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# Department of Agriculture

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## Mission Statement:

“To serve, promote, and protect the agricultural producers, processors and consumers of Missouri’s food, fuel and fiber products.”

Like Missouri agriculture, the duties of the Missouri Department of Agriculture are diverse. Created by the General Assembly in 1933, the department enforces those state laws that regulate and market Missouri’s agricultural industry. The agency administers programs that protect the state’s producers, processors, distributors and consumers of food, fuel and fiber, while marketing Missouri agricultural products at home and abroad.

## Office of Director

The Department of Agriculture is managed by a director who is appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. The director determines department policy, oversees the department’s five divisions and serves as a liaison to the governor, the state legislature, the agriculture community and the public.

The director’s office serves a variety of constituencies and provides a representative voice on a broad range of public issues affecting Missouri farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and agriculture policy makers. The director is responsible for enforcing state agricultural statutes and monitoring the success of the department’s regulatory and promotional programs.

Housed in the director’s office are the department’s administrative and support functions: fiscal, personnel, public affairs, information technology, budget and policy and planning.

The director is a standing member of the State Milk Board, the State Fair Commission, the Missouri Soil and Water Districts Commission, the Missouri Development Finance Board, the Missouri Petroleum Storage Tank Insurance Fund, and the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority.



LOWELL F. MOHLER  
Director



PETER HOFHERR  
Deputy Director



DAVE DILLON  
Assistant Director



CHERI MORGAN  
Assistant to the Director

## Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority

Through its Beginning Farmer Loan Program, the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority issues tax-free bonds to lenders who make low-interest loans to farmers and small businesses. Up to \$250,000 may be loaned to first-time farmers to purchase land or make improvements.

Through the Animal Waste Treatment System Loan program, the authority makes loans for animal waste treatment systems for up to 10 years at terms below conventional interest rates. Loans can be used to buy land for lagoons, build animal waste facilities or purchase waste-handling equipment—all of which work to prevent potential surface and ground water contamination.

The authority also administers the Single-Purpose Animal Facilities Loan Guarantee program, which provides banks with a 25 percent first-loss guarantee on loans up to \$250,000 for as long as 10 years. Independent livestock producers may use the loans to finance breeding or feeder livestock, land, buildings, facilities, equipment, machinery and animal waste systems for producing poultry, swine, beef or dairy cattle.

The Missouri Value-Added Grant program provides grants of up to \$200,000 to projects that add value to agricultural products and aid



**TONY STAFFORD**  
Executive Director, Missouri  
Agricultural and Small Business  
Development Authority



**STEVE ALLISON**  
Human Resources Manager



**SALLY OXENHANDLER**  
Public Information  
Administrator



**ROBIN PERSO**  
Director of Administration

the economy of a rural community. Grants are for activities prior to start-up or expansion, such as feasibility studies, marketing studies or business plans.

The Missouri Value-Added Loan Guarantee program provides lenders with a 25 percent first loss guarantee on loans up to \$250,000 for projects that add value to agricultural products. Loans that finance land, improvements and equipment associated with a value-added enterprise may be guaranteed, as well as loans for the purchase of stock in a start-up cooperative that processes an agricultural product. Loans for plant stock for grapes that will be processed into wine are also eligible for loan guarantee.

The New Generation Cooperative Incentive Tax Credit Program provides tax credits to induce farmer-investment in new generation cooperatives that process Missouri agricultural products into value-added goods, provide substantial benefits to Missouri's agricultural producers and create jobs for Missourians.

The Agricultural Products Utilization Contributor Tax Credit Program allows the authority to grant tax credits in an amount of up to 100 percent of a contribution made by an individual, partnership, corporation, trust, limited liability company or other donor. The contribution must be made to the authority to be used for financial or technical assistance for rural agricultural business concepts.

The authority is administered by a seven-member commission, which is appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. The director of agriculture serves as an *ex-officio* member.

### Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority

**Evans, C. Edward**, (R), chair, Milan, June 30, 1999;  
**Clemens, Nellie S.**, (R), vice chair, Marshall,  
June 30, 2000;  
**Harris, Eldon**, (R), Bourbon, June 30, 2001;

**Norton, Christina**, (D), Liberty, June 30, 2003;  
**Reinhard, Jim**, (D), Paris, June 30, 2005;  
**Scaggs, James K.**, (D), Annapolis, June 30, 2001;  
**Spilker, Gordon**, (D), Hannibal, June 30, 2004;  
**Mohler, Lowell**, *ex-officio* member.

