



Delegates at the recent close-out event of the ANSWER (Agricultural Need for Sustainable Willow Effluent Recycling) project.

ANSWER project comes to a close

The ANSWER project close-out event, "Using plants for the management of wastewater" was held on Thursday 16th October 2014 at the Armagh City Hotel. The project is a ground-breaking piece of collaborative research looking at a very interesting environmental solution to a waste water problem.

[Full story here](#)



Minister Durkan during his visit to the RV *Corystes*

Environment Minister visits RV *Corystes*

Environment Minister, Mark H Durkan, has visited the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute's (AFBI) research vessel *Corystes* to view AFBI's scientific work on the marine environment. Mr Durkan was welcomed on board the RV *Corystes* by Professor Seamus Kennedy, AFBI Chief Executive, and given a guided tour of the work carried out on the vessel by Dr Walter Crozier, Head of AFBI's Fisheries and Aquatic Ecosystems Branch.

[Full story here](#)



Crown rust (*Puccinia coronata*) is characterised by small orange powdery pustules on the leaf surface and is most apparent from late summer to autumn

AFBI Research Highlights Crown Rust as an increasing problem on grass

The recent spell of warm, dry weather has resulted in an increased occurrence of crown rust on perennial ryegrass swards, especially on those retained for a late silage cut. Crown rust (*Puccinia coronata*) is characterised by small orange powdery pustules on the leaf surface and is most apparent from late summer to autumn. For many years this disease has been quite widespread in southern parts of the United Kingdom, but it is now more apparent in other areas and has also been seen on swards on the western side of Ireland, from Co Cork in the south as far north as east Co Down.

[Full story here](#)



Dairy cows grazing at AFBI Hillsborough

AFBI Research Provides New Information on Feeding Value of Grass

Fresh grass is the cheapest source of animal feed for ruminants. For this reason, pasture-based dairy production has dominated certain areas of the world such as Ireland, parts of the UK and New Zealand. These countries take full advantage of high grass yields and a long grazing season. In Northern Ireland, grass-based production systems have traditionally provided a competitive edge to local milk production by enabling production at lower cost compared to systems involving year round housing.

[Full story here](#)



Scientists from Ireland, England, Belgium and Denmark recently visited Hillsborough to have techniques demonstrated within the GplusE project

AFBI Research Pioneers the Way Forward for Dairy Cattle Breeding

Researchers representing five of fifteen key European partner institutes involved in the 5-year EU-funded research project entitled GPlusE (Genotype and Environment) visited AFBI sites at Hillsborough and Newforge recently. The overall aim of the project is to develop new breeding tools to enhance selection for optimal fertility, environmental impact, health and production efficiency of Holstein dairy herds into the future. The project involves the collection of production and health data for over 10,000 Holstein-Friesian cows across Europe and relating these to genomic profiles.

[Full story here](#)



Pictured L-R as follows: Dr Ciaran Mangan (EU Office, Brussels), Dr Cindy Bell (VP Genome Canada), Dr Stanley McDowell (AFBI), Dr Alistair Carson (DARD), Mr Richard Howell (Head of Research and Codex Division, DAFM), Dr Charlie Walthall (National Programme Leader USDA / ARS), Dr Sinclair Mayne (AFBI), Dr Ryan Law (Dunbia) and Professor Seamus Kennedy (AFBI CEO)

AFBI Hosts International Agri-Food Forum in Belfast

"More From Less: Can Science Deliver?" was the theme of this year's international Agri-Food Forum held on 11 - 12 November at the magnificent Assembly Buildings in Belfast. The Forum involved over 60 senior scientists drawn from across the United States, Canada, Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, representing a wide range of Agri-Food disciplines. The Forum was opened by Professor Seamus Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer of AFBI, who welcomed the impressive international audience for two intensive days of strategic thinking and exchange of ideas.

[Full story here](#)



Did you know?

Presentations from the recent AFBI-LMC Beef Conference entitled "Adapting to Change- The Role of Innovation in Beef Production" held at the Kings Hall Conference Centre can be viewed on the AFBI YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIBbs1LHD00KBW25ix-2ZDw5hI2nwaSS2>

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