

March 30, 2007

MISSOURI FARM AND FOOD PRESERVATION ACT – UPDATE COMMON GROUND REACHED

The coalition of 19 agricultural organizations supporting Senate Bill 364, the Missouri Farm and Food Preservation Act, has reached a major compromise with the Missouri Association of Counties (MAC) on a substitute bill that both groups can support. As introduced SB 364, sponsored by Senator Chris Koster from Harrisonville, would protect farmers from unjustified lawsuits and limit the regulation of agriculture to the state and federal levels. The substitute version of SB 364 still contains both provisions; however, several other changes that would limit the state's largest animal feeding operations, set up a process for county input, increase setbacks in certain cases, and create incentives for using best management practices and odor control techniques have been added.

"Agriculture and county governments have worked together constructively and in good faith to find common ground," said Missouri Corn Growers Association CEO Gary Marshall. "The compromises reached are reasonable and in the best interest of farmers, consumers and a continued safe and affordable domestic food supply. No American wants to depend upon foreign food like we depend upon foreign oil today." To read more about the agreement, visit www.farmandfoodpreservation.org.

BUS TRIP & RALLY IS TUESDAY

Even with a compromise, there is still major opposition on this bill. This opposition is having an impact with legislators. **NOW MORE THAN EVER**, we need your help in talking with members of the General Assembly and making sure that they know SB 364 is crucial to protect all Missouri agriculture. Please make plans immediately to come to Jefferson City and take a stand for an industry that gives us so much. All of agriculture is participating and buses are coming from every region of the state. All buses will plan to arrive in Jefferson City by 11:45 a.m. and will depart for the return trip around 3:00 p.m. NOTE: Buses will leave promptly at the scheduled departure times stated below, so please be ready to board the bus at least 15 minutes prior to departure time. **Scheduled bus routes are as follows:**

NORTHEAST REGION

- 9:00 a.m. Kirksville – Board bus at shopping mall located on west side of Hwy 63 – at the south end of Kirksville (*public parking area between the Tractor Supply & Long John Silver's*)
- 9:50 a.m. Macon – Board bus at Lolli Brothers Sale Barn on Hwy 63 South
- 10:35 a.m. Moberly – Board bus at commuter parking lot (southwest corner of Hwy 63 & Hwy 24 Junction—*on outer road*)

NORTHWEST REGION

- 7:00 a.m. Maryville – Board bus at Sutherlands parking lot on Business Hwy 71
- 7:50 a.m. St. Joseph – Board bus at East Hills Shopping Center (*east of Sears, off Woodbine entrance near light pole C-9*)
- 8:30 a.m. Cameron – Board bus at McDonald's parking lot, Junction of I-35 & Hwy 36
- 9:15 a.m. Chillicothe – Board bus at OLD Wal-Mart parking lot on Business 36 (*just north of the Grand River Inn*)
- 10:00 a.m. Carrollton – Board bus at commuter parking/rest area on Hwy 65 (*just south of McDonald's*)

WEST CENTRAL

- 8:15 a.m. Independence – Board bus at Jackson County Farm Bureau office (located at 2112 So. State Route 291)
- 9:15 a.m. Higginsville Jct. – Board bus at Junction of I-70 & Hwy 13 at the Camelot Inn (*park in gravel area*)
- 10:00 a.m. Marshall Jct. – Board bus at Junction of I-70 & Hwy 65 at the Break Time Gas Station (*south of I-70*)
- 10:30 a.m. Boonville Jct. – Board bus at Bobber's Truck Stop, Hwy B/Exit 103

SOUTHWEST

- 8:00 a.m. Springfield – Board bus at Ozark Empire Fairgrounds - In Front of E-Plex - *Go in through Gate 4*
- 8:30 a.m. Marshfield – Board bus at Wal-Mart parking lot (just off I-44, take the Marshfield Exit)
- 9:15 a.m. Lebanon – Board bus at Laclede County Farm Bureau office - Located at 1122 Lynn Street, Lebanon
- 10:30 a.m. Rolla – Board bus at Kroger's Grocery Store, located at corner of Hwy 63 & Kingshighway

SOUTHEAST

- 4:30 a.m. Fairdeal – Board bus at Three Rivers Travel bus station (located on Hwy 160)
- 5:30 a.m. Poplar Bluff – Board bus at Lake Road Convenience Store (located at northeast corner of Jct. Hwy T & US 60)
- 6:45 a.m. Sikeston – Board bus at Wal-Mart parking lot (Hwy 60 & 61)
- 7:30 a.m. Jackson/Fruitland – Board bus at Fruitland I-55 Exit #105 at Bavarian Hall (*west side of I-55*)
- 8:30 a.m. Ste. Genevieve – Board bus at Exit #150, Commuter Parking Lot (*northwest corner of I-55 & Hwy 32*)
- 10:00 a.m. St. Charles – Board bus at Bass Pro Shop (located at 1365 South 5th St., take 5th Street Exit #229B from I-70)
- 10:45 a.m. Warrenton – Board bus at Wal-Mart Parking Lot (Take I-70 Exit #193)

* If you would like to drive to Jefferson City on your own, you can meet up with the rest of the participants at the following locations:

- 12:00 noon Lunch & legislative briefing – Missouri Farm Bureau Headquarters, 701 S. Country Club Drive, Jefferson City
- 1:00 p.m. Welcome & legislative visits – State Capitol

Please RSVP TODAY to help us plan for this event!

For more details or to RSVP, contact Ashley McCarty at (573) 893-4181 or amccarty@mocorn.org as soon as possible.

