



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

John Cauthorn  
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### The Cauthorn Report

JEFFERSON CITY, MO - Promoting Missouri's agricultural community has been a staple of Senator John Cauthorn's service in Jefferson City. Multiple pieces of Cauthorn's agriculture legislation progressed this week at the Capitol.

Farmers establishing biodiesel plants will be eligible for a new grant under the proposed Missouri Biodiesel Incentive Fund legislation sponsored by Senator Cauthorn. The legislation received Senate approval Thursday with a 32-0 vote and is awaiting action in the House.

Biodiesel producers will receive 30-cents per gallon for the first 15-million gallons produced. For the next 15 million gallons produced they will receive ten-cents per gallon. The monthly grant is available for 60 months or until the fund is completely utilized.

"Our farmers right here in Missouri are providing us with the resources we need for the fuels of tomorrow, today," said Cauthorn. "This incentive fund will put Missouri in the fast lane for producing renewable energies."

Biodiesel is a clean burning alternative fuel produced from domestic, renewable resources and can be used in diesel engines with no major modifications. Biodiesel is biodegradable and nontoxic.

To qualify as a facility that produces biodiesel, the facility must be at least fifty-one percent owned by agricultural producers engaged in agricultural production for commercial purposes.

"Stimulating biodiesel production in our state will help our environment with a clean burning fuel, will help our farmers by adding value to their products, and will benefit our economy by reducing our dependence on foreign oil," said Cauthorn.

On Wednesday the Senate Agriculture Committee voted to pass Cauthorn's Dairy Herd Revolving Fund, sending it to the Senate floor for debate and final passage. The fund will provide \$1 million per year for

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loans to dairy farmers for the purