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2016 JOURNAL OF THE ASFMRA

Letter from the Editorial Committee Chair

Donald Fisher, ARA

Dear ASFMRA Members and Friends of Agriculture:

The 2016 Journal of the ASFMRA is ready for viewing! The ASFMRA Editorial Committee is proud to present this year's Journal with fourteen papers on more than a dozen topics involving farm management, rural appraisal and agricultural consulting issues. The manuscripts that were submitted for consideration provided our Committee with a wide assortment of subject matter to review and evaluate for your reading pleasure.

This 2016 Journal includes new topics like UAVs and meat goats plus new looks at more traditional issues like strip cropping and irrigation. These papers include research and case studies illustrating new, reformed, and/or revised ideas and techniques.

Examples of the many topics included in the 2016 Journal of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers are:

- Use of GPS with planter and sprayer returns on investment
- Conversion of native prairie CRP land to cropland
- Meat goat farms costs and returns, and a look at technology and production as related to immigration trends
- Costs of using unmanned aircraft on crop farms
- Crops including soybeans, corn, and sorghum
- Use of big data and solvency ratios

The 2016 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. 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