

A DECADE OF SUCCESS

MO-AG Members Validate Strength in Numbers

Looking back over the past decade of successes of the Missouri Agribusiness Association (MO-AG), it is clear there is strength in numbers. If not for you, our members, your support, and your commitment to this organization, MO-AG would not be where it is today. Agriculture is the economic sector employing the most people in the world, as well as in our great state of Missouri. From fertilizer and pesticide, to feed, seed, and grain, we want to show you how MO-AG has fought for you over the past decade. We will always be here ready to fight for you as your 'Advocate for Agribusiness'.

2009

MO-AG Opposes Increased Regulations and Costs on Grain Dealers

MO-AG opposes **SB 143**, introduced by Senator Rob Mayer, which would have required all grain dealers to document price reporting. This bill would have greatly increased regulations and costs on all grain dealers.

T.J. Gieseker Trucking Fraud Sparks Legislative Action; Defrauds Farmers of \$27M



Cathy M. Gieseker, owner of Gieseker Trucking in Martinsburg, MO, was indicted on multiple fraud charges including mail and wire fraud,

and interstate transportation of stolen property involving a \$27 million grain fraud ponzi scheme. The case led several state lawmakers to consider proposals aimed at protecting farmers from fraudulent grain dealers. From these concerns came **HB 915** and **HB 923**, filed by Representative Steven Hobbs which would have increased surety bonds that the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) must require of licensed grain dealers. Any licensed grain dealer acting outside the scope of his or her license as established in the Missouri Grain Dealer Law would be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

The 2009 legislative session ended successfully! MO-AG's early, fast action on **SB 143** resulted in the bill not receiving a hearing, and therefore not moving out of Committee. **HB 915** and **HB 923** passed the house but did not receive a hearing in the Senate. This was a busy session with many challenges. MO-AG protected its members' interests and members rested easier this year knowing MO-AG advocated on their behalf.

2010

Agriculture Protection Fund Created

SB 795 is introduced, and raises pesticide fees to \$150/product. Throughout this session, the lack of funding for the Missouri Department of Agriculture's (MDA) pesticide program was a focus. MO-AG's primary interest was to secure adequate funding for MDA in order for the program to be sustained and retain public confidence. At \$150/product, Missouri's pesticide fee is still lower than surrounding states, yet provided MDA the funding necessary to put the pesticide program on a very firm footing.

2011

MO-AG Solves Tough Problems Through Effective Bipartisanship; Protects Welfare of Animals

The 2011 Missouri legislative session is in the history books as one of the biggest years for Missouri agriculture. Positive changes came out of 2009 for grain dealers and a majority of our MO-AG members. Perhaps ranking at the top was **SB 113** and **SB 161** which hands the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) a major defeat. This legislation fixes the flaws of HSUS's Proposition B, better protects dogs, the state's licensed dog breeding industry, and blunts HSUS's future ambitions to attack agriculture in Missouri. Perhaps one of the most significant events occurred during the process of negotiations when the Missouri Humane Society split from the HSUS and backed the "Missouri Solution". This was important because even though HSUS lost a battle this year, they will continue to wage war against agriculture as long as they have millions of dollars pouring into their coffers. **SB 187** modified Missouri's nuisance law and put reasonable limits on out of control lawsuits against agriculture. Senator Brian Munzlinger introduced **SB 356**,

which modified provisions to Missouri's grain law. **SB 356** represents over two years and three legislative sessions of work that actually began with the Cathy Giesecker grain fraud case in 2009. **SB 356** contained many provisions that raised reporting and financial requirements for grain dealers in Missouri. But what is equally important are the provisions **SB 356** did not contain. When first introduced this year and two years ago, **SB 356** would have raised the maximum bonding level from \$300,000 to \$1,000,000 and raised the formula for calculating bond amounts to 5%. We argued strongly and successfully that this would simply put too many good grain dealers out of business.

Governor Jay Nixon

"I am extremely pleased that agriculture and animal welfare groups from across our state have worked together to reach a Missouri solution to this complex issue. The Missouri solution upholds the will of the voters by protecting the welfare of dogs, while also ensuring the future of Missouri agriculture."



