



The Northern Ireland Agricultural Research & Development Council

Job Title:	Independent Farmer Trustee
Remuneration:	The role of Trustee is not accompanied by any financial remuneration, although reasonable expenses for travel may be claimed.
Time Commitment:	Up to 5 Trustees' meetings a year (+ possible further sub-committee meetings)
Term:	Trustees are elected for a three-year term and may serve no more than three consecutive terms

About the organisation

AgriSearch (The Northern Ireland Agricultural Research and Development Council) is an independent charity incorporated as a company limited by guarantee.

AgriSearch was formed in 1997 to help dairy, beef and sheep farmers become directly involved with production-oriented research. The funds contributed by farmers to AgriSearch (through a voluntary levy collected by Dairy and Red Meat Processors) are used to commission research that will improve and develop beef, sheep and dairy farming in Northern Ireland.

In recent years AgriSearch's role has grown from merely being a co-funder of research to taking a much more active role in leading projects and acting as a liaison between researchers, advisors and the industry. It now has a pivotal role within the research and knowledge transfer functions for Northern Ireland's ruminant livestock sector.

Introduction

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the organisation runs according to its constitution and that the financial management of the organization is sound. The Trustee has considerable influence over the strategy of an organisation and is an important component of its effectiveness.

Currently AgriSearch's Board has an under-representation of women, so applications are particularly welcomed from this group.

The Role & What is Expected

Contribution to the Board

Your role on the Trustee Board is important and you will be expected to have good attendance at Trustee Meetings.

You will be expected to undertake the following

1. Review of financial statements
2. Review of strategy documents
3. Preparation of strategy documents
4. Interpretation of research projects

Meetings

Most meetings will include the following:

1. Review of financial position
2. Assessment against defined strategy.
3. Discussion of future activity and strategy
4. Assessment of spending decisions

Training

Training for Trustees will be provided. This training will include the following

1. Industry context and challenges
 - a. Local and international
 - b. Understanding of the principle of “first limiting” factors
 - c. Specific sectoral challenges
 - d. Specific research challenges
2. The potential future of agriculture (2030, 2040, 2050)
 - a. Technology
 - b. Consumer behaviour
 - c. Regulatory framework
3. The research landscape in Northern Ireland, UK, Ireland and Europe.
4. The responsibilities of a Trustee
5. Strategy setting and strategic analysis techniques
6. Financial analysis & understanding
7. Techniques for understanding and analysing research papers

Person Specification

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the charity, its financial health, the probity of its activities and developing the organisation’s aims, objectives and goals in accordance with the governing document, legal and regulatory guidelines.

Personal Characteristics

- Good interpersonal skills
- Ability to think strategically
- Planning ability
- Analytical ability
- Problem solving outlook

- Attention to detail
- Ability to critically review large documents
- Financial literacy
- Teamworking ability
- Ability to make decisions for the good of the organisation
- An understanding of the respective roles of committee chairs, Trustees and the executive.
- Commitment to the organisation and the willingness to commit the necessary time to the organisation
- High standard of integrity.

Personal Experience

- Track record of successful farm / business management
- Track record of effective decision making
- Track record of involvement with science / on-farm research
- Experience of working with charities or community groups

Skills

- Confident with IT
- Confident with farm-based technology

Application forms can be downloaded from the AgriSearch website:

<https://www.agrisearch.org/publications/miscellaneous/independent-farmer-trustee-application-form-2019>

The closing date for applications is 12 Noon on Friday 26th April 2019

Completed forms should be sent to:

Jason Rankin
AgriSearch
Innovation Centre
Large Park
Hillsborough
County Down
BT26 6DR

Or emailed to: jason@agrisearch.org