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**Letter from the Editor****Dear ASFMRA Members and Friends of Agriculture:**

John F. Kennedy said, “Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.”

The 2007 *Journal of the ASFMRA* is full of authors who have done just that – contributing to their county (Us!). This new Journal contains the most up-to-date collection of agricultural consulting, farm management and rural appraisal topics available in the world. In the following pages you will find cutting-edge manuscripts documenting research, field studies, practices and methodologies proposed by the leading academic, appraisal, consulting and management leaders of agriculture. This edition of the Journal continues to provide our membership and the agri-business community with topics on newly evolved issues and concepts for your review and consideration.

The Editorial Committee task this year was to review one of the largest number of manuscripts submitted in years, and we have selected these 19 papers as the best assortment of topics. We worked with the authors to ensure that each article was informative, clear and precise in the presentation of data and conclusions, and consistent with ASFMRA goals.

The Journal is laid out with all of the article abstracts up-front so that you can quickly scan through the topics and link to the ones that peak your interest and curiosity. Case Studies provide some real-life examples that might prove useful in your own professional assignments, while research and professional articles include a variety of observations, research, and opinions.

We have topics on farm businesses, financial strategies, and investment choices; experiments with a variety of crops (sugar beets, alfalfa, tomatoes and timber); cattle and livestock issues; Indian Reserve lands; and the weird actions of appraisers.

Our authors include university professors and students, practicing appraisers and farm managers, and experienced agricultural consultants. Several of these papers were submitted by ASFMRA members.

The Editorial Committee continues its challenge to all readers to join our highly acclaimed group of published authors. Share some of your experiences and wisdom! Most of us have encountered at least one unusual problem or situation that required original and innovative thinking to develop workable solutions. If it was new for you, chances are it will be interesting and usable by others. Ask the 2006 Gold Quill Award winner, Professor Steven Shultz (who also was a co-winner in 2005) about his own differences between agricultural land surveys and market sales. It is worth the time to follow his lead and get published!!

The Editorial Committee thanks you for your continued interest in the ASFMRA, agriculture, and the entire agricultural community.

Donald A. Fisher, ARA
Editorial Committee Chair