

The Dairy Event just keeps getting better

BY RICHARD HALLERON

THE sounds of Northern Irish accents filled the halls of the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham this week throughout the two days of the Dairy Event.

Hundreds of local farmers and industry representatives took in the sights and sounds of the 'agri spectacular' as visitors while, significantly, a healthy number of local businesses were there in 'exhibition mode'.

Northern Bank's John Henning attended on the first day and had the opportunity to see some of the latest technology and thinking relating to the dairy sector and wider livestock industry. "This show continues to develop as a 'must attend' event and provides a very professional image and facilities for exhibitors and visitors which was again reflected in a good attendance from across the British Isles and further afield," he told Farming Life.

"The event retains its business focus for

farmers and the industry and provided me with a good opportunity to discuss topical issues affecting dairying and engage with industry leaders and others, including many from Northern Ireland, during the day."

Moore Concrete was one of the many companies from Northern Ireland exhibiting at Birmingham.

"Business has been good," confirmed Keri McGivern.

"Visitors have been particularly interested in our range of slats and drinkers."

Tommy Armstrong, from Omagh-based Provita, was also reporting a healthy response from the thousands of visitors, who attended the two day event.

"Dairy farmers throughout the UK and Ireland are committed to minimising the feet problems being incurred by their cows and are actively seeking advice on how to achieve this," he commented.

Pearson International were first time exhibitors at the Dairy Event. Andrew Brodison from Newmills-based Pearson NI

confirmed a tremendous interest being shown by visitors in the company's range of rotary and herringbone parlours.

"We are currently offering an express fit service which commits us to removing an existing installation and putting in an entirely new parlour set up with days, he told Farming Life.

This year's Dairy Event was marked by the launch of a new nutritional guide by diet feeder manufacturer Keenan. The booklet explains how dairy and beef producers can get the best from the associated 'Mech fiber' and 'Pace' technologies.

"The guide also explains what is meant by feed efficiency and why it is such an important aspect of every modern livestock feeding operation," confirmed Keenan's Group Sales Director Niall McGauran.

Free copies of the guide can be ordered by way of the Keenan website: www.keenansystems.co.uk

Dairy industry skills given funding boost

FUNDING to help boost skills in Britain's dairy industry was announced by Agriculture Minister Jim Paice this week at the Dairy Event and Livestock Show at the Birmingham NEC.

£176,000 will be invested in the dairy industry's first Continuous Professional Development (CPD) scheme. In its first year it will set standards for attaining a specific level of knowledge and skills before rolling these out to more than 1,000 dairy farmers and workers over the following two years. The scheme will become self sustaining by 2015.

Jim Paice said: "Britain has the ideal natural conditions for dairy farming. The industry itself has identified how skills could be improved and I hope that some of the next generation of proud dairy farmers will benefit from this scheme."

The training will be coordinated by DairyCo and will promote increased domestic agricultural production by improving efficiency.

Tim Bennett, chairman of DairyCo said: "Today's dairy farmers need an increasing armoury of skills and breadth of knowledge. We're delighted to receive this funding which will support the industry development of a CPD programme to identify and improve these skills, as well as setting a recognised standard."

Whilst at the event, the Minister also highlighted the other work that Defra is doing to support the dairy industry. But he stressed that the future prosperity of the industry lies in its own hands.

Jim Paice continued: "We are doing what we can to help the industry by tackling bTB, investing millions into research on dairy, looking at ways to reduce regulation and supporting industry with the Dairy 2020 project. We want to see the whole dairy supply chain being able to grow domestic markets and explore new export markets."



Moore Concrete's Keri McGivern and Michael Stewart chatting to Cyril Orr, from Cloughmills and Joe Alexander, from Rathkenny, at this week's Dairy Event.



Elanco Director Mike Brown welcomes John Wallace from Lylehill YFC and David McNaugher (left) to this week's Dairy Event.



Above: Provita's Tommy Armstrong (right) and Stephen Haslam (left) chatting with Carys Jones and Hywel Davies, from Camaerthen in Wales at this week's Dairy Event.



Keenan's group sales director Niall McGauran.

D.A. FORGIE
Agricultural and
Garaging Equipment
Kubota
Main Dealer



FREE DELIVERY

Tel. (028) 77 722375/22417

Derek Mob 07802 801515

Andrew McMullan Mob 07977 407009

Joh Armstrong 07725 792678

info@forgie.com www.forgie.com

or call at

LISNAKILLY FARM, 16 SEACOAST ROAD,
LIMAVADY, CO. L'DERRY BT49 9DW

Conor



Conor Eng
Tubber
Clare Ireland

www.conoreng.ie

Contact: 07739 324 448, +353 86 256 2590