



Promoting Professional Excellence  
in Rural Business Administration

**Wednesday 10th March 2010**  
**PRESS RELEASE: For immediate**  
**dissemination**

## **Women in UK farming opt for a male chairman**

The 41st Annual Conference of IAgSA was held in Dundee last weekend entitled "Voyage of Discovery".

Hosted by the Central Scotland Branch who laid on an action-packed weekend of heritage and innovation, members present listened and discussed topics including food production for the ever increasing population and food sustainability - renewable energy sources leading on to discussions on diversification by way of timber production from forestry plantations. Members were also shown new ways of broadcasting information by way of social media networks including Facebook and Twitter in order to increase business.

With a farmers income already less than half of the average earnings in the EU and with payments making up nearly 50% of this income, it is not surprising that many wonder how ends will be met with the impending CAP Reform and subsidy cuts.

With issues such as these being the focus of the weekend and also the evidence to show how vital and important women are in agriculture for "getting things done"

Women working in agriculture are usually stereotypically perceived as being a farmers wife, but latest figures show a staggering 35% of the workforce in agriculture is now in fact female. Statistically, with 95% of IAgSA members being women it also comes as a twist in the tale that the council has wholeheartedly voted in Tim Cartwright as their new chair – the first male chairman in the history of the organization...

Brought up on the family farm in Lincolnshire, Tim has always worked in jobs connected with agriculture, and specifically accounts for the last 14 years completing his AAT qualifications in 2005, and has been an IAgSA member for over 30 years, serving on Council for the past five years as Treasurer and now newly appointed

Chairman. As Tim states “*having been involved with the Institute for so long I am very keen to see it grow in membership and gain more recognition within the industry*”.

Tim has recently left *Ray Gasson & Associates* to go freelance down in North Devon. He specialises in accounts, Payroll and Property program training and support as a software trainer for Farmplan so Tim brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise to the institute.

One interesting question raised during the weekend became something of a blanket summing up the entire industry as a whole... a member asked, in view of the subsidy cuts, low wage and way farming is going in Britain today what they should say to their sixteen year old son who is desperate to take up farming... the reply was simple: “Farming is an illness” with the analogy of it being like a rash all over you, not something that can be dismissed. Farming is a part of so many people, especially youngsters brought up living and breathing it – that farming is bred into you and done for the love, most certainly not the money... and thank goodness there are those with the ‘illness’ willing to take agriculture into the next generation – and indeed with so many women to add to the yield....

The ***Institute of Agricultural Secretaries and Administrators (IAgSA)*** can put you in touch with a farm secretary working in your area should you need one for any information. Contact: Charlotte O’Kane on 024 7669 6592 or [IAgSA@IAgSA.co.uk](mailto:IAgSA@IAgSA.co.uk) <<mailto:IAgSA@IAgSA.co.uk>>

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#### **Notes for editors.**

1. The Institute of Agricultural Secretaries and Administrators (IAgSA) helps rural business administrators and farm secretaries service the book keeping and recording needs of a diverse range of small businesses in the countryside.
2. IAgSA website is <http://www.iagsa.co.uk/>
3. IAgSA also has an active page on Facebook – search for “IAgSA”
4. IAgSA members specialise in the following:-  
**Computerised and Manual Accounting Systems**  
Cash Analysis, VAT and Annual Accounts  
Payroll and Employee Records  
Budgeting, Enterprise Costings and comparative Analysis  
**Physical and Mandatory Record Keeping**  
Livestock, Field and Crop Records  
DEFRA/SGRIP-WAG Annual Census, Subsidies and Grants  
Health and Safety Records

**Office Management and Computer Skills**

Word Processing, Spreadsheets  
Data Base, Storage and Security Information  
Diary and Filing Systems  
Correspondence.

5. To arrange interviews with IAgSA please contact Charlotte O'Kane on 024 7669 6592 or [IAgSA@IAgSA.co.uk](mailto:IAgSA@IAgSA.co.uk)

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