

Dear readers,

In this issue of Agricultural Economics we submit the papers presented at the International Conference on Live Economic Issues in Agriculture arranged by the Research Institute of Agricultural Economics Prague on the base of grant No. EP 9358 provided by the Czech Ministry of Agriculture “Financial Assessment of Czech Farm Businesses”.

This conference enabled to look at the farm business economic issues in a broader context, it especially:

- presented the live economic issues both in the Czech Republic and in other European countries (France, Sweden, Poland and Slovakia) in the EU context to a wide professional public;*
- assessed the economic situation of Czech farm businesses by the means of financial indicators and by the comparison of the development tendencies;*
- presented new banking views on the client with regard to the expected trends in credit risk management and capital adequacy to the professional public.*

In order to prepare the programme of the conference, we took into account that the entrepreneurial success in agriculture – as well as in other industries – depends on good knowledge of entrepreneurial environment and on all levels management abilities to analyse and assess this environment objectively. The entrepreneurial success cannot be a result of intuition, it is based on a qualified analysis of the historical period and on the implied prerequisites for the future.

The conference objective was to support this idea and to encourage the exchange of information between Czech and foreign specialists both in the area of assessment of business activity and in the area of agricultural policy formation.

We are convinced that these objectives have been fulfilled and hope that the presented papers have brought new and interesting views on live economic issues in agriculture.

*Jaroslav Novák and Helena Šůvová
referees of the Conference*