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Lowther Park Farms to host open day Institute of Agricultural Management's (IAgrM) first ever annual meet in the north

Lowther Park Farms, Penrith is to host the Institute of Agricultural Management's (IAgrM) first ever annual meet in the north of England on Tuesday 21 October.

Visitors will have the opportunity to find out more about IAgrM and its objectives to promote high standards in business and training and encourage professional qualifications before touring the 1,300ha farming enterprise and hearing about some of its latest developments designed to build a sustainable business post CAP Reform under the guidance of farm manager, Richard Price.

Richard is among IAgrM's first PAgrics, a new professional grade of membership, officially launched this month, which is subject to independent accreditation by the British Assessment Bureau. During the last six years at Lowther Park Farms he has introduced an arable enterprise, expanded the sheep enterprise by 40% to 5,000 ewes at the expense of a suckler herd and a poultry unit, and after nine years in organic and switching entire in hand operation back to conventional production.

He will also discuss how a new collaborative venture with some of the estate's tenants is proving to offer a win win solution, together with Lowther Park Farms' thriving event business bringing £2.4m annually to the local economy.

"I'm delighted to welcome IAgrM to Lowther and share with visitors some of our success in developing a simplified business to create a positive cash flow and prepare for a profitable future, operating without payments," he explains adding: "Being awarded IAgrM's PAgric will give me a great opportunity to benefit from the experience and knowledge that comes with the membership.

"The PAgric will also be an industry recognised award which will encourage our staff and rubber stamp what we are trying to achieve. Agriculture is heading into an exciting era and knowing your costs, market place and employing driven staff will be key for all farm businesses. Margins are getting tighter so our generation needs to sharpen its teeth on the business aspects. IAgrM has a lot to offer and needs the support of young members to continue the good work that has established the Institute."

- All farmers and those working in the sector are welcome to attend the open day. For further information see call Victoria at IAgrM on 01275 843825 Victoria@iagrm.com, www.iagrm.org.uk

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Further information from IAgrM's Richard Cooksley on 01275 373539
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