### The Agriculture Innovation Center

The Agriculture Innovation Center (AIC) provides information, resources and assistance for Missouri's agricultural producers. The center's primary objective is to enhance farm profitability in Missouri through innovations in technology, marketing and economic organization. In addition to providing one-on-one assistance to producers interested in producing, marketing, or processing their commodities in new ways, the AIC works with a wide variety of professionals involved in value-added agriculture. The AIC's technical assistance complements the financial assistance programs offered through the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority and the department's Market Development Division.

### Missouri Agricultural Statistics Service

The Missouri Agricultural Statistics Service is a federal-state cooperative agency. The service compiles and disseminates information about the state's agricultural industry and conducts Missouri's portion of the National Census of Agriculture every five years.

Each year, the service publishes Missouri Farm Facts, a statistical summary of Missouri agriculture. The booklet contains data on crops, livestock, farm receipts, land and buildings.

The service also publishes county agricultural profiles and weekly Crop and Weather and Crop and Livestock reports.

The Missouri Agricultural Statistics Service is jointly supported by the Missouri Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).



LOWELL F. MOHLER  
Director  
State Fair Commission



W. KENT BLADES  
Member  
State Fair Commission



MORRIS L. BROWN  
Member  
State Fair Commission



IDA B. COX  
Member  
State Fair Commission



NORWOOD A. CREASON  
Member  
State Fair Commission



JERRY W. DIVIN  
Member  
State Fair Commission



LARRY G. FOSTER  
Member  
State Fair Commission



ELIZABETH M. (Betty) LINKE  
Member  
State Fair Commission

## Missouri State Fair

The Missouri State Fair is one of the state's largest agricultural events, with exhibits showcasing livestock, row crops, horticulture and floriculture. It also features agribusiness exhibits and displays of Missouri-produced commodities.

Established in 1899, the Missouri State Fair is one of the oldest in the nation. The fairgrounds, which cover 396 acres in Sedalia (Pettis County), are open all year, providing facilities for horse and livestock shows, art and craft festivals, camping, rallies and other events.

During the annual August fair, visitors enjoy educational and recreational activities, a carnival midway and musical entertainment.

The Missouri State Fair plays an important role in shaping Missouri agriculture, contributing to the state's economy and educating the public about the importance and necessity of agriculture.

A State Fair Commission, whose members are appointed by the governor, oversees the fair's operations.

## State Fair Commission

**Mohler, Lowell F.**, (R), chair, director, Missouri Department of Agriculture;  
**Blades, W. Kent**, (R), Shelbina, Dec. 29, 2004;



M. SEAN MCGINNIS  
Member  
State Fair Commission



MEL WILLARD  
Interim Director  
State Fair

**Brown, Morris L.**, (R), Sedalia, Dec. 29, 2002;  
**Cox, Ida B.**, (D), Platte City, Dec. 29, 2001;  
**Creason, Norwood A.**, (D), Braymer, Dec. 29, 2003;

**Divin, Jerry W.**, (D), Bolivar, Dec. 29, 2003;  
**Foster, Larry G.**, (R), Sedalia, Dec. 29, 2000;  
**Linke, Elizabeth M. (Betty)**, (R), Troy, Dec. 29, 2002;

**McGinnis, M. Sean**, (D), Springfield, Dec. 29, 2002.

## State Milk Board

911-D Leslie Blvd., Jefferson City 65101  
Telephone: (573) 751-3830

The State Milk Board consists of 12 members, 10 of whom are nominated by the director of agriculture, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. The two remaining members of the board are from the state Departments of Health and Agriculture. Four of the appointed members of the board must be Grade A dairy farmers representing recognized producer organizations. Four additional appointees are active members of local health departments in the state. The two remaining appointees represent processor and consumer interests. No more than six of the 12 board members can be from the same political party.

Board personnel conduct the state's Grade A and manufacturing grade milk sanitation programs. The board administers milk inspection relating to Grade A milk and milk supplies to assure uniformity of procedures and interpretation of milk inspection regulations. The Grade A or fluid milk activities of the state are supported by revenue from inspection fees.

The manufacturing grade dairy program enforces sanitation and quality standards for manufactured dairy products and provides market testing of all milk at the first point of sale. Milk procurers, manufacturing plants, field superintendents, testers, graders, samplers, bulk milk truck operators and market testing laboratories are licensed by the State Milk Board.

