

# Thanks To Our Ag Industry

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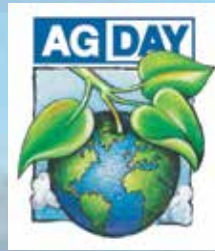
**NEWS** 

AG APPRECIATION WEEK

MARCH 22-29, 2015



MARCH 15-21, 2015



NATIONAL AG DAY  
WEDNESDAY,  
MARCH 18, 2015

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Mound City  
**NEWS** 

Special Section to the Mound City News  
March 26, 2015



## USDA deadline nearing for Farm Bill programs

United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced in February that a one-time extension would be provided to producers for the new safety-net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, known as Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC). The final day to update yield history or reallocate base acres has been extended one additional month, from Feb. 27, 2015, until March 31, 2015. The final day for farm owners and producers to choose ARC or PLC coverage also remains Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

"This is an important decision for producers, because these programs provide financial protection against unexpected changes in the marketplace. Producers are working to make the best decision they can; and we're working to ensure that they've got the time, the information, and the opportunities to have those final conversations, review their data, and to visit the Farm Service Agency to make those decisions," said Vilsack.

If no changes are made to yield history or base acres by March 31, 2015, the farm's current yield and base will be used. A program choice of ARC or PLC coverage also must be made by March 31, 2015, or there will be no 2014 payments for the farm and the farm will default to PLC coverage through the 2018 crop year.

"These are complex decisions, which is why we launched a strong education and outreach campaign back in September. Now we're providing a one-time extension of an additional month so that every producer is fully prepared to enroll in this program," said Vilsack.

Nationwide, more than 2.9 million education-

al postcards, in English and Spanish, have been sent to producers, and over 4,100 training sessions have been conducted on the new safety-net programs. The online tools, available at [www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc), allow producers to explore projections on how ARC or PLC coverage will affect their operation under possible future scenarios.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

To learn more, farmers can contact their local Farm Service Agency county office. To find your local office visit <http://of.fsa.usda.gov>.

The Farm Bill builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit [www.usda.gov/farmbill](http://www.usda.gov/farmbill).



Chamberlain Funeral Home, Mound City, MO, donates the farm ground around the funeral home to the Mound City R-2 Ag Department.

## Project raises nearly \$20,000 for Mound City R-2 Ag Department

A community farming project started in the spring of 2007 continues to raise crops and cash for the Mound City R-2 agriculture department. Located on four acres surrounding the Chamberlain Funeral Home in Mound City, use of the land is donated to the school by owners, Greg and Betty Chamberlain.

Greg Chamberlain remarked, "We purchased this nine-acre building site from the Mound City Development Corporation in the early 1990's, and built our building in 1995. We extended the city street and had the area platted for residential lots, but there wasn't much interest in building sites so we came up with this idea to put the land to good use."

The school's agriculture department is in charge of the project and planting usually alternates between corn and soybeans. The seed is donated and volunteers plant, harvest and deliver the grain to local markets.

Chamberlain added, "This is an agricultural community and donating land use to the school was an easy decision." The Chamberlains own the land and pay the property taxes. The school has no expenses on the project, so all money from grain sales goes to the school's ag de-

partment.

Connor Dignan, Mound City R-2's agriculture teacher and FFA advisor said, "The money has been used to pay for a variety of expenses, including National FFA Convention, State FFA Convention and Kansas City Farm Show expenses, along with many other FFA activities throughout the years. The generosity of all the people involved in this project has really helped our program to thrive the past eight years."

The 2014 crop yielded 869 bushels of corn and brought \$2,217 to the department. Since 2007, the average market value of the grain has been \$2,485 per year, with a high of \$3,947 in 2011 from corn. Grain sales since the project started have raised a total of \$19,882.55.

Local businesses and families that have helped with the project include: Northwest Fertilizer, John and Jeff Ingram, Yocum Service, Ted

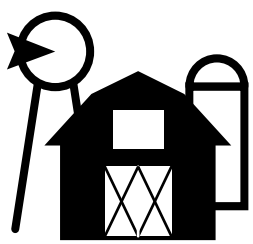
and Alan Yocum, Mound City Feed and Grain, Garold Kurtz, Kelton Kurtz, Jayson Johnson, Brett Johnson, Kirby Rosier, Dylan Rosier, Cole Rosier, Gage Rosier, Mitchell Corbin, Larry Farr, Jason Hall, Virgil Miles, Kirby Miles, Jamy Miles, Kyler Miles and anyone else who has contributed time, product or money who may not be listed.

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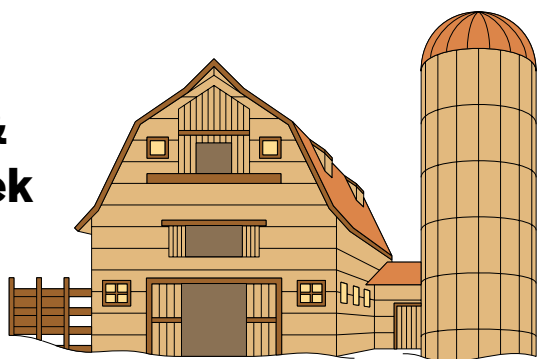


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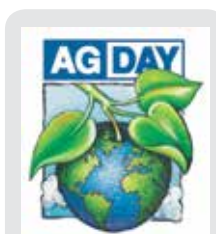


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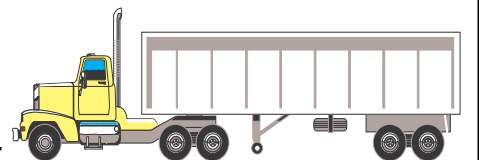
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**Officers of the South Holt R-1 FFA of Oregon, MO** - Are pictured accepting a \$2,500 check from local farmer Kevin Markt and family of Oregon, and America's Farmers Grow Communities (AFGC), sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, at an assembly on Tuesday, March 3. Pictured are, left to right, AFGC representative Craig Stiens, Brandon Wilson, Bryan Nowling, Rachel Binder, Hailey Markt, Brooklyn Scroggins, Ashley Hunziger and Ashley and Kevin Markt.

