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2012 JOURNAL OF THE ASFMRA

Letter from the ASFMRA Editorial Committee Chair	
Article Title	ı ge(s)
The Influence of Auto-Steer on Machinery Selection and Land Acquisition	
By Jordan M. Shockley, Carl R. Dillon, and Timothy S. Stombaugh	.1-7
Seasonality of Diesel Fuel Prices	
By Gregory Ibendahl	8-19
The Value of Water In Agriculture Land Markets: The Nebraska Case	
By Chris L. Thompson and Bruce B. Johnson	0-28
Cotton Thermal Defoliation Economics	
By Paul Funk, Carlos Armijo, Gerald Hawkes, and James D. Libbin	9-42
An Analysis of On-Farm Feed and Fuel from Dryland Camelina	
By Thomas Foulke, Milton E. Geiger, and Bret Hess	3-56
Rising Farmland Values: An Indicator of Regional Economic Performance	
or a Speculative Bubble?	
By Steven C. Blank, Kenneth Erickson, and Charles Hallahan	7-67
Determinants of Profitability in Niche Swine Production	
By Dwight R. Sanders, Ira J. Altman, Gary A. Apgar6	8-79
Managing the Economics of Soil Salinity in the Red River Valley of North Dakota	
By Joleen C. Hadrich	0-88
Economic Analysis of Biomass Production Utilizing Winter Wheat Double-Cropping	
By Julia Isabel Navarro, Samantha Shoaf, Dr. Lori Snyder,	
Dr. Craig Dobbins, Dr. Herbert Ohm8	9-97
Landowner Preferences for Conservation Easements: Responses from	
Two Intermountain States	
By Graham H. McGaffin, Donald M. McLeod, Christopher T. Bastian,	
Catherine Keske Hoag, and Dana L. Hoag	-111
Pasture Rental Rates for Fall-Winter Grazing of Winter Wheat	
By Brandon T. Varner, Francis M. Epplin, Damona G. Doye,	
R. Joe Schatzer, and Jeffrey T. Edwards112	-123
Economic Comparison of Weaning and Feeding Strategies for Beef Production	
By Kendall Eisele, John Ritten, Christopher T. Bastian, Steven Paisley,	
and Scott Lake	-134
Asset Bubbles, Inflation, and Agricultural Land Values	
By Bryan Schurle, Christine A. Wilson, Allen M. Featherstone,	
Hugo Remaury, and Jacob Harmon	-147
Factors Influencing Farm Operator Expectations on Future Levels of Government Supp	ort
By Tyler B. Mark, Joshua D. Detre, Jeremy D'Antoni,	
and Ashok K. Mishra148	-164
Revisiting Flexible Cash Leases	
By Nicholas D. Paulson	-177
Measuring the Financial Health of U.S. Production Agriculture	
By Brady E. Brewer, Christine A. Wilson, Allen M. Featherstone,	
J. Michael Harris, Ken Erickson, and Charles Hallahan	-193

Table of Contents

2012 JOURNAL OF THE ASFMRA



Letter from the Editorial Committee Chair

Donald Fisher, ARA

Dear ASFMRA Members and Friends of Agriculture:

Twenty papers were submitted to the ASFMRA Editorial Committee for consideration of publication in our 2012 Journal. This collection of papers provided our Committee with a wide assortment of topics to review and evaluate for your reading pleasure.

You will find topics on most of the appraisal, management and agricultural consulting issues that we all see frequently each year that include research and case studies that illustrate new, reformed and revised ideas and techniques.

Examples of the many topics included in the 2012 *Journal of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers* are:

- Camelina, cotton, wheat and forage crops
- Grazing activities
- Livestock include beef and swine
- Land values and value trends
- Soil economics
- Cash leases
- Farm operations and expenses
- Fluctuation of fuel prices
- Conservation easements

The 2012 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.

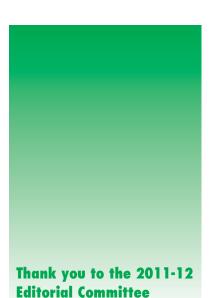
The Journal is laid out with all of the article abstracts up-front so that you can quickly scan through the topics and link to the ones that peak your interest and curiosity. You will find papers in the general categories of case studies, professional forum, and research. Our authors include practicing 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.

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

2012 JOURNAL OF THE ASFMRA



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