## State Milk Board

**Geppert, Kate**, (D), Kingdom City, Sept. 28, 2002;  
**Boyer, Ron**, (R), Springfield, Sept. 28, 1998;  
**Cary, Robert W.**, (D), Canton, Sept. 28, 2002;  
**Drucker, Barry**, (R), Clayton, Sept. 28, 1997;  
**Evans, Lester**, (R), Lebanon, Sept. 28, 1999;  
**Roberts, Daryl**, (I), Jefferson City, Department of Health;  
**Grabeel, Jean**, (D), Rogersville, Sept. 28, 2000;  
**Hackman, Gale**, (D), Jefferson City, Sept. 28, 2000;  
**Massengill, Dr. Chuck**, (I), Jefferson City, Department of Agriculture;  
**Mahoney, Patricia**, (D), St. Louis, Sept. 28, 2002;  
**Siebenborn, William B.**, (D), Trenton, Sept. 28, 2001.

## Animal Health Division

The Division of Animal Health, under the direction of the state veterinarian, promotes and protects Missouri's diverse and dynamic livestock industry. The assistance and oversight provided by the division's programs ensure greater market access for Missouri's livestock and companion animal industries.



TERRY LONG  
State Milk Board

Animal agriculture accounts for about half of Missouri's annual agriculture cash receipts. The division administers laws and programs designed to control and eradicate livestock disease and to maintain and enhance the integrity of the state's animal industries. This includes both mandatory and voluntary regulatory programs for beef and dairy cattle, horses, swine, poultry, sheep, goats, exotic and companion animals.

The state's progress in national disease control and eradication programs is due to the cooperative efforts of livestock producers, markets, practicing veterinarians, other agencies and animal health staff. Through these cooperative efforts, Missouri has achieved bovine Tuberculosis Free status, swine Pseudorabies stage V status and avian Pullorum-Typhoid Clean status.

The division also offers informative programs and publications on livestock quality assurance, food safety, environmental issues and disease control programs. In addition, the division operates three state-of-the-art diagnostic laboratories in Jefferson City, Cameron and Springfield.

The Animal Health Division also works to:

- identify and add value to Missouri livestock through an electronic animal identification system;
- inform cattle producers about quality assurance, targeted breeding and cow herd management;
- increase awareness and understanding of environmental issues that affect production agriculture;
- present informative programs on marketing and food safety to small poultry producers; and
- inspect Missouri meat processors to supplement existing USDA inspections.

## Grain Inspection and Warehousing Division

The Grain Inspection and Warehousing Division is comprised of two programs that adminis-

ter the Missouri Grain Warehouse Law, the Missouri Grain Dealer's Law, and the United States Grain Standards Act. These laws promote and protect commerce in the interest of grain producers, merchandisers, warehousemen, processors and consumers. They also promote a uniform official inspection system for the orderly marketing of grain.

This division also collects and disburses funds for nine commodity merchandising programs.

### Grain inspection services program

The grain inspection services program is designated under the United States Grain Standards Act to officially inspect, grade and weigh all grains that have established standards.

The program provides four primary services: (1) official sampling is used to take a representative sample of grain from a particular lot; (2) official inspection is used to determine and certify the type, class, quality or condition of grain; (3) weighing certification is used to supervise the loading, unloading and weighing containers of grain; and (4) chemical analysis is used to determine the protein or oil content of grain and to determine the existence of mycotoxins in grain. Services are provided at inspection offices in Kansas City, Laddonia, Marshall, New Madrid and St. Joseph.

The program is self-supporting and operates entirely on fees charged for inspection services performed.

### Grain regulatory services program

The grain regulatory services program protects the public interest by auditing grain warehouses and grain dealers to determine grain obligations and financial solvency.

The program enforces Missouri's Grain Warehouse and Grain Dealer laws so producers are assured of storing or merchandising their grain with licensed, bonded, reputable and financially stable grain businesses. The program annually licenses approximately 230 warehouses and 500 grain dealers and conducts more than 1,000 audits and investigations.

### Market Development Division

The Market Development Division is comprised of three programs that act as catalysts in expanding the diversity, production and profitability of Missouri's agricultural economy by cultivating young agriculturalists, providing financial assistance and guiding producers and processors in identifying new products, uses, markets and sales opportunities, both domestically and internationally.



RICH KAISER  
Acting Director  
Grain Inspection



S. WAYNE YOKLEY  
Director  
Market Development

### Domestic marketing program

The domestic marketing program supports four sections: market news, market development and promotion, the AgriMissouri promotional program and the Agriculture Development Fund.

The market news section compiles daily market information on the price, quantity and quality of livestock and grain being sold. Market reporters apply USDA grading standards to encourage the production of uniform, high-quality animals. This information is made available to the public through various media and the Internet. The market news staff also publishes the *Weekly Market Summary*, available on a subscription basis.