## Large donation will help create community garden

The South Holt R-1 FFA in Oregon, MO, received a \$2,500 donation from local farmer Kevin Markt and his family and America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. The donation will help

the organization create a community garden in the spring of 2015, to help students develop planting and cultivating skills.

"Our hope is to educate our community about the importance of sustainable agriculture, and this donation from the Markt family and the Monsanto Fund will help us reach our goal," said Jessica Aeschliman, FFA Advisor for South Holt.

For five years, America's Farmers Grow Communities has collaborated with farmers to donate over \$16.5 million to over 7,300 community organizations across rural America. This year winning farmers will direct another \$3.3 million to

non-profit organizations to help fight rural hunger, purchase life saving fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) equipment, support agricultural youth leadership programs, buy much needed classroom resources and much more.

America's Farmers Grow Communities is part of the America's Farmers initiative. Since 2010, the America's Farmers campaign and programs have advocated on behalf of farmers and their efforts to meet society's needs through agriculture. Today, consumers are more interested than ever in agriculture and how food is grown. Consider joining the conversation and helping to raise awareness about agriculture. Learn more at FoodDialogues.com.

A sister program in the America's Farmers effort, Grow Rural Education, is currently in its farmer nomination phase. Farmers interested in supporting math and science education in their communities should visit [www.GrowRuralEducation.com](http://www.GrowRuralEducation.com) from now through April 1 to learn how.



**Missouri Corn board member Morris Heitman of Mound City** - Weighs in on a policy resolution during Corn Congress at the 2015 Commodity Classic in Phoenix, AZ, on Thursday, Feb. 26. Photo Credit: Missouri Corn Growers' Association.

## Heitman serving as Missouri Corn Merchandising Council chairman

Morris Heitman, a corn grower from Mound City, Mo., is chairman of the Missouri Corn Merchandising Council (MCMC). Heitman assumed his new role Oct. 1, 2014 succeeding Kevin Hurst of Tarkio, Mo.

"Starting my seventh year representing corn growers, I look forward to taking on a more active leadership role within the organization," notes Heitman. "There are many challenges ahead. Traditionally our use of corn has been ethanol, livestock feed and exports. With this year's tremendous crop, we will need to expand those uses. We have a real opportunity to ramp up food production by transforming our crop into red meat and protein to assist those hungry around the world."

Heitman represents corn farmers from District 1 in the northwest region of the state. He previously served the state's growers as MCMC secretary and treasurer as well as Missouri Corn Growers' Association vice president, secretary and treasurer. Heitman also works on behalf of corn farmers nationally with his service on the National Corn Growers' Association Production and Stewardship Action Team and the U.S. Grains' Council Value-Added Advisory Team.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to serve as chairman of the Merchandising Council," noted Hurst. "I enjoyed the time leading the Council and know Morris will do a wonderful job taking over the reins."

The MCMC board of directors is comprised of 14 farmers elected from across the

state. This volunteer producer board was formed in 1984 with the passage of a corn checkoff and is dedicated to market development, research and education. The Missouri Corn Growers' Association is a grassroots organization of more than 2,700

members committed to increasing the profitability of corn production through sound policies, continued market development and strong involvement in the political process. To learn more, visit [www.mocom.org](http://www.mocom.org).

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## Missouri Corn Growers' Association holds annual meeting in Jefferson City

Corn farmers, board members, industry representatives and guests from across the state gathered in Jefferson City, MO, on Tuesday, Jan. 27, for the Missouri Corn Growers' Association (MCGA) annual meeting and lobby day.

The morning kicked off at the Capitol Plaza Hotel with MCGA's annual business meeting. Members re-elected five board members: Morris Heitman of Mound City, to represent District 1 in northwest Missouri; Gary Porter of Mercer, MO, in District 2 representing the north-central region; growers in the northeast portion of the state will be represented by District 3 grower Jay Schutte of Benton City, MO; in District 4 Kyle Kirby of Liberal, MO, will represent the southwest portion of the state; and in east-central Missouri, Greg Schneider of Warrenton, MO, will represent District 6.

Following the annual meeting and luncheon, growers visited the State Capitol to discuss corn production and encourage legislators to increase grain hauling limits.

"There is always someone making decisions that will affect how we farm," said MCGA President Kevin Hurst of Tarkio. "I know personally that being away from your operation creates a challenge. However, by being here we are engaging in the governmental process and helping

build and defend corn growers across the state. By increasing weight limits for grain haulers, corn farmers can be more efficient and more evenly aligned with growers in surrounding states."

