

Welcome to the 9th edition of AFBI News & Views, we hope you are continuing to enjoy reading about our activities.

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News & Views

from the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute

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Badger foraging in a farmyard

AFBI Research highlights need for increased biosecurity on local farms

A DARD funded research project recently completed by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) has reported for the first time the activity of different wildlife species at night in farmyards in Northern Ireland [Full story here](#)



Almost every plant in this variety has brackled while surrounding plants remain upright

AFBI Trials identify best maize varieties for Northern Ireland conditions

"I'd rather see a bad variety like that in your trial than my field!" - this was the comment a farmer passed on to one of the scientists at the AFBI Plant Testing Station, Crossnacreevy at a maize open day

[Full story here](#)



Dr Donnacha Doody (AFBI) providing an overview of the AgImpact project to the workshop delegates

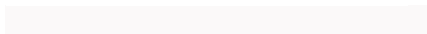
AFBI hosts AgImpact Workshop

The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) recently hosted a workshop in Dublin on water quality and sustainable intensification of agriculture in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland

[Full story here](#)

"Pigs, Pongs and People - a new look at pig-house odour"

A lunchtime seminar entitled "Pigs, Pongs and People - a new look at pig-house odour" will be held at AFBI Headquarters, 18a Newforge Lane, Malone Upper, Belfast, BT9 5PX on Tuesday 24th March at 1.30 pm [Full story here](#)





Cereal variety trial

AFBI Cereal Recommended List 2015 - ensuring you get the most from your seed!

The recently published Cereal Recommended List for Northern Ireland 2015 provides a comprehensive guide to varieties best suited for use within Northern Ireland and is based on data collected from the extensive variety evaluation programmes carried out by AFBI Crossnacreevy [Full story here](#)



Cows were offered concentrates either as part of a Total mixed-ration (using a mixer wagon) or on a 'Feed-to-yield' basis using an out-of-parlour feeder

AFBI Research compares concentrate allocation strategies for early lactation dairy cows

Genetic selection for milk production in dairy cows over the last few decades has resulted in higher milk yields. As a result, within days of calving it is common for dairy cows to produce ten times more milk than the calf needs [Full story here](#)



Action Renewables announce the shortlisted local businesses and organisations for this year's awards

AFBI shortlisted in the 2015 Action Renewables Awards

Research and technology being employed at the Environment and Renewable Energy Centre at AFBI Hillsborough has been shortlisted in the 2015 Action Renewables Awards, which recognise and reward leaders and advocates in the field of renewables across Northern Ireland [Full story here](#)



AFBI operates a commercial forage analysis service (HFIS) based at its Hillsborough site

In the 2014-15 silage season Hillsborough Feeding Information System analysed approximately 10,000 grass silage samples, 509 maize silage samples and 333 wholecrop silage/barley/wheat samples. Of these just over 6000 samples were submitted from ROI [Full story here](#)

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