

ASFMRA NEWS

by George E. Baird, Land Management Group, LLC

Grass roots leadership must come from agriculture



“Together, we must tell the story of advances in technology, conservation efforts, food safety and the overall impact of agriculture on the economy, on both a local level and national level. Together, we can begin to drive change from the bottom up and provide the leadership needed to promote positive change.”



Despite what our so-called “leaders” try to persuade us they are doing to address leadership, it seemingly does nothing more than add to the unrest. From Washington to Wall Street, from federal projects to state governments and from city governments to school boards, the effects are being felt.

Those entrusted to represent and lead are more worried about political games and getting re-elected than driving change. It is not about political parties—blue states vs. red states—or class warfare but about moving this country forward. The sense of entitlements is eroding the very freedoms for which our forefathers fought.

The majority of Americans are seeking answers and looking for new “leadership.” Agriculture has long been the backbone of America and just one of the many things that makes this country great. It is no secret that agriculture as a whole has had a great run over the past several years as problems throughout other areas have continued to face turmoil. It is imperative that as leaders within our respective professions we step forward to fill that void that is missing.

Through hard times and good we have stood together as an industry. Honesty, integrity, loyalty, hard-work and perseverance are just a few thoughts that come to mind when you envision farm families and communities throughout America. Throughout history, rural America has provided leaders, which are needed now more than ever. Together, we

must tell the story of advances in technology, conservation efforts, food safety and the overall impact of agriculture on the economy, on both a local level and national level. Together, we can begin to drive change from the bottom up and provide the leadership needed to promote positive change.

The ASFMRA recently held its annual meeting. It is always a highlight of the year when you can come together to learn from each other and industry professionals, rekindle old friendships and forge new ones, share our failures and successes and recognize just how fortunate and blessed we truly are.

The opening of our annual meeting featured Paul Harvey’s, “So God Made a Farmer” tribute from the 1978 National FAA Convention. As his words rang out “So God made a Farmer,” it reminded each of us of our roots and the foundations upon which many of us were raised. As the emotion in the room built, so did the pride. The pride of the heritage we all share, the pride of being part of a great industry and the pride we strap on everyday as professional farm managers and rural appraisers. The tribute also served as a reminder of the responsibility to hand down these virtues to those who follow.

People are seeking change, seeking community and seeking people they can trust in such hard and uncertain times. Together, we can pull together to represent a great industry and lead change for tomorrow. As we reflect on our past, this should inspire us to forge ahead and help bring change in the future. **AG**