Members also took the opportunity to honor industry supporters for their contributions to the association during a recognition dinner. Award recipients included:

- Public Servant Award**  
Attorney General Chris Koster
- Friend of Corn Growers Award**  
Senator Brian Munzlinger
- Representative Todd Richardson**
- Outstanding Partner Award**  
Rich Hanson, Show Me Ethanol
- Steve Murphy, POET Biorefining**
- Outstanding Member**  
St. Charles County Corn Growers
- Honorary Lifetime Award**  
Jayne Glosemeyer, Marthasville, MO
- Brent Rockhold, Arbel, MO**
- Missouri Corn Top Recruiter**  
Kevin Hurst, Tarkio
- President's Award**  
Gary Wheeler, Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council

"While reflecting on the past year, it was only fitting to recognize those individuals who helped make our progress possible," said MCGA CEO Gary Marshall. "Our elected leaders stood by growers as they advocated for the Farming

Rights Amendment and increased ethanol markets in Missouri. We thank all of our partners for their efforts to strengthen this state's corn industry."

During the recognition of partners, MCGA members took time to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Missouri Corn Merchandising Council (MCMC), and the grower-leaders who have guided the checkoff-funded organization the last three decades.

"Throughout our organization's short history, we have met the challenges that have come before us, and we appreciate the efforts of those grower-leaders who have served on the board the last 30 years," noted MCMC Chairman Morris Heitman of Mound City. "Through the talent of our staff and the direction from you, the growers, I'm sure we will be up to the challenges ahead in the next 30 years."

The Missouri Corn Growers' Association is a membership organization of farmers dedicated to growing and defending the corn industry. MCGA works in the best interest of farmers on key agricultural issues and fights for pro-agriculture, pro-corn legislation. To learn more about Missouri Corn, or to become a member, visit [www.mocorn.org](http://www.mocorn.org) or call (800) 827-4181.

## Farmers can make a difference; voices are heard at nation's capitol

In November 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to decrease the amount of corn-based ethanol required under the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). The proposal would reduce conventional biofuel requirements from the

statutorily required 14.4 billion gallons to 13 billion gallons. EPA stated the reduction was attributed to the saturation of the E10 (10 percent ethanol, 90 percent gasoline) market and lacking infrastructure to distribute higher blends of ethanol.

Following EPA's announcement, the Missouri Corn Growers' Association (MCGA) went to work creating a compelling campaign to send EPA a strong message. Missouri corn, cattle and ethanol producers traveled to Washington, D.C., made calls and submitted thousands of comments in 2014 urging the EPA and Congress: Don't Mess With the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). Missouri Corn's collaborative efforts resulted in over 3,600 comments being mailed or submitted online to the EPA. This is one of the strongest grassroots responses on an ethanol issue in the association's history.

Because of letters, emails and phone calls, grassroots prevailed as the Obama Administration announced EPA would be re-considering its ill-advised plan to reduce the 2014 RFS based on the so-called blend wall. Instead, EPA will finalize the 2014 standard in 2015, when the agency will also announce plans for setting the 2015 and 2016 blending volumes. Though the battle isn't over, the combined voice sent the EPA a strong message. It is often said that growers are the best lobbyists. This proves it.

The MCGA also spent significant time working to advance a new Water Resources

Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) to provide crucial upgrades on infrastructure necessary for trade. In 2014, Congress overwhelmingly voted to send the WRRDA to President Obama who then signed it into law. This marks the first time since 2007 a bill authorizing investment in the United States' waterways has made it to the President. This long-awaited act contains reforms and investments critical to ensuring farmers have access to key foreign markets. With the nation's lock

and dam system well past its intended age, these investments ensure moving toward improving this integral export channel.

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## Pride in a 100-year history; Missouri Farm Bureau looks to the future

By Blake Hurst, Missouri Farm Bureau President

One hundred years. That's a very long time. If you last a hundred years, you will get your picture in the newspaper. If your farm endures a century, your family will get a sign. Of the 30 firms that made up the Dow Jones Industrial Average 100 years ago, only one remains. It is difficult for any organization to survive for 100 years.

Missouri Farm Bureau is justifiably proud of our 100-year history. Our history is a wonderful story of neighbors working together to make their communities and industry better.

We still have the minutes from that first meeting. They are in the same kind of ledger book that many of us kept our farm records on until computer programs took over and replaced blue ink, beautiful penmanship and a formal, almost ceremonial tone. It is not hard to imagine the recording secretary in 1915 scribing with extra care, knowing that the record kept of this meeting was going to be a piece of history. It was, and it is. Farm Bureau was organized as a part of the "County Agent Movement," an endeavor to help farmers be better at their craft. A century later, we are still focused on helping farmers in their challenging profession. Delegates to that 1915 meeting not only supported growth of what we know now as

the Extension Service, but also adopted policy on farm credit. If you look at our Missouri Farm Bureau policy book today, you will still see sections covering farm credit and the University of Missouri Extension Service.

Of course, many things have changed in the past 100 years. To travel to Slater, Missouri, in 1915 was an expedition. It is clear from descriptions of the meeting that most delegates made the trip by train; one can only imagine the state of the dirt roads common in rural Missouri in March of 1915! Nothing like today, when we traverse the state on modern highways. Compared with a century ago, we take for granted how easily and quickly we communicate, but our problems seem more complicated and more numerous than those the founders of Missouri Farm Bureau faced.

