

ULSTER FARMERS' UNION NEWS RELEASE**Date: 24 March 2011****Cyclo No: 45/2011****UFU welcomes DETI announcements on Bioenergy and Renewable Obligations**

The Ulster Farmers' Union has welcomed Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment (DETI) publication of the Bioenergy Action Plan for Northern Ireland 2010 – 2015 and the confirmation of the approval for the amended Renewables Obligations Order.

Speaking after the publication of the Action Plan, Rural Enterprise Chairman David McElrea welcomed the announcement saying; "This plan sets out the agreed actions for the sustainable development of the sector in Northern Ireland. It comes not long after we presented evidence on barriers to the development of renewable energy to the ETI Committee and this cross departmental report is certainly a step in the right direction."

The report has identified four key objectives which help drive the sector forwards: raising awareness and understanding of the benefits and opportunities of bioenergy in Northern Ireland; creating and maintaining a supportive policy; encouraging and supporting targeted investment; and encouraging focused and NI-relevant research.

David McElrea added; "Coming within a week of Bioenergy Action Plan announcement, we also welcome the announcement by DETI that the Renewables Obligation (Amendment) Order (NI) 2011 has been passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly and it will come into operation on 1 April 2011.

This change in legislation will increase the Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROCs) levels for the generation of electricity from anaerobic digestion and will also introduce other measures to ensure that renewables are appropriately incentivised, while protecting micro-generators and introducing sustainability criteria."

ENDS//...**Media Contact: Taryn Carlton 028 9037 0222**