems in the world in APHIS;
- The compound feed for our livestock is supplied through the world leading Food Fortress Initiative;
- We have an abundant water and forage supply to play an active part in feeding a growing global demand for animal protein;
- We have passionate and forward thinking people in industry, government, research and support sectors to lead our green growth ambitions.

On behalf of LMC I would like to congratulate NIFDA as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary representing the Northern Ireland Food and Drink Industry.



NI FOOD AND DRINK COMPANIES BRIEF ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY ON INDUSTRY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Northern Ireland's food and drink leaders met with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon George Eustice MP this September to discuss the challenges facing the industry. After a visit to Linden Foods, Dungannon, the Secretary of State met with NIFDA board members over dinner in Belfast.

Speaking after the meeting, Michael Bell, NIFDA Executive Director said:

"The Secretary of State has engaged with the industry on several occasions in various roles, and we are delighted to welcome him back to Belfast at what is

a challenging time for Northern Ireland food and drink.

"Food manufacturers across the UK are dealing with multiple challenges at present. The sector has been experiencing serious difficulty in accessing labour across the supply chain, with farmers, processors and supermarkets all coming under additional strain. At the same time, firms are also grappling with rising energy costs coupled with difficulty in accessing Co₂.

"We briefed the Secretary of State on these issues and exchanged views on the future direction of food and farming as the UK embarks on an independent



agricultural policy post-Brexit, and the opportunities this presents for the sector.

"Despite the challenges the industry faces at present, we remain optimistic about the future. Food and drink is one of Northern Ireland's key economic assets, supporting some 113,000 jobs locally and feeding millions of people across the United Kingdom, Europe and beyond. We have the potential to grow even further and with the right support we can create even more sustainable jobs, and secure Northern Ireland's economic recovery from the pandemic."

Environment Secretary George Eustice said:

"I was glad to meet food and drink companies in Northern Ireland this week,

to discuss our shared interests and how we work together to support them.

"We recognise the challenges facing producers, particularly in processing at the moment, and we will make sure that we put the needs of this unique food and drink sector at the forefront of our work to support the industry."



NIFDA BUSINESS CONFERENCE 2021

NIFDA's 'Appetite for Growth' business conference returned this September, bringing together leading food industry figures to discuss the multiple challenges facing the Northern Ireland food and drink industry.

The theme for this year's conference was **Fresh Thinking for Future Growth**, giving forward-thinking food and drink manufacturers and producers the opportunity to engage with these industry leaders, receive expert insights into emerging market and regulatory trends, and get practical advice they can apply directly to their own businesses.

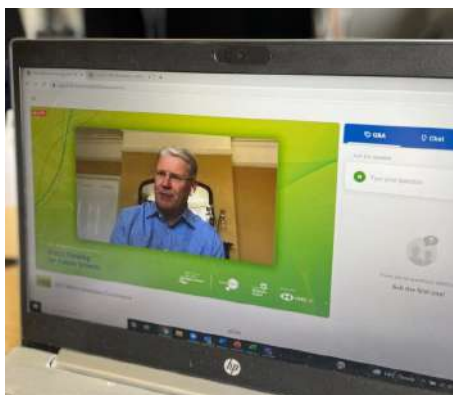
Hosted online and broadcast from a bespoke studio, over 100 delegates heard from expert speakers across food manufacturing, finance, retail and government. Dominic Darby, latterly Head of Innovation at Marks and Spencer, delivered a keynote address examining how consumer demands are evolving, and how retailers and manufacturers can stay ahead of the curve. Gillian Morris, Head of Corporate Banking NI at HSBC UK shared thoughts on how firms can finance for the future.

A panel discussion including markets expert Dr Clive Black, Head of Research at Shore Capital, Michelle Charrington Food & Drink Business Development,

Invest NI and Allan Wilkinson, Head of Agrifoods at HSBC UK explored the emerging market and consumer megatrends that food companies need to be aware of.

The event closed with a conversation with Sir Peter Kendall, who is leading the Independent Strategic Review of Agri-Food in Northern Ireland. NIFDA has been working closely with Sir Peter as he has been assessing the industry and developing his thoughts on the way forward, and this discussion offered some key insights into where the industry is succeeding, areas for improvement and how food and drink can grow further in the years ahead.

Our thanks go to HSBC UK and Invest NI for their support for this event.



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Congratulations to NIFDA on supporting
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Industry for 25 years





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NIFDA MEMBERS RECOGNISED AS LEADING INNOVATORS BY INNOVATE NI

NIFDA members achieved recognition earlier this year from Innovate NI for their contribution to innovation. Leading artisan food producer Finnebrogue, headquartered in Downpatrick, was named Platinum level Innovator while County Down-based Mash Direct was awarded recognition as a Silver Level Innovator.

Innovate NI is a Department for the Economy initiative, delivered by Invest NI in partnership with local councils and further education colleges. The programme recognises innovative businesses and provides guidance on best practice to help businesses innovate successfully.

Congratulating both companies, Michael Bell, NIFDA Executive Director said:

"Northern Ireland food and drink is truly world leading when it comes to quality, innovation and commercial success. Across the whole sector in Northern Ireland, food manufacturers are innovating and developing products that ensure we are firmly on the map as a centre of excellence in food and drink.

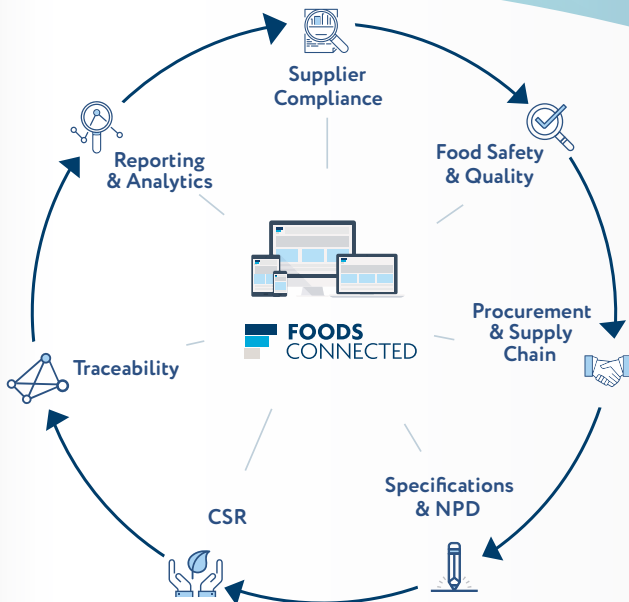
"Firms such as NIFDA members Mash Direct and Finnebrogue represent the very best of our local food and drink sector, and I congratulate both companies on achieving this well-earned recognition."



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ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES AWARD

Ursula Lavery, Technical and R&D Director Europe at Moy Park has been awarded an Associateship from the Council for Awards of Royal Agricultural Societies (CARAS). A board member at NIFDA, Ursula was presented



with the accolade in recognition of her research on biosecurity, animal health and performance.

CARAS was established in 1983 to recognise outstanding contributions by an individual to UK agricultural and rural progress, acting on behalf of four agricultural societies across the United Kingdom.

Ursula is a superb innovator, and we are delighted that her industry-leading research has been recognised in this way.

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, and is the only organisation in Northern Ireland to run GSCOP training.

Our next course will be scheduled in early 2022, where attendees will be given the latest information to help them understand 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 retrained annually, so it is recommended that suppliers are retrained at least every two years.



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