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EDITORIAL

My first thought when contemplating this last Editorial for the *Journal of Farm Management* was that it should include a grand review of the long history of the Journal since its first issue in 1967, complete with analysis of topics covered, lists of editorial committee members, and valedictory messages from the great and the good. On reflection, though, this does not feel the occasion for finality and valediction. Some time ago, in a conference paper,¹ I used the expression ‘not death but transubstantiation’ to describe the way that farm management teaching and research was changing shape. I have since learned that my understanding of the term ‘transubstantiation’ was a little shaky, but nevertheless I would apply the spirit of that phrase to what is happening to our Journal now. The Institute of Agricultural Management will continue to publish a quarterly journal, but in partnership with the International Farm Management Association (IFMA), merging with the *Journal of International Farm Management*. The editorial team of the new *International Journal of Agricultural Management (IJAM)* is formed from those of *JFM* and *JIFM*, so there *will* be continuity – our work goes on.

However there would be no point in such a move if it did not promise a better offering for readers. The partnership with IFMA will give us a broader outlook and better access to many excellent authors from other countries – essential for a professionalised, dynamic farm management community. Many of the most influential articles in *JFM* in the past have been written by non-UK authors, bringing us new perspectives and adding to our managerial tool-kit. This will not be at the expense, though, of the well-written UK/European article, whether a research paper, technical review or polemical viewpoint.

The new journal will be published quarterly online, reflecting the increasing expectation of electronic access, together with around ten years’ worth of back issues. For members and paying subscribers, a print edition will bring together each year’s content for those who like to have a copy on the shelf. Best of all, we hope to be able to raise quality, not just in narrow academic terms, but also in terms of ‘usability’ by those who are at the sharp end of agricultural management and rural land use.

So read on and enjoy the varied articles in this issue, comfortable in the knowledge that in three months’ time you will be doing the same with the first issue of *IJAM*.

I would like to thank the current Editorial Committee of *JFM* for their vital contribution in the past, and I look forward to their future involvement in *IJAM*: Ian Ashbridge, Carl Atkin, Alison Bailey, Mark Robins, Andrew Crossley and Paul Webster. But finally, a real valediction. Douglas Brown, who currently manages the whole process of typesetting and printing of *JFM*, will be stepping down when we move on to the new journal and a different production process. Douglas is the only person who has had a continuous involvement with the journal for the whole of its 44 years, and has been an absolute cornerstone for as long as I can remember. Joni Mitchell sang “you don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone”, and I have a nasty feeling that the truth of this will be all too apparent when I am preparing the first issue of *IJAM*. But all good things come to an end, and Douglas has been looking forward to this opportunity for some time. We wish him well in his future endeavours, and offer him sincere thanks for a job very, very well done.

Martyn Warren, Editor

1. Warren, M.F. (2000) Farm Management: death of a discipline? *5th European Conference on Higher Agricultural Education*, September 2000, University of Plymouth, UK