



## **THE NORTHERN IRELAND INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE**

### **Background**

The Northern Ireland Institute of Agricultural Science (NIAS) was established almost 50 years ago to represent the professional interests of agriculture/food science graduates and diplomats working in Northern Ireland. Membership currently extends to approximately 270 people and includes a cross section of the key decision makers within Northern Ireland's largest industry, with the private and public sectors represented in equal measure.

### **Structure**

NIAS activities are coordinated by an annually elected committee. The current chairman is the CAFRE Head of Dairying and Pigs Ian McCluggage with the position of Vice Chairman held by Alltech All-Ireland Manager John Thornton. The Institute's President plays an important role as a key figurehead for the organisation. Dr Joan Moss currently holds this title and is in her second year of a three year term.

### **Objectives and Activities**

Each year we organise a series of events for members throughout the autumn, winter and spring months. These are co-ordinated to reflect the latest thinking – both local and international – which continues to have an impact on the farming and food sectors.

A particular highlight of the NIAS year is the organisation's Annual Conference, which takes place in February. As well as providing unique opportunities for members to expand their professional knowledge base, each NIAS event represents a unique networking occasion. There is also a strong social dimension to all of the organisation's get-togethers, the annual charity quiz being a case in point. NIAS is continually building for the future and is keen to encourage the active participation of new graduates and diplomats within its ranks.

### **Bursary Programme**

NIIAS is delighted to have the opportunity of funding a CAFRE bursary as a means of encouraging the highest standards of achievement by undergraduates at Greenmount. It should also allow the organisation to make contact with potential future members in a very constructive manner.

### **Report Title for the Northern Ireland Institute of Agricultural Science Award**

***New technologies are crucial for the success of an agricultural business. Discuss.***