The market development and promotion section is comprised of specialists who work with beef, horticulture, specialty crop, commodity, aquaculture, livestock and forage producers. Each specialist works with specific industry representatives or groups to establish marketing opportunities and promote commodities. The division also assists producers and groups in developing and organizing marketing cooperatives.

The AgriMissouri promotional program works to increase awareness of value-added Missouri agricultural products. The program is effective in identifying Missouri-made or processed foods and beverages. Many Missouri producers and processors incorporate the program's "AgriMissouri" logo on the labels of their products.

### Agriculture development fund

The agriculture development fund provides loans and grants to rural Missouri residents.

The following guarantees, loans and grants are available from the Missouri Department of Agriculture:

*Crop and Livestock Loan Guarantee Program*, which provides financial benefits to Missouri youth who undertake crop or livestock production projects.

*Farm Mechanics Loan Program*, which is available to Missouri youth who complete farm mechanic projects.

*Building Our American Communities (BOAC) Grant Program*, which gives \$36,000 annually to Missouri 4-H clubs and FFA chapters for aid in developing and advancing Missouri's rural communities.

*Agriculture Scholarship Program*, which is offered through a competitive application process to high school seniors who plan to attend Missouri universities and colleges.

Fourteen individuals are selected to receive agriculture scholarships that entitle them to receive \$500 to attend a Missouri university or college. Eight individuals are selected to receive \$250 to attend a junior or community college.

*Missouri Agribusiness Academy*, which gives 30 selected high school sophomores a chance to explore the state's vast agribusiness resources by viewing various facets of agriculture; visiting agribusinesses; and meeting leaders in agriculture, government and education.

Academy students are selected through a competitive written application and oral interview process.

*Missouri Alternative Loan Program*, which is available for use by Missouri farmers and youth to finance the production, processing and marketing needs of an alternative enterprise.

## International marketing program

The international marketing program is a valuable link between Missouri producers, agribusinesses, forest products industry and foreign agricultural buyers. Specialists work to facilitate contacts between buyers and sellers and assist Missouri suppliers in responding to international marketing opportunities.

The program provides potential exporters with services to:

- analyze specific market opportunities;
- establish contacts with foreign buyers;
- provide data on tariffs, health regulations, labeling requirements, export documentation, transportation, international financing and payment terms, insurance, etc.;
- plan, arrange and participate in outgoing sales and incoming buying missions;
- assist and participate in domestic and international trade shows and other exhibitions.

The international marketing program works with the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service to provide export sales leads, international advertising and export assistance from agricultural attaches.

The program manages agricultural trade offices in Taipei, Taiwan and Guadalajara, Mex-



JOE FRANCKA  
Director  
Plant Industries

ico. The program is also supported by state offices and representatives in San Paulo, Brazil; London, England; Accra, Ghana; Tokyo, Japan; Seoul, South Korea; Singapore and Bangkok, Thailand; Dusseldorf, Germany and Johannesburg, South Africa.

## Grape and wine program

The grape and wine program is responsible for researching, developing and promoting Missouri grapes, juices and wine. The program is funded by a tax on all wine sold in Missouri.

These funds support the program's three sections: enology and viticulture advisory services, research, promotion and marketing.

Program expenditures provide:

- professional advice to Missouri grape growers and wine makers;
- applied research for developing grape varieties and cold hardiness studies.
- consumer education to increase awareness of Missouri grapes and wines;
- information about the Missouri grape and wine industry.

The program also administers the Missouri wine and juice competition and awards ceremony and hosts the Midwest Regional Grape and Wine Conference.

The Missouri grape and wine program works closely with and supports the State Fruit Experiment Station in Mountain Grove. The program also receives counsel from the Missouri Wine and Grape Advisory Board.

## Plant Industries Division

The Plant Industries Division is comprised of three bureaus and two programs, which together administer 13 separate state laws and cooperate in the administration of three federal laws. These laws facilitate agricultural production and marketing and provide consumer and environmental protection for Missouri citizens by regulating

animal feeds and seeds, providing necessary certifications for interstate and international shipment of agricultural and forest products, ensuring plant pest protection for crops and forests, establishing grades and standards for fresh fruits and vegetables and regulating the use of pesticides.

### **Bureau of feed and seed**

The bureau administers the Missouri Commercial Feed Law and the Missouri Seed Law.

The feed law regulates the manufacture, distribution and labeling of commercial feed products in the state. Random inspections, sampling analysis and label review of feed products and feed ingredients ensure that livestock producers and pet owners receive the feed product guaranteed on the label.