My grandfather was born in 1900 and was farming by 1915. Years ago, he and I were working on an old granary on our farm, when he mentioned in passing and without much emphasis that a hired hand and his family had spent the winter of 1936 living in the second floor of that old wooden shed. Think about that winter, in that place, and you will have to admit that life has improved for almost all of us in the 100 years that Farm

Bureau has been in existence. Our organization played a part in many of those improvements, and all of us should take a moment or two during the next year to be thankful for the men and women who spent their careers working to make agriculture better, and to everyone who worked hard to make Missouri Farm Bureau the successful organization it is.

As we celebrate the centennial of our organization and think about the future, we can't forget the qualities that have made Farm Bureau successful. We will never change our reliance on listening to our members and on working hard to represent the beliefs and values of the people who belong to our organization. We can be certain that the next century will see as much change in agriculture and Missouri Farm Bureau, as has occurred in the last hundred years. One thing will remain the same. Just like those farmers meeting in Slater, Missouri, Farm Bureau will depend on our members to lead our organization and continue to listen to farmers in every part of Missouri.

For those of you wondering, only the General Electric Corporation has been in the Dow Jones Industrials since 1915.

## Finally...2014 Farm Bill crosses finish line

The long awaited 2012, turned 2014 Farm Bill, finally made it across the finish line. The bill passed the House last January with a vote of 251-166 and cleared the Senate with a vote of 68-32 before being signed by the President. The bill provides national budgetary savings by eliminating direct payments while including important reforms to farm safety nets and maintaining a strong crop insurance program.

With the bill, growers now have the option to participate in the revenue-based Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) program (with county or farm level options) or a Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program with fixed reference prices. Both programs' payments will be tied to base acres. Key funds were also included in the Market Access Program and Foreign Market Development Program to assist in marketing

corn, ethanol and co-products to international markets. These funds ensure boots are on the ground in key countries around the globe.

With the strong help and dedication of corn growers, Missouri voters elected to keep Missouri farming by voting Yes on Amendment 1, the Farming Rights Amendment. Every vote counted as Amendment 1 passed by 2,500 votes out of nearly one million votes cast. Amendment 1 again prevailed through a recount.

Missouri corn farmers under-

stood how important Amendment 1 is to agriculture and the Missouri Corn Growers' Association (MCGA) went to work. Through dozens of meetings, town halls, presentations to civic groups and personal visits, significant staff time and resources were dedicated to help voters understand the issue and take a stand for the state of Missouri's farmers. Through this all-hands-on-deck outreach effort, MCGA played a leading role in the effort to galvanize the rural vote. It was this rural vote that carried the constitutional amendment to victory.

This is an enormous victory and historic milestone for Missouri agriculture as Amendment 1 places protections for farming in the state constitution for the first time. This continues to prove agriculture remains a force to be reckoned with and when farmers organize for a common effort, they have a significant impact. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and other out-of-state activist groups are sure to come back to Missouri, but with everyone's help and the new constitutional protection, the farmers will be ready to fight back.



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**Then and Now THE COST OF FOOD**

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has kept records of retail food prices since 1913. Here are some price comparisons based on U.S. average. Then represents 1915. Now represents December 2014.

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	1 pound of PORK CHOPS Then: 20¢ Now: \$4.05	

**PRODUCTION**

1915 Corn yields in the U.S. averaged 28.2 bushels per acre and in Missouri 29.5 bushels  
2014 U.S. corn yields averaged 171 bushels per acre, but yields were much better in Missouri at 186 bushels.

**TALL CORN**

Information on 1915 corn yields and prices comes from the USDA Bulletin #515 published February 12, 1917. Although data was collected in the late 1800s, it wasn't until 1915 when Congress authorized the collection of agricultural data every 5 years. The data from 2014 comes from the USDA Ag Statistics Service. Constant improvements in technology and farming practices has increased corn yields six fold in Missouri.

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This ad published in the March 24 Slater Rustler newspaper shows what looks like a good price for a horse-drawn disc. Farm equipment today is vastly different, even for a disc. John Deere has disc harrows as large as 40 feet wide costing more than \$89,000 new. These huge implements require tractors with more than 284 horsepower to pull them. Those tractors can be guided by GPS to increase accuracy and efficiency.

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2012 Census of Agriculture

http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Full\_Report/Volume\_1,\_Chapter\_2\_County\_Level/Missouri/

