

## AFBI - News & Views

Welcome to the latest edition of AFBI News & Views. We hope you find this a useful monthly addition to your inbox and enjoy reading about our activities.

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We wish you a very happy and prosperous Christmas.



# News & Views

from the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute

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Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (NI) Michelle O'Neill MLA delivering the opening address at the AFBI/LMC Beef Conference

### **AFBI/LMC Beef Conference – Adapting to Challenging Times – The Role of Innovation in Beef Production**

The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) and the Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) recently jointly hosted a major Conference for the Northern Ireland beef industry on Thursday 13th November 2014 at the King's Hall Conference Centre, Belfast .....

[Full story here](#)



Elizabeth Ball from AFBI conducts new research to predict the nutritive value of wheat for broilers

### **AFBI Research provides new insights on the nutritive value of wheat for broilers**

A new study has been initiated at AFBI to develop a more accurate means of predicting the nutritive value of wheat for broilers .....

[Full story here](#)

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Beekeepers examine apiaries for European Foulbrood

### **AFBI Scientists detect Bee disease on north coast**

AFBI has identified European foulbrood in three apiaries in the northern regions of counties Antrim and Londonderry. AFBI scientists detected the disease in samples of brood combs submitted by DARD Bee Health Inspectors from several weakened and dying bee colonies .....

[Full story here](#)



Part of the large group of visitors who attended an Open Day at AFBI Loughgall during the summer

### **AFBI unveils latest grass variety Glenariff - a new ryegrass for spring 2015**

Glenariff, an intermediate diploid perennial ryegrass bred by AFBI is the newest variety to be released from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) funded grass breeding programme at Loughgall .....

[Full story here](#)



Use £PLI to identify the best available genetics when choosing dairy bulls

### **AFBI Dairy Herd Genetics Among Top in UK**

The dairy herd at AFBI Hillsborough has recently been ranked second within the UK for Profitable Lifetime Index (£PLI). The presence of the best available genetics within the research herd at Hillsborough ensures that the results obtained from research programmes within AFBI will be relevant to dairy herds on Northern Ireland farms over the next 5-10 years .....

[Full story here](#)

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Agricultural scientists from China pictured during their recent visit to AFBI.

### Chinese Agricultural Scientists Impressed by AFBI Science

A group of Chinese agricultural scientists has spent the week with the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) for training on grass and clover evaluation at AFBI's Plant Testing Station at Crossnacreevy .....

[Full story here](#)



## Did you know?

Potato flea beetles (*Epitrix* spp.) are not currently present in the UK, but have been identified in Spain and Portugal, from which the UK imports both set and loose skin ware potatoes. Whilst there have been no findings of *Epitrix* in Europe outside Portugal and Spain to date, damage typical of *Epitrix* has been seen on ware potatoes imported from Portugal to the Netherlands and Northern Ireland .....

[More information here](#)

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