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News & Views

from the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute

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A group of students from St Aidan's High School Derrylin in Fermanagh pictured with Dr Gary Lyons (AFBI) during their recent visit to AFBI Hillsborough.

AFBI transforms classroom lessons to real life farming practice

Agriculture systems and related biology is now a key feature of the GCSE and A Level curriculum in Northern Ireland. In recognizing the value of the next generation as 'researchers of the future' AFBI regularly hosts visits by both GCSE and A level students, for educational purposes [Full story here](#)



The growing season is already well underway so the focus on dairy farms should now be on maximizing the use of grazed grass

A renewed focus on grass management is essential for profitability on dairy farms

Following an exceptionally mild autumn and relatively mild winter, many farms entered spring 2015 with good covers of grass [Full story here](#)



AFBI's Potato Breeding Programme produces new varieties suitable for use within Northern Ireland and for export around the Mediterranean Basin and Eastern Europe

AFBI Potato Breeding Research visited by leading Gran Canaria producer

The Canary Islands are an important market for Northern Ireland seed potatoes as Northern Ireland is one of only three countries able to comply with the islands' rigorous phytosanitary regulations [Full story here](#)



AFBI Lunchtime Seminar "Recent developments in feeding strategies for confined dairy cows"

A lunchtime seminar entitled "Recent developments in feeding strategies for confined dairy cows" will be held at AFBI Headquarters, 18a Newforge Lane, Malone Upper, Belfast, BT9 5PX on Tuesday 16th June at 1.30 pm [Full story here](#)



AFBI Researchers launched a new beef project at Balmoral Show 2015 with industry funders from AgriSearch, Ai Services, Genus ABS and Zoetis.

AFBI launches major new Suckler Cow project

The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) has launched a major new beef research project involving 1000 breeding cattle on 12 farms across Northern Ireland [Full story here](#)



Sow nutrition PhD students (left to right) Kathryn Reid, Anna Lavery and Aimee Louise Craig with their AFBI Hillsborough supervisor, Dr Elizabeth Magowan.

Girl Power drives Sow Nutrition advances at AFBI Hillsborough

The pig research team at the Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) Hillsborough has been strengthened in the last few years by a dedicated team of three local 1st Class Honours degree students [Full story here](#)



You can apply for an Innovation Voucher worth £4K to allow you to work with one of AFBI's researchers, next call opens 1st June.

AFBI will help you to develop solutions to business problems, or improve or create products, services and processes that will help your business compete more effectively. See www.investni.com/innovation-vouchers.html for further information.

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