Table 1. County Summary Highlights: 2012

Item	Missouri	Andrew	Atchison	Buchanan	Holt	Nodaway
Farms.....number	99,171	826	395	727	408	1,252
Land in farms.....acres	28,266,137	198,588	263,088	188,688	200,337	423,715
Average size of farm.....acres	285	240	666	260	491	338
Median size of farm.....acres	120	91	280	95	191	150
Estimated market value of land and buildings:						
Average per farm.....dollars	795,444	855,310	3,238,515	895,721	1,865,298	1,100,251
Average per acre.....dollars	2,791	3,558	4,862	3,451	3,789	3,251
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment.....\$1,000	8,822,239	74,918	117,368	66,710	83,566	146,224
Average per farm.....dollars	88,960	90,699	297,134	91,761	204,819	116,792
Farms by size:						
1 to 9 acres.....	3,544	42	2	29	13	35
10 to 49 acres.....	21,706	202	49	185	70	255
50 to 179 acres.....	37,013	299	110	308	117	423
180 to 499 acres.....	23,301	177	90	110	29	305
500 to 999 acres.....	7,819	68	56	51	55	127
1,000 acres or more.....	5,788	38	88	44	54	107
Total cropland.....farms	76,746	720	370	658	386	1,118
.....acres	15,259,319	137,991	228,641	136,111	166,501	293,281
Harvested cropland.....farms	64,722	585	325	551	316	926
.....acres	12,917,688	117,545	217,432	120,536	150,738	249,901
Irrigated land.....farms	3,727	6	34	9	30	9
.....acres	1,180,886	(D)	12,207	(D)	19,034	340
Market value of agricultural products sold (see text).....\$1,000	9,164,886	57,680	169,951	67,532	94,894	141,579
Average per farm.....dollars	92,415	69,830	430,255	92,891	232,582	113,082
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000	4,566,953	46,225	147,023	60,492	90,958	114,630
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000	4,597,933	11,455	22,928	7,040	3,935	26,949
Farms by value of sales:						
Less than \$2,500.....	33,002	280	76	227	112	366
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	8,520	68	10	42	9	61
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	11,206	74	17	72	28	95
\$10,000 to \$24,999.....	15,841	116	25	106	28	145
\$25,000 to \$49,999.....	10,822	99	33	92	57	160
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	7,365	66	37	76	38	155
\$100,000 or more.....	12,415	123	197	112	136	270
Government payments.....farms	41,354	552	333	502	338	909
.....\$1,000	323,953	3,587	3,963	3,153	3,139	7,586
Total income from farm-related sources, gross before taxes and expenses (see text).....farms	39,119	349	225	261	166	646
.....\$1,000	790,362	7,782	11,445	2,745	7,832	13,555
Total farm production expenses.....\$1,000	8,290,499	52,238	106,471	46,624	71,750	124,654
Average per farm.....dollars	83,598	63,242	269,546	64,132	175,857	99,564
Net cash farm income of operation (see text).....farms	99,171	826	395	727	408	1,252
.....\$1,000	1,988,702	16,812	78,888	26,805	34,115	38,067
Average per farm.....dollars	20,053	20,352	199,717	36,871	83,614	30,405
Principal operator by primary occupation:						
Farming.....number	43,788	348	263	323	201	579
Other.....number	55,383	478	132	404	207	673
Principal operator by days worked off farm:						
Any.....number	61,676	502	204	399	229	745
200 days or more.....number	42,462	388	110	309	150	544
Livestock and poultry:						
Cattle and calves inventory.....farms	53,401	321	99	256	89	610
.....number	3,703,120	16,540	6,812	14,727	3,548	43,193
Beef cows.....farms	46,161	292	87	234	78	557
.....number	1,683,731	8,634	3,211	6,804	1,866	22,814
Milk cows.....farms	2,451	7	-	7	-	14
.....number	92,952	358	-	81	-	169
Cattle and calves sold.....farms	46,909	281	87	230	72	563
.....number	2,297,985	10,109	4,538	7,703	2,030	26,046
Hogs and pigs inventory.....farms	2,128	9	5	8	9	19
.....number	2,774,597	108	(D)	(D)	(D)	7,277
Hogs and pigs sold.....farms	1,852	6	5	5	8	17
.....number	9,727,491	30	(D)	(D)	(D)	31,350
Sheep and lambs inventory.....farms	2,454	7	14	4	4	42
.....number	91,967	503	51	414	72	1,681
Layers inventory (see text).....farms	8,150	54	11	29	14	50
.....number	8,276,409	876	148	498	165	1,033
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold.....farms	784	2	-	2	2	2
.....number	272,389,497	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	(D)
Selected crops harvested:						
Corn for grain.....farms	15,101	287	257	269	222	473
.....acres	3,302,499	48,492	112,004	48,887	68,943	101,037
.....bushels	226,370,607	3,353,509	13,811,962	4,996,290	7,808,083	8,469,528
Corn for silage or greenchop.....farms	2,485	10	9	11	5	51
.....acres	148,805	388	193	184	(D)	2,539
.....tons	1,239,611	3,185	1,256	2,610	(D)	27,511
Wheat for grain, all.....farms	6,270	23	1	31	9	34
.....acres	690,245	2,055	(D)	1,848	454	1,662
.....bushels	38,087,065	107,905	(D)	96,127	27,363	94,569
Winter wheat for grain.....farms	6,261	23	1	31	9	34
.....acres	689,965	2,055	(D)	1,848	454	1,662
.....bushels	38,077,448	107,905	(D)	96,127	27,363	94,569
Spring wheat for grain.....farms	9	-	-	-	-	-
.....acres	280	-	-	-	-	-
.....bushels	9,617	-	-	-	-	-



DON'T DO IT

Back-to-back soybean

More farmers are looking at a practice long frowned upon: planting back-to-back soybean.

Don't do it, says University of Missouri (MU) Extension soybean specialist Bill Wiebold. Expect lower yields and higher erosion if soybean isn't rotated with corn. Risk of disease, insects and nematodes also increase.

Falling corn prices and steady production costs tempt some farmers to choose continuous bean over a soybean-corn rotation to boost earnings.

The Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) at MU says corn prices will continue to drop this crop season. FAPRI economists predict soybean prices at \$9.29 and corn prices at \$3.89 for the 2015 crop.

Wiebold's 24-year crop rotation study shows that beans produce 12 percent less in second-year plantings. "A single year of corn can erase this yield problem," he says.

Worse than yield loss is erosion. A second study, now in its 13th year, says soybean leaves less residue than corn. Remaining stalks and roots protect soil from erosion. The difference in erosion from corn and soybean residue is "night and day," Wiebold says. This makes rotation critical on sloped land.

