



NIVA
North of Ireland Veterinary Association

PRESIDENTIAL WORKSHOP

Autumn 2026

Endemic Disease Control and the Environmental Impact of Ruminant Farming

Healthy animals, healthy people, a healthy environment

A facilitated workshop for the Northern Ireland ruminant industry

Join Us On

**Wednesday
7th October 2026**

1.00pm – 4.45pm

T3 Conference Centre

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

TICKETS

NIVA members – Free

Non-members – £20

Students – £10

Buffet lunch provided

Book tickets at



Scan to book your place

Our Speakers



**Professor
Jude Capper**

Harper Adams University



**Professor
Ilias Kyriazakis**

Queen's University Belfast

What might better ruminant health be worth to the environment?

A sick animal returns less milk, less liveweight and fewer calves compared to healthy animals, despite continuing to consume time and inputs and to generate greenhouse gas emissions. Better health shortens finishing times, improves fertility and cuts mortality, lowering emissions per unit of produce made by each animal as well as improving farm profitability.

This workshop explores how large that sparing effect might be for Northern Ireland, and what it would take to capture it.

Working with veterinary and other interested stakeholders, the afternoon will set out the core challenges, identify potential solutions, and begin to crystallise these into a roadmap for the Northern Ireland ruminant industry.

**Open to veterinary surgeons, farmers, industry
and policy stakeholders**



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Our Speakers



**Professor
Jude Capper**

Professor Capper holds the ABP Chair of Sustainable Beef and Sheep Production at Harper Adams University and has over 17 years of experience assessing the environmental impact and sustainability of livestock production systems. Her current projects cover the factors influencing greenhouse gas emissions, economic viability and whole-system sustainability of UK beef and sheep operations, and the interactions between dairy and beef cattle productivity across the combined UK cattle population.



**Professor
Ilias Kyriazakis**

Professor Kyriazakis is Professor in the School of Biological Sciences and the Institute for Global Food Security at Queen's University Belfast. He specialises in the effects of animal management on performance and on the ability to cope with challenges such as pathogens, and has worked with a variety of animal species. His recent work addresses the effects of nutrition on the ability of animals to cope with pathogens, the use of alternative and home-grown feeds, and methods to assess environmental impact.

The afternoon

Framing the question

Opening addresses from Professor Capper and Professor Kyriazakis, setting out what is known about the environmental cost of endemic disease in ruminant systems and where the sparing effects are likely to sit.

Towards a roadmap

Each table will bring forward its short, medium and long term priorities. These will be drawn together into a direction of travel for endemic disease control in Northern Ireland.

Facilitated table discussion

Working sessions to identify the bottlenecks, the areas where activity is needed, and the actions that would make a difference.

Who should come

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