



**Nominations sought for National Food and Drink Industry Awards
27th March 2003**

Tom Barry, Head of Corporate Banking, AIB said 'The agriculture, food and drinks sector is extremely important in AIB's overall business in Ireland and we are delighted to be involved in these innovative awards. Nominations are flooding in and early indications are that these reflect the growth, development and excellence of Irish companies operating in this sector. We see the introduction of these innovative awards as an important endorsement for these companies are also pleased to be able to use our Better Ireland Programme to help Barnardos and Self Help in this initiative'.

The National Food and Drink Industry Award categories are:

Innovation
Brand Marketing
Trailblazer, Exporter Award
Young Food & Drink Entrepreneur
Food Safety/Environmental Best Practice
Small Business

All Irish food and drink companies are eligible to apply.

Entry forms have been sent to AIB, Bord Bia and IBEC clients and can also be downloaded from their websites:

www.aib.ie/business; www.bordbia.ie; www.ibec.ie; or by emailing niamh.moran@bordbia.ie or gillian.burdon@ibec.ie.

The closing date for receipt of entries is April 25 2003 and the awards will be presented at a Gala dinner in the Four Seasons Hotel on Friday June 20 2003.

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