Soil fertility also suffers on second-year bean planting. Wiebold's studies show that adding 20-30 pounds of nitrogen doesn't improve soybean yields. Check potassium levels, as soybean uses more than corn.

Reduced vigor of second-year soybean makes the plants more vulnerable to severe weather and disease, especially soybean cyst nematode (SCN).

Missouri farmers are no strangers to back-to-back soybean. The state's producers plant 1.7 acres of soybean to corn. This is the highest ratio

of any Midwestern state; 25-30 percent of the state's 5 million soybean acres are planted in continuous soybean.

The right combination of claypan soil and weather in north-eastern Missouri make the continuous option more widespread there.

"Obviously, farmers have to make money," Wiebold says, "but they need to calculate how having corn in their rotation increases yield."

Wiebold offers the following advice for producers who choose the bean-after-bean option:

- Select varieties with the best disease-resistance package.
- Mix varieties and maturity when planting continuous soybean.
- Use cover crops to prevent erosion and add to the soil's diversity.
- Scout often for diseases such as SCN, seedling blights and several foliar diseases, including frogeye leaf spot.
- Consider erosion and don't do second-year soybean on sloped land.

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**Local farmers doing spring field work**



**Gerald Meadows, G & J Farms, of Mound City, MO, is shown disking on the former Criswell Farm on Monday, March 23.**

**All about ag week**

Wednesday, March 18, was National Ag Day, a time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture.

As the world population soars, there is an even greater demand for the food, fiber and renewable resources produced in the United States.

The National Ag Day program believes that every American should:

- Understand how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced;
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy;
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products; and
- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industries.

Agriculture provides almost everything people eat, use and wear on a daily basis, and it increasingly contributes to fuel and other bio-products. Each year, members of the agricultural industry gather together to promote American agriculture. This effort helps educate millions of consumers.

By far, the most effective part of this program is the role an individual plays in helping spread the word; a few generations ago, most Americans were directly involved in — or had relatives or friends involved in — agricultural-related endeavors. Today, such a scenario is no longer accurate, which is why it is essential that everyone joins together at the community level as all voices, in concert, become a shout that carries the message a great deal further than any single person could do alone.



**NASCAR reaches six million miles of racing with American ethanol**

In 2011, the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR), American Ethanol and the Missouri Corn Growers' Association (MSGA) partnered to bring E15 to the racetrack. For more than three years, E15 has fueled every car and every truck in each of NASCAR's three premier racing series, recently hitting the six million mile mark.

Why NASCAR? Simply put, it was time to reach out to a bigger audience, and NASCAR allows the MSGA to do so from coast to coast. NASCAR's marketing strength and fan loyalty is undeniable, and its endorsement of ethanol is valuable. Millions of NASCAR fans watch each race on television, and nearly 100,000 attend each Cup race. These fans won't just see E15 perform on the track. They will also see it in high-profile NASCAR Green television commercials showcasing the benefits of American Ethanol from job creation to performance to supporting family farmers. Overall, this effort will validate higher ethanol blends with 80 million fans.

In a recent survey, NASCAR fans now appear to be even more likely than non-fans to support the use of ethanol (to fuel NASCAR race cars, fuel their own cars and increase U.S. energy independence) and recognize ethanol as a renewable source of energy. Whether it is on the road or on the track, American Ethanol passes the test.

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## Family farms are the focus of new Agriculture Census data

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reports that family-owned farms remain the backbone of the agriculture industry. The latest data come from the Census of Agriculture farm typology report and help shine light on the question, "What is a family farm?"

"As we wrap up mining the six million data points from the latest Census of Agriculture, we used typology to further explore the demographics of who is farming and ranching today," said NASS Statistics Division Director Hubert Hamer. "What we found is that family-owned businesses, while very diverse, are at the core of the U.S. agriculture industry. In fact, 97 percent of all U.S. farms are family-

owned."

The 2012 Census of Agriculture Farm Typology report is a special data series that primarily focuses on the "family farm." By definition, a family farm is any farm where the majority of the business is owned by the operator and individuals related to the operator, including through blood, marriage, or adoption. Key highlights from the report include the following five facts about family farms in the United States:

Five Facts to Know about Family Farms

1. **Food equals family** - 97 percent of the 2.1 million farms in the United States are family-owned operations.

2. **Small business matters** - 88 percent of all U.S. farms are small family farms.

3. **Local connections come in small packages** - 58 percent of all direct farm sales to consumers come from small family farms.

4. **Big business matters too** - 64 percent of all vegetable sales and 66 percent of all dairy sales come from the 3 percent of farms that are large or very large family farms.

5. **Farming provides new beginnings** - 18 percent of principal operators on fam-

ily farms in the U.S. started within the last 10 years.

"Whether small or large - on the East Coast, West Coast, or the Midwest - family farms produce food and fiber for people all across the U.S. and the world," said Hamer. "It's due in part to information such as this from the Census of Agriculture that we can help show the uniqueness and importance of U.S. agriculture to rural communities, families, and the world."

The 2012 Census of Agriculture Farm Typology report classifies all farms into unique categories based on three criteria: who owns the operation, whether farming is the principal operator's primary occupation, and gross cash farm cash income (GCFI). Small family farms have GCFI less than \$350,000; mid-size family farms have GCFI from \$350,000 to \$999,999; and large family farms have GCFI of \$1 million or more. Small farms are further divided based on whether the principal operator works primarily on or off the farm.

