

## Linden Foods joins Blade Farming

The Blade Farming production model is now being expanded into Northern Ireland with the launch of Linden Livestock, as a part of Linden Foods. Rearing and finishing franchise operations are being developed to supply Linden Foods exclusively enabling the company to expand the supply base using quality and consistent cattle.

“The Blade operation is extremely attractive to us as a business as we have always focused on improving the standard and supply of cattle to us” comments Gerry McGuire MD of Linden Foods “we wanted to make the best use of dairy bred beef from dairy farmers in Northern Ireland and due to the lack of availability of large scale calf rearing units we knew we had to find a way forward in developing our own system. The Blade option was clearly the best one and now we are moving ahead quickly in getting supplies going”.

Blade was highlighted in recent study by the Northern Ireland Red Meat Task Force as a good model and a way forward for beef production in this area. Linden Livestock is the first to start a fully integrated beef model and will use the knowledge that Blade has acquired for the benefit of the producers in the Linden Livestock supply chain. The potential candidates for calf rearing have already been over to England to see how the rearers operate and will soon be up and running. Linden Foods are recruiting rearing and finishing farmers at the moment so please get in touch with Frank Forster (07841 954328) if you are an interested farmer in Northern Ireland.



Picture (from L – R): William Waugh (Linden Foods), Gavin Iles (Blade), Richard Phelps (Blade), Frank Forster (Linden Livestock)