

## AFBI News & Views

Welcome to Issue 18 of AFBI News and Views. We hope you are continuing to enjoy reading about our activities. If you have any thoughts regarding AFBI or News & Views please use the feedback link located at the bottom of this newsletter.



# News & Views

from the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute

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<http://www.afbini.gov.uk>



Bottlenose dolphin encounter, County Antrim

### AFBI Work Placement Student receives award from National Marine Foundation

Cathy Hinds, a Queen's University Belfast student on placement at AFBI has just been awarded runner up in the 2015 National Student Awards from the P1 Marine Foundation .....

[Full story here](#)



(L-R) Basil McCrea, MLA & Chair of All Party Group on Science and Technology, Professor Seamus Kennedy, AFBI CEO and Pieter-Jan Schon, AFBI's Head of Fisheries & Aquatic Ecosystems Branch pictured at the RV *Corystes* during the NI Science Festival 2016

### Public welcomed aboard AFBI's scientific research ship

AFBI's scientific research ship, the RV *Corystes* opened its doors and welcomed aboard over 200 members of the public as part of the 2016 Northern Ireland Science Festival .....

[Full story here](#)



AFBI's new look website

### AFBI has a new website!

The new AFBI website was launched on Tuesday 23 February. You can access it from [www.afbini.gov.uk](http://www.afbini.gov.uk) where you will find information on AFBI services or activities which may be of interest to you. Any feedback you have on the new website is very welcome via the feedback link located at the bottom of this newsletter.



Dr Steven Morrison (AFBI Hillsborough)

### Profile- This month Dr Steven Morrison, Programme Leader of Sustainable Livestock Production within AFBI talks about his career in Livestock Science

*'Upon completing my Agriculture degree and PhD studies in dairy cow nutrition I started work on a short term contract leading a project investigating the role of wood chip as a bedding material for beef cattle on the AFBI Hillsborough site .....*

[Full story here](#)

### **“Raman Scattering, Abiotic Stress and Wicking”**

A lunchtime seminar entitled “Raman Scattering, Abiotic Stress and Wicking” will be given by Professor Shekhar Sharma, AFBI Plant Health & Environmental Protection Branch will be held at AFBI Headquarters, 18a Newforge Lane, Malone Upper, Belfast, BT9 5PX on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 1.30 pm .....

[Full story here](#)



“Purple Magic” potatoes

### **New potato variety from AFBI Loughgall**

Purple Magic, one of the newest potato varieties from Crops, Grassland and Ecology Branch, AFBI Loughgall, is becoming well established in Canada and USA. Although it has only completed registration in 2015, already over a thousand tonnes of seed have been produced in Canada.

As its name suggests, the variety has bright purple skin and purple colouration in the tubers. Although no claims are being made about its health-promoting qualities, it contains high levels of anthocyanins similar to those found in blueberries. This builds on the already healthy potato by including antioxidants normally associated with berries along with vitamin C, minerals and fibre.



Adult fluke squeezed from the bile ducts of a chronically infected sheep

### **Control of liver fluke and rumen fluke infection in sheep and cattle in Northern Ireland**

Each year in Northern Ireland, the onset of autumn marks the beginning of the ‘fluke season’ with the death and debility affecting sheep on farms across the province, as liver fluke burdens become established in animals that have grazed on pasture contaminated with the infective metacercarial cysts .....

[Full story here](#)



Dr Ryan Devaney, AFBI PhD student

### **AFBI PhD student wins prize at a recent Symposium**

Ryan Devaney, a Ph.D student in the Avian lab, AFBI Stormont received a prize from Randox for the best offered oral presentation at the IITRG Symposium for his talk on ‘Identification of Endemic Avian viruses causing Poultry Production Problems via Next Generation Sequencing’.



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