



Photo courtesy of Missouri Dept. of Agriculture

## Governor Parson Celebrates National Agriculture Week in Missouri

By Missouri Dept. of Agriculture  
Contributed

**JEFFERSON CITY** – Governor Mike Parson has proclaimed March 21-27, 2021, to be National Agriculture Week in Missouri. As today also marks National Agriculture Day across the nation, Governor Parson joins the Missouri Department of Agriculture in celebrating the state’s top position nationally in agriculture production.

“Missouri is ranked among the top tier of states in agriculture production, which remains the backbone of our state’s strong economy,” Governor Parson said. “Agriculture plays a key role in Missouri’s economic development, and I’m proud as a farmer myself to do my part in ensuring agriculture thrives for the next generation. Our workforce development and infrastructure initiatives will build on our state’s strong agricultural traditions and pay dividends to our future farmers.”

Missouri is home to 95,000 farms, employs nearly 400,000 people in food & agriculture jobs, and has an estimated economic impact of \$88.4 billion annually. Agriculture remains the state’s number one economic driver, supporting both rural and urban communities from farm to fork.

Missouri agriculture has tremendous momentum through the agriculture technology industry in our state. St. Louis is home to the world’s largest concentration of plant scientists and the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor represents more than half of total worldwide animal health, diagnostics, and pet food sales. With more than 300 animal health companies included, the Corridor represents the largest concentration of animal health industry assets.

“Farmers, ranchers, and food & agriculture workers have worked tirelessly over the last year, and we’re excited to celebrate them,” Director of Agriculture Chris Chinn

said. “Their hard work maintains the state’s position nationally and ensures a future in agriculture for the more than 100,000 students in Missouri FFA and Missouri 4-H.”

Missouri’s infrastructure is critical to exporting the more than \$2.3 billion in food & agriculture products annually to international buyers. The state is home to the second and third largest rail hubs in the United States, and 430 million tons of goods are shipped annually using 4,200 miles of rail lines. Missouri’s rivers give our state a competitive advantage in moving food & agriculture product internationally with 40 million tons of commodities shipped via 17 barge ports annually.

Missouri agriculture ranks top 10 in the nation in the following categories:

- Number of farms – 2nd
- Hay production – 2nd
- Beef cow inventory – 3rd
- Rice production – 4th
- Goat inventory – 5th
- Turkey inventory – 6th
- Soybean production – 6th
- Hog inventory – 6th
- Broiler chicken inventory – 9th
- Corn production – 9th
- Horse & pony inventory – 10th

To learn more about Missouri’s rankings nationwide and economic impact, visit [Agriculture.Mo.Gov](http://Agriculture.Mo.Gov). To view Governor Parson’s proclamation, click here.

Statistics note: Livestock inventory and crop production statistics were provided by the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Agriculture Statistics Service. Livestock inventory numbers were calculated by the number of head reported to USDA by farmers & ranchers. Crop production numbers were determined by the number of bushels, bales, or hundredweight of each crop raised.

## Missouri Department of Agriculture Launches Missouri Agriculture Awards for 2021

Accepting nominations through Sept. 15, 2021

By Missouri Dept. of Agriculture  
Contributed

**JEFFERSON CITY** – The Missouri Department of Agriculture is now accepting nominations for the Missouri Agriculture Awards. The Missouri Agriculture Awards will honor five individuals that strive to innovate their farm or ranch, give back to their communities, or stand as a great example for future generations. Award categories include Missouri Farm Innovation, Missouri Agriculture Education Leader, Missouri Food Animal Veterinarian, Missouri Agriculture Volunteer and the Missouri Agriculture Communicator.

“We all know the one agriculture leader in our lives who always goes above and beyond,” said Director of Agriculture Chris Chinn. “Those leaders are the heart and soul of Missouri agriculture and continue to inspire the next generation of agriculturalists.”

Awards will be given in the following categories:

• **Missouri Farm Innovation Award** features a Missouri producer who has worked to develop or implement innovative environmental stewardship techniques, agricultural products or services through on-farm efficiency efforts, progressive management practices, production technologies or marketing approaches. Nominees will be judged on current methods as well as their position to meet future economic and business challenges.

• **Missouri Agriculture Education Leader Award** will highlight an educator or advisor in the Missouri school system who emphasizes the importance of agricultural education to our state’s youth while also advising them on becoming future

leaders in the industry. This award recognizes teachers, advisors and leaders in primary, secondary and higher education systems. Nominees will be judged on the overall impact they have on upcoming youth in the agriculture system.

• **Missouri Food Animal Veterinarian Award** will highlight a Missouri food animal veterinarian who has shown expertise in veterinary care for the large animal/food production industry through surveillance for FAD and emerging diseases, someone who has demonstrated best practices for animal health and care and has led in innovative practices regarding the health and well-being of large animals.

• **Missouri Ag Volunteer Award** will highlight a true champion for Missouri agriculture who has dedicated his or her time to volunteering on behalf of Missouri agriculture through community involvement and leadership. This award recognizes those who are doing their part to better the industry by sharing agriculture’s story, encouraging youth involvement, enhancing the community in which they live and giving of their valuable time.

• **Missouri Agriculture**

**Communicator** will highlight a Missouri agriculture communicator who has made a commitment to farmers and ranchers by telling their stories. From their rural communities, to statewide and even national audiences, this individual has brought attention to issues in the agriculture industry. This award recognizes those who are advocating for agriculture, while remaining transparent and objective.

Nominations may be submitted by any organization, group or individual and must be received by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021. To nominate a leader for one of the awards, visit [Agriculture.Mo.Gov/awards](http://Agriculture.Mo.Gov/awards) to learn more.

Completed nomination forms may be submitted in three ways: (1) through an online form at [Agriculture.Mo.Gov/awards](http://Agriculture.Mo.Gov/awards), (2) emailed to [AgInfo@mda.mo.gov](mailto:AgInfo@mda.mo.gov) (subject line: Award Nomination), or (3) mailed to the Missouri Department of Agriculture – Awards Nomination at 1616 Missouri Blvd., Jefferson City, MO, 65109.

For more information about the Missouri Department of Agriculture and its programs, visit [Agriculture.Mo.Gov](http://Agriculture.Mo.Gov).

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