

# *PigRegen Ltd*

PigRegen Ltd is a company funded by Northern Ireland (N.I.) pig producers in the form of a voluntary levy of 15p per pig slaughtered. Pig producers are represented in the form of a Board of ten Directors elected by contributing producers from pig producers in various sectors determined by herd size. The directors act in a voluntary capacity and receive no remuneration. The funds collected are used in a variety of ways covering factors of importance N.I. pig producers. Some examples of these currently being supported are:

1. Research projects approved by the Board of Directors and mainly carried out in conjunction with the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (A.F.B.I.), Hillsborough.
2. Bi-annual Health Surveys carried out on pigs from participating herds slaughtered at N.I. slaughter plants. Each herd then receives results comparing their herd with other herds in the scheme and emphasising areas of concern which may require attention.
3. Education grants currently directed at supporting a PhD student researching into an approved project again considered by the Board to be of importance to the N I pig producer in particular and to pig production in general.
4. Survey of management practices on N.I. Pig Units covering virtually every aspect of pig production including general management, nutrition, genetics, herd health and carcass information.
5. Electronic distribution of information generated within projects supported by the company as well other information which could be of importance to participating producers.

Every effort is made and will continue to be made to ensure that information generated is current and of importance to levy-paying producers in an effort to encourage their continued support and thereby help to improve their efficiency and competitiveness in an increasingly difficult market place, This is of particular importance to N.I. pig producers, operating in an area where virtually all raw materials are imported and the majority of product “exported “ (albeit within the United Kingdom), but having to carry the additional costs of cross channel freight.

Howard M Tonks  
[pigregen@aol.com](mailto:pigregen@aol.com)