Governor Jay Nixon signs SB 356 as Executive Director Steve Taylor, Senator Brian Munzlinger, and attendees look on.

2012

MO-AG Presents Governor Jay Nixon "Advocate for Agribusiness" Award



MO-AG Board of Directors with Governor Jay Nixon.

The Missouri Agribusiness Association presented Governor Jay Nixon with the MO-AG "Advocate for Agribusiness" award in March 2012.

MO-AG Executive Director Steve Taylor

"Governor Jay Nixon is a strong and solid supporter of agriculture. We sincerely appreciate his efforts on our behalf."

2013

President Obama Issues Executive Order Including Handling of Ammonium Nitrate; MO-AG Stops Devastating Regulations on Fertilizer Facilities

In April 2013, an ammonium nitrate explosion occurred at the West Fertilizer Company storage and distribution facility in West, Texas. MO-AG met with members of Congress resulting in a bipartisan letter from congress to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Assistant Administrator, Mathy Stanislaus also met with MO-AG. Mr. Stanislaus testified to congress that agencies would utilize MO-AG's suggestions regarding improving capabilities of local emergency responders as an alternative to burdensome regulations. In the background, hard work is being done on this issue and progress is being made with MO-AG traveling to Washington D.C. and the bi-partisan efforts from members of the Missouri Congressional Delegation.

2014

MO-AG Recognized for 'Outstanding Leadership in State Legislative Issues'



Taylor (left) accepts the "Agriculture Ambassador Award" from CropLife America President/CEO Jay Vroom.

In October 2014, on behalf of MO-AG, Executive Director Steve Taylor accepted the "Agriculture Ambassador Award." Taylor was recognized by CropLife America for "Outstanding Leadership in State Legislative Issues." From Clean Water Act regulations and new proposed worker protection standards, to the Endangered Species Act and concerns regarding insecticides and pollinators, there certainly was no shortage of policy challenges facing the industry in 2014.

2015

MO-AG Pushes Back on Nonsense Federal Regulations

Waters of the United States (WOTUS), was a regulation proposed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). MO-AG Executive Director Steve Taylor, along with Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler, Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer, and many others gathered to discuss what “troubled waters” WOTUS would mean for all of us. WOTUS would bring more regulation and litigation to Missouri, to agriculture, and to businesses everywhere by way of the federal government infringing on the rights and authorities of states.



Steve Taylor joins Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer and Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler on the banks of the Missouri River.

U.S. Senator Roy Blunt

“EPA’s Revised WOTUS Rule: An important victory for Missouri.”
(2020 announcement)

Parson Recognized as “Advocate for Agribusiness”



MO-AG Board of Directors pose with Mike Parson.

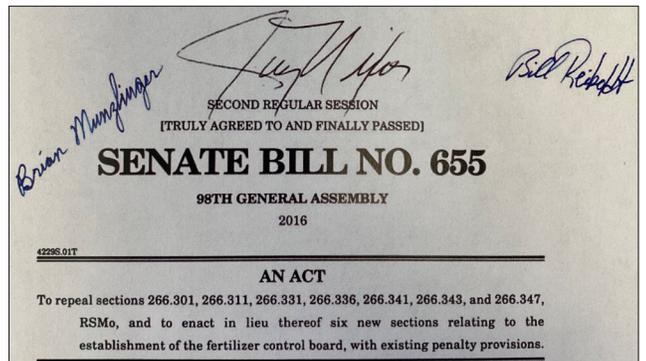
During his time in the General Assembly, Mike Parson has been an advocate for agriculture. In particular, he led the charge to protect Missouri’s animal agriculture and promote the right to farm. Recognizing his leadership and dedication to agriculture, MO-AG presented Parson with the “Advocate for Agribusiness” award.

2016

MO-AG Fights and Wins; New Fertilizer Control Board Created



After determining that Missouri’s fertilizer program was unresponsive to concerns from fertilizer dealers, MO-AG spearheads efforts to change state law so to create a Missouri Fertilizer Control Board (MoFCB). The new law mandates that fertilizer dealers be included on this new Board. In 2015, the legislation made it to the Senate floor but was stopped just short of passage. Undeterred, MO-AG went back to the Capitol and worked to push **SB 655** over the finish line. All authority regarding the administration of Missouri’s Fertilizer Program and enforcement of fertilizer regulations now resides with the new Board.



