NIVA

North of Ireland Veterinary Association

NIVA EVENING MEETING

Autumn 2026

Using Data for Improved Animal Health

Healthy animals, healthy people, a healthy environment
From the local holding to the national herd
An evening meeting for the Northern Ireland veterinary profession

Join Us On

Wednesday 18th November 2026

7.00pm – 9.00pm

T3 Conference Centre
The House of Vic-Ryn
Moira Road, Lisburn
BT28 2RF

TICKETS

NIVA members – Free
Non-members – £25
Students – £10

Refreshments provided

Book tickets at

Scan to book your place

Our Speakers



Dr David Graham
Veterinary consultant



Professor Bobby Hyde
University of Nottingham

What can data tell us about animal health that we cannot yet see?

Animal health data is being generated at a scale and speed we have never had before — from milk recording, breeding and herd testing records held nationally, to cameras watching individual animals hour by hour on farm.

Two speakers take up that thread from opposite ends. Dr David Graham looks at data at national scale, and at how the records an entire industry collects are turned into genetic gain — including the health, efficiency and methane traits now entering ruminant breeding indexes. Professor Bobby Hyde works at the level of the individual animal, applying computer vision to continuous welfare monitoring.

Together they ask what these developments mean for animal health in Northern Ireland, locally and nationally, and what it would take to make better use of the data we already hold.

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Our Speakers



Dr David Graham

Dr Graham is a veterinary consultant and former Chief Executive of Animal Health Ireland, where he led the national programmes for BVD, IBR and Johne's disease. He graduated in veterinary medicine from University College Dublin in 1988 and completed a PhD at Queen's University Belfast on the diagnosis of bovine respiratory disease, and was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 2016. Much of his career has been spent turning routinely collected national data into disease control at industry scale.



Professor Bobby Hyde

Professor Hyde works in computational biology at the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham, and is an RCVS recognised specialist. He completed a PhD on using artificial intelligence to improve animal health and welfare, and is co-founder of the University of Nottingham spin-out Vet Vision AI, which applies computer vision to continuous welfare monitoring in dairy cattle and horses.

The evening

Data for sustainable genetics

Dr David Graham on data for sustainable ruminant genetics — how national breeding databases turn routine records into lasting genetic gain in health, efficiency and emissions.

Monitoring the individual animal

Professor Bobby Hyde on Vet Vision AI, the Nottingham spin-out applying computer vision to continuous welfare monitoring in dairy cattle and horses.

Questions and discussion

Both speakers take questions together, drawing out the common thread between what is measured on the individual farm and what a whole industry can do with it.

Who should come

Veterinary surgeons, farmers, industry bodies, researchers and policy stakeholders. Places are limited.