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**Letter from the  
Editorial Committee Chair**

**Donald Fisher, ARA**

Dear ASFMRA Members and Friends of Agriculture:

We received two dozen manuscript submissions for the 2010 Journal of the ASFMRA – making 2009 and 2010 both record years for the largest number of papers submitted for our review and consideration.

As a result, this year's Journal contains twenty-three articles that cover a wide variety of topics, theories and methodologies – with something for everyone. Keep reading – there are many new things for you to consider in the following papers.

The 2010 Journal contains the most up-to-date collection of rural appraisal, agricultural consulting and farm management 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 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. You will find papers in the general categories of case studies, professional forum, and research. The case studies include some real-life examples that might prove useful in your own professional assignments, while the latter two include a variety of observations, research and opinions.

We have topics on climate effects, milk production factors, calving cycles, timber valuation, 1031 transfers, livestock inventories, leasing arrangements, herd management, selecting a farm manager, analyzing farm profitability, estimating cash rents and calculating custom machinery rates.

Our authors include practicing appraisers and farm managers, experienced agricultural consultants, and university professors and students. About half 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 2009 Gold Quill Award winners - Jim Richardson, Chuck Gilliland, Roland Fumasi, Crystelle Markley and Joe Outlaw - about their paper on the impacts of farm income and personal income on Texas land values – a topic that can be applied to each part of the country. It is worth the time to follow their 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*