The bureau, in partnership with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, provides the inspection reports and regulation involved with preventing Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), commonly called mad cow disease, in Missouri. The bureau also provides labeling assistance and investigates complaints related to animal feed.

The bureau also regulates seed products offered for sale in the state. Seed is inspected, sampled, tested and labels are reviewed to ensure the product meets the labeled guarantees as to test date, origin, purity, germination and other claims that are made. The bureau cooperates with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's seed regulatory and testing branch in regulating the interstate movement of seed.

### **Bureau of pesticide control**

The bureau administers laws for registration, distribution and use of pesticides. All pesticides sold and used in Missouri are regulated by the Missouri Pesticide Registration Act.

Bureau personnel inspect pesticides for proper labeling and registration and investigate misuse.

The Missouri Pesticide Use Act allows the bureau to certify commercial, noncommercial and private applicators and public operators. The act also provides for licensing pesticide dealers.

### **Bureau of plant pest control**

The bureau administers laws to control insects, plant pests and plant diseases.

The bureau administers the Missouri Plant Law, which mandates controlling harmful insects, plant pests and plant diseases through surveys, quarantines, nursery and greenhouse inspections and certification. The law also enables interstate and international shipments of Missouri plants and plant products.

In 2000, Missouri cotton growers voted to join the national effort to eradicate the boll weevil, a damaging cotton pest. The Missouri Cotton Growers Organization is working with the Southwest Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation to implement eradication efforts in Missouri with oversight from the Missouri Department of Agriculture. This is a grower-funded program paid through assessments on cotton production.

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program is designed to help farmers in an integrated approach to pest control. IPM encompasses all techniques available to reduce reliance on non-renewable resources, including pesticides.

Begun in 1995, the Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Award Program provides grants to Missouri farmers to help them test, evaluate and adopt sustainable agriculture practices on their farms. Projects must be designed to reduce dependency on non-renewable resources, such as minerals and petroleum, and protect and conserve natural resources, such as soil, air and water. A main objective of the program is to provide the opportunity for Missouri growers to demonstrate innovative techniques in sustainable agriculture.

As a service to Missouri beekeepers, the bureau works under the Missouri Apiculture Law to inspect and certify honey-bee colonies. These procedures are required for interstate shipment of honey-bees.

### **Fresh fruit and vegetable inspection service**

The inspection service consists of two programs: (1) shipping-point inspections assure producers of fruits and vegetables that their products meet quality grades, and (2) terminal market inspections assist wholesalers in gaining restitution for products that fail to meet purchase agreement quality standards.

### **Forest resources and weed control program**

The Missouri Treated Timber Law requires licensure of all companies that produce or sell treated timber products in Missouri. Routine inspections and sample analyses help to ensure that state requirements are met.

To eradicate Johnson grass, a costly pest of row crops, a county option law allows for cooperation between participating counties and the director of agriculture to control the weed's spread.

### **Laboratory support**

Laboratories are maintained for analytical support to the seed, treated timber and commercial feed programs and other programs.

## Weights and Measures Division

The Weights and Measures Division maintains surveillance of commercial weighing and measuring devices. The programs administered by the division protect buyers and sellers when goods and services are exchanged.

The division's programs are operated in accordance with the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The division also is a member of the National Conference on Weights and Measures.

### Device and commodity inspection program

The program's field personnel inspect, as required by Missouri statutes, large and small scales, grain hopper scales, taxicab meters, odometers, timing devices, fabric measuring devices, milk for quantity determination, prepackaged merchandise and method of sale of commodities.

The program enforces the Missouri Egg Law and the Missouri Unfair Milk Sales Practices Law.

### Petroleum/propane/anhydrous ammonia program

The program combines a variety of services. Under the program, petroleum dispensers, petroleum terminal meters and metered fuel delivery trucks are tested for accuracy; service station pumps are inspected for accuracy and safety; LPG installations in public institutions and bulk and manufacturing plants are inspected; LPG carburetion in passenger vehicles, school buses and trucks is inspected; metered LPG delivery



RON HOOKER  
Acting Director  
Weights and Measures

trucks are checked; and storage and handling of anhydrous ammonia are monitored.

### Metrology program

The metrology program conducts tests and calibrates and certifies field standards for state agencies and private institutions. The state metrologist is the official keeper of Missouri's primary standards of mass, volume and length.

### Laboratory support

Petroleum samples are collected by field personnel and submitted for testing. The petroleum laboratory analyzes gasoline, kerosene, heating oils and diesel fuel to make certain they meet state quality and safety standards.

The Moisture Meter Laboratory ensures the accuracy of grain moisture measuring devices and other equipment.

*Personnel, Department of Agriculture: Page 1021*