2017

Missouri Senator Roy Blunt Recognized as ARA Legislator of the Year



L-R: ARA President Daren Coppock; Senator Roy Blunt; MO-AG Executive Director Steve Taylor.

MO-AG’s Steve Taylor traveled to Washington D.C. joining the Agriculture Retailers Association’s (ARA) Board of Directors to recognize Senator Roy Blunt as ARA Legislator of the Year. Senator Blunt was a consistent supporter of agribusiness and was largely recognized for stopping OSHA’s overreaching regulations and his continuous efforts to push back on EPA’s Waters of the United States (WOTUS).

U.S. Senator Roy Blunt

“Missouri has more than 100,000 individual farms that depend on agricultural retailers to meet their needs, and the last thing Washington should do is get in the way. I am honored to receive this award, and will continue working to rein in excessive, burdensome red tape and bring more transparency and accountability to the regulatory process.”

MO-AG Looks Out For The Interests of its Members

HB 28’s law change is reflected this year after a multi-year process of revising. The new rule eliminates the requirement that all agrichemical facilities must apply for, or maintain, an operating permit.

Jim Russell Passing; Remembering a MO-AG Legacy



Past President and long-time supporter of MO-AG, Mr. Jim Russell passes away. During his 25 years as President, Jim blazed a wide path in Missouri’s agricultural industry and maintained a long career of service and leadership. In the coming year, the MO-AG Foundation will be renamed the Jim Russell

Foundation, and will continue as it has the past 30 years, providing scholarships for young agribusiness focused individuals.

FSPCA Training Required by Federal Law Held for MO-AG Members

MO-AG partners with the Missouri Department of Agriculture to offer training courses in Jefferson City. Members were able to obtain the certifications necessary to maintain compliance with the Federal Food Safety Modernization Act.

2018

MO-AG Building Remodeled



The MO-AG building in Jefferson City is remodeled. The Missouri Fertilizer Control Board (MoFCB), created by state law in 2016, signed an agreement

with MO-AG to allow usage of the MO-AG building. With staff for both organizations housed in the building, MO-AG and MoFCB work together to determine the priorities for usage of the building.

2019

MO-AG Fights Fee Increase; Missouri is Back Open for Business!

Missouri Agribusiness Association, your ‘Advocate for the Business of Agriculture’, maintains relationships with elected officials who make the laws and with the agencies implementing those laws. One example of utilizing those relationships is **SB 133** which had its start during the 2018 legislative session. Legislation was filed to increase pesticide registration fees from \$150 to \$450 per product. MO-AG expressed concerns that the pesticide industry was inappropriately being targeted to fund an entire MDA division. As a result, a legislative committee was formed to make recommendations. The result was **SB 133** limiting fees from \$150 to \$200. Also, a pesticide education fund was created and a review of all fees within five years is required. The Missouri legislature’s final approval of **SB 391** was a huge success and great for Missouri’s farms and communities. This bill ensures we use the latest science ensuring our animals are raised in healthy environments and our water and air remain clean. ***This bill is an excellent example of legislating for the good of all Missourians.*** Missouri farmers and ranchers will have consistent rules to play by providing opportunities for young and old alike to be involved in agriculture and stay on the family farm. Many bills MO-AG has worked hard for made their way through this year.

MO-AG Gets Results

Perseverance and hard work gets results. MO-AG has long been leading the charge to pass legislation to protect the right to sell seed and fertilizer. That legislation was finally passed this year. Agribusinesses can now be assured that they can sell fertilizer and new technology seeds in the state of Missouri without those sales being restricted by a local ordinance.

Governor Parson Proclaims “Historic Session”

2019 was a historic session for jobs and economic growth. MO-AG has been a strong advocate for its members, and will continue to be your advocate for years to come!



MO-AG Deputy Director Tony Benz joins Governor Mike Parson at a bill signing.