

Professional Agricultural Workers Journal

Volume 1

Number 1 *Professional Agricultural Workers Journal*

2

12-16-2013

Preface

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Recommended Citation

(2013) "Preface," *Professional Agricultural Workers Journal*: Vol. 1: No. 1, 2.

Available at: <http://tuspubs.tuskegee.edu/pawj/vol1/iss1/2>

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Preface

We welcome you to the first issue of the Professional Agricultural Workers Journal (PAWJ), successor to the former Professional Agricultural Workers Conference Proceedings. We started the process by first having a series of meetings and identifying and defining the type of research, topics, focal areas, and issues to be covered in the Journal. Our approach was to broadly emphasize issues on development, especially, making the Journal a voice for agriculture, justice, and rural life.

Next, we discussed publication frequency, and finally, settled on at least two times a year. Also, we had to constitute the editorial board. However, before that we determined who we wanted to be on the board, how many board members, and their role. We made sure that the composition of the board would include members from academia, government agencies, and community-based organizations.

We then developed reviewer guidelines, and then approach some researchers as well as institution, agency, and community professionals or practitioners to submit manuscripts for this first issue. We believe the articles in this first issue are well-deserved and appropriate for our times. For example, the first article, “Socially Disadvantaged Farmer Issues can be Addressed when Diverse Front Line Agricultural Workers Proactively Work Together” is an insightful article that emphasizes USDA’s proactive efforts to work with 1890 Institutions, community-based organizations, and farmers in order to improve USDA assistance to underserved farmers.

We hope that you enjoy reading the articles in this first issue and that you find the information useful in carrying out your work. We thank all those who participated in making this Journal a reality. Special thanks to the reviewers who evaluated the manuscripts to ensure the integrity of the blind review process.

Nii O. Tackie, Robert Zabawa, Tasha M. Hargrove, and Walter A. Hill
Editors