## Department of Agriculture launches Missouri market news website

The Missouri Department of Agriculture recently launched a brand new website for the department's Missouri Market News Program, featuring the most up-to-date market information for Missouri agriculture. The site, AgMarketNews.mo.gov, is updated daily and provides producers with price information for Missouri's agriculture commodities, including cattle, sheep, goats, swine, grain, hay and forages.

"Since day one, the mission of this program has been to provide current, unbiased price and sales information to assist in the orderly marketing and distribution of farm commodities," Director of Agriculture Richard Fordyce said. "Over the past nearly 50 years, incredible advancements have allowed market news to be disseminated at a rapid pace. We're proud to be able to provide this site as a streamlined, one-stop location for all of the information producers need to do business."

Today, producers and consumers, regardless of their operation size, require immediate access to



current market data. This new site provides the necessary information in an easily navigable, user friendly way. Individuals now have huge volumes of market data at their fingertips.

Daily and weekly updates are available in both audio and video formats, and weekly reports remain available in traditional text format.

In addition, the site houses over 10 years of historical data. Graphs of seasonal and historical price data, which can be customized by the user, are also being offered. Users will find vital data and commentary from the CME Group in relation to futures markets and industry news.

All features of the website are compatible with mobile devices, so users can instantly access data, whether they are in a tractor planting crops, feeding livestock or flying across the country to an important meeting.

For more information regarding the Missouri Department of Agriculture, visit agriculture.mo.gov.

## Missouri agriculture photo contest captures best of farm, rural life

The Missouri Department of Agriculture recently launched the 6th annual Focus on Missouri Agriculture contest, asking Missourians to share the unique stories and images of agriculture through photographs. The contest, which runs through June 15, is an opportunity for amateur photographers across the state to submit their best images of agriculture. That image may take shape through a breathtaking Missouri farm landscape, an aerial shot of harvest, a farm tractor that has been in the family for years or the beautiful experience of a child and a special animal.

"The story of agriculture is varied and vast, and often best told by the people who live and breathe it every day," said Director of Agriculture Richard Fordyce. "I look forward to seeing Missourians' outstanding talent come through in their photos of farm fields, livestock, equipment and our farm families."

The Focus on Missouri Agriculture Photo Contest is open to Missouri's amateur photographers of all ages. Participants may enter up to three photos in each of the five categories. Categories include: Beauty of the Farm, Faces of the Farm, The Farmer's Life, and Pride of the Farm. Children's Barnyard, a special category for budding photographers ages 12 and under, is back for the 6th annual contest as well.



Entries will be judged on visual impact, creativity, memorable content and image quality.

The contest offers prizes and many chances to win thanks to the Missouri Department of Agriculture's AgriMissouri program. A \$50 AgriMissouri Market gift certificate will be awarded to the First Place winner in each of the five categories. An AgriMissouri Market gift certificate, valued at \$150, will be awarded to the Best of Show. Category winners and Best of Show will also receive

professional canvas prints of their winning shot.

Winners will be announced and recognized at the 46th Missouri Governor's Conference on Agriculture and the images will be displayed at the tradeshow. Winning images will also be displayed during the Missouri State Fair in the Agriculture Building, August 13-23.

To submit photos, go to agriculture.mo.gov/focus and complete the online form.

A complete list of rules and guidelines can be found on the same page. Photos submitted to the contest will be placed on the contest website and available on the department's Flickr stream. Photos must be submitted by Monday, June 15.

More information about the Missouri Department of Agriculture and its programs is available online at agriculture.mo.gov.

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## Winter annual weeds are awakening

The warm temperatures have winter annual weeds beginning to grow. Now is the time to plan your herbicide programs to control weed species such as marestail. Many winter annuals are easy to control. However, marestail has developed resistance to glyphosate and ALS-inhibitors. Now is a good time to plan ahead to choose a strategy to manage these.

Marestail is found in no-till fields and typically germinates

in the fall and overwinters as a rosette. This plant can germinate in the spring also. Typically control is best handled when the marestail is in the rosette stage. Later the plant will bolt and become difficult to control.

When controlling this weed and others, you should consider the use of a burndown and residual herbicide. The burndown will control existing plants and the residual will control those

yet to emerge. Also, rotate herbicides with different modes of action.

For more information, contact Wayne Flanary at 660-446-3724, Heather Benedict at 660-425-6434 or Wyatt Miller at 816-776-6961, Regional Agronomists, University of Missouri Extension.

## Gardening tips for beginners

Gardening is a rewarding hobby that many enthusiasts credit with helping them to peacefully escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Though gardening can be both relaxing and rewarding, it's not as easy as it may seem, and the more time and effort a person devotes to his or her garden the more likely it is to be successful.

Gardening can be a little daunting for beginners who have little or no experience planting flowers or vegetables. Gardening, however, need not be so intimidating, especially for those beginners who adhere to the following tips aimed at helping novice gardeners start their gardens off on the right foot.

\* Determine what you should plant. Where you live will go a long way toward determining what you should plant. While you can plant anything you can get your hands on, the United States Department of Agriculture as well as Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

have determined specific plant hardiness zones that indicate which plants are most likely to thrive in given locations. Maps of these zones can be found at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov) and [www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca). By adhering to the maps, gardeners can significantly increase their chances of growing successful gardens. When

in doubt about what to plant, consult a local gardening center or seek advice from a professional landscaper.