THE NUMBERS ARE IN – ESTIMATED CORN ACREAGE AT HIGHEST LEVELS SINCE 1944

The prospective plantings report released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture today indicates corn farmers are responding to market demands by intending to plant 90.5 million acres in 2007. Last year, corn growers planted 78.6 million acres, resulting in a 15 percent increase. If realized this would be the highest acreage since 1944, when 95.5 million acres were planted for all purposes. Expected acreage is up in nearly all states as high corn prices encourage farmers to plant more acres to corn. The increase in intended corn acres is partially offset by lower expected acres of soybeans in the Corn Belt and Great Plains and fewer expected acres of cotton and rice in the Delta and Southeast. Illinois farmers intend to plant a record high 12.9 million acres of corn this spring, up 1.60 million acres from last year. North Dakota and Minnesota growers also expect to plant record high corn acres, up 910,000 and 600,000 acres, respectively. The Show-Me State isn't an exception. Missouri farmers intend to plant 3.4 million acres of corn in 2007, up 26 percent from last year and 10 percent more than the 2005 level of 3.1 million acres. This would be the highest corn acreage in the state since 1963. We said farmers would grow more corn if the market demanded it and they are. Now we pray for a good spring. Stay tuned!

GROWERS BE AWARE: NEW BIOTECH TRAIT LACKS JAPANESE APPROVAL

The 2007 corn planting season is under way, and the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) advises growers that Syngenta's Agrisure™ Rootworm trait (MIR 604) has not received full approval in Japan. NCGA's biotechnology policy only supports events that have received full regulatory approval in the United States and Japan. "Growers planting the Agrisure™ Rootworm trait should be aware that if Japanese regulatory approvals are not granted by harvest, there will be serious restrictions on the marketability of the grain," said NCGA President Ken McCauley. Japan is the leading U.S. corn export market and accounts for nearly 5 percent of total U.S. production. NCGA strongly encourages farmers planting the trait to develop alternative marketing plans for this grain. If Japanese regulatory approvals are not received prior to harvest, this grain must be kept out of export channels and away from processors that might export corn products such as corn gluten feed and distillers grains. Although the primary concern is Japan, Agrisure Rootworm currently lacks regulatory approval in most major export markets. Agrisure Rootworm and stacks will be carried by NK Brand, Garst and Golden Harvest hybrids.

CARMAKERS PUSH MORE USE OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS

The chief executives of United States automakers urged President Bush to back incentives to bring ethanol and biodiesel to more pumps as the companies bolster output of flex-fuel vehicles. By 2012, half the vehicles made by General Motors, Ford Motor and Chrysler, a unit of DaimlerChrysler, could be able to run on biodiesel or E85, a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline, the executives said in a statement. The executives prefer that option over stricter fuel-economy standards as a way to cut American oil use. The president has called for a 20 percent cut in American oil consumption in 10 years, three-fourths of that from using alternative fuels, and the rest from better vehicle fuel economy. The United States has more than six million flex-fuel vehicles, but the nation's 170,000 gas stations have only 2,000 pumps for E85 or biodiesel. In order for the ethanol market to continue on its growth curve, increased marketing and availability of E85 makes sense. This is precisely why Missouri Corn has created an E85 program – to educate and promote the continued use of a homegrown fuel. Middle East or Midwest – you decide!

AFLATOXIN RESEARCH SHOWS PROMISE

With corn planting season starting, researchers are looking at reducing aflatoxin in corn. Aflatoxin is a naturally occurring toxin produced by various fungi, which is produced by two types of mold: *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus*. Aflatoxin is most prevalent in corn, cotton, peanuts and tree nuts. The SERAT (Southeast Regional Aflatoxin Test) Program is a multi-organization, multi-state evaluation of the most promising germplasm from several research groups. Each group provides seed for a few hybrids and a testing location. Aflatoxin levels in corn are strictly limited for both domestic and export uses. Ethanol distillers also reject corn contaminated with the mold, since aflatoxin may become concentrated in dried distillers grains used for livestock feed. While no variety of corn offers natural resistance to aflatoxin, some genetic strains do show lower levels of contamination.

INDYCAR SERIES MAKES SWITCH TO ETHANOL POWER IN 2007 SEASON

Pure, 100 percent ethanol will fuel the Indy Racing League's (IRL) IndyCar® Series beginning with the 2007 season, making the series the first in motorsports to completely transition to a renewable fuel. The league began the transition from methanol to ethanol during the '06 IndyCar season with a 90% methanol, 10% ethanol fuel blend. This year 100% ethanol is Indy's fuel of choice, including for the world-famous Indy 500. America's ethanol industry supports Team Ethanol, the No. 17 IndyCar driven by Jeff Simmons for Rahal Letterman Racing. Team Ethanol began through a relationship between the leaders of three top ethanol design-build firms – Broin Companies, Fagen Inc., and ICM Inc. – and Paul Dana, the team's first driver who led ethanol up the IRL ranks and had the vision to pursue the fuel switch. To learn more about this popular motorsport, visit www.drivingethanol.org.

TIME TO ROCK'N ROLL

As of March 25, farmers encountered light showers during the week, leaving 3.4 days suitable for fieldwork. Corn planting is 3 percent complete for the state, with most activity in the three southern districts. The Bootheel is 13 percent complete, while the southwest and south-central are each at 5 percent. According to the Missouri Ag Statistical Service, most fields appear to have come out of winter in good shape. Temperatures were much above average in all areas of the state, ranging from 10 to 14 degrees above normal. Rainfall for the week averaged 0.51 inches. Only the southeast district averaged more than 1 inch at 1.17 inches. As the tractors start rolling, please keep safety in mind. Your family needs you.

**PLEASE OPEN IMMEDIATELY
TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION**