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**Letter from the  
Editorial Committee Chair**

**Donald Fisher, ARA**

Dear ASFMRA Members and Friends of Agriculture:

The readers of the 2011 Journal of the ASFMRA will find papers addressing a wide diversity of topics, theories, and methodologies that are sure to meet their interests. Keep reading – there are many new things for you to consider in the following papers.

The 2011 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 pique 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 papers on studies of crops – grains, wheat, hybrid rice, corn, soybeans, bell peppers, and ornamental crops; articles on animals include wildlife in timberland, beef, sire genetics, and grazing policies. Case studies include wind energy, conservation easements, student goals, ethanol, and portfolio investment options.

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. Please 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 2010 Gold Quill Award winners – Freddie Barnard, Paul Ellinger, and Christine Wilson – about their paper on measuring issues in assessing farm profitability, 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*