\* Think location when beginning your garden. Beginners with large yards have the luxury of choosing the right location on their properties to start planting. When choosing a spot, consider how much sunlight a location gets on a daily basis and the spot's proximity to a water supply. If planting flowers, try to avoid planting in



areas with heavy foot traffic so the flowers are less likely to be stomped. If you're planting flowers to accent walkways, then consider erecting a barrier around the flower bed to safeguard the flowers from foot traffic.

\* Get started before you plant. Preparing the soil a few weeks before you start planting can help the plants thrive down the road. Add some organic material, such as compost or fertilizer, to the soil roughly three weeks before planting. This helps the soil retain water and nutrients, which will help your garden thrive.

\* Time your planting. When you plant is sometimes as important as what you plant. Some climates allow for year-round planting, but many do not. When buying seeds, the packaging might suggest what time of year to plant the seeds. Adhere to these suggestions or your garden might not grow much at all. In addition, keep in mind that many seedlings need significant light throughout the day in order to grow, so choose a

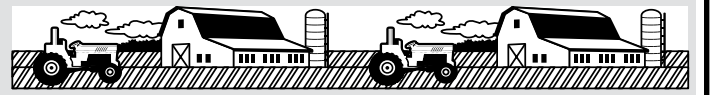
time of year with ample daylight.

\* Don't forget to mulch. Mulch can be as aesthetically appealing as it is effective. Mulch retains soil, helping roots to grow stronger, while deterring bugs and preventing weed growth; and many gardeners find mulch adds visual appeal to their garden, and does so in a very inexpensive way.

\* Clean your tools. Beginners rarely recognize the importance of cleaning gardening tools before putting them away. At the end of each gardening session, clean your tools thoroughly, as soil left on your garden tools can play host to potentially harmful microbes that might kill your plants.

Gardening can be a labor-intensive yet gratifying hobby. By sticking to a few simple rules, beginners can develop a thriving garden to reward all of that hard work.

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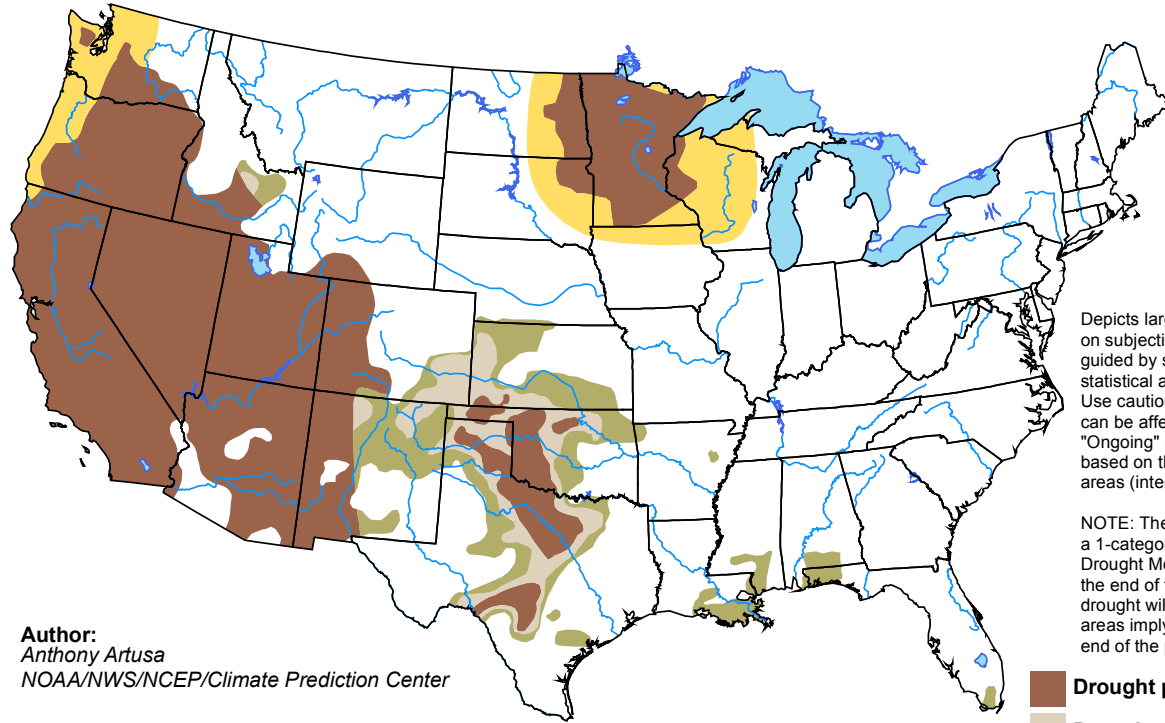


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**U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook  
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period**

Valid for March 19 - June 30, 2015  
Released March 19, 2015



Author:  
Anthony Artusa  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists/intensifies
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/hHTe>

From: [http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert\\_assessment/seasonal\\_drought.pdf](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.pdf)

  
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**National Ag Day FAQ's**

What Is Ag Day?

It's a day to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. Every year, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America join together to recognize the contributions of agriculture.

When Is Ag Day?

Ag Day was celebrated on March 18, 2015. National Ag Day was during National Ag Week, March 15-21, 2015.

What Is Ag Day All About?

Ag Day is about recognizing - and celebrating - the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:


- Understand how food and fiber products are produced.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.

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