

THE NORTHERN BANK

Background

Northern Bank began in 1809 as a Belfast-based banking company known as the Northern Banking Partnership. From the very beginning Northern catered for the business market and expanded services in line with its needs.

Northern Bank has evolved over the years meeting the changing needs of customers. In 2005 the Danish-based Danske Bank Group acquired the bank and has invested approximately £100m in Northern Bank. We now have a leading edge technology platform which allows us to offer some of the most innovative and competitive products and banking services in the market.

Northern Bank and the Agri – Food Industry

As the farmers' bank, agriculture represents a significant proportion of Northern Bank's business. Northern Bank offers a range of products and services to the agri – food industry. A team of specialised Agribusiness Managers, empowered to make decisions locally, offer farmers/growers an effective range of solutions for their businesses. In addition, Northern Bank's Agribusiness Team has a wealth of experience in the agricultural sector and is well aware of the issues faced by the industry.

The Bursary Programme

Northern Bank is proud of its long association with CAFRE and is pleased to support the Higher Education Bursary programme as part of our extensive agricultural sponsorships. We see this as an excellent opportunity to build on our links with Greenmount Campus – an important and local seat of learning for those wishing to pursue a career in agriculture and the land-based industries.

Report Title for the Northern Bank Bursary

This year the Northern Bank has provided candidates with the following title:

How can farmers/growers maintain profitability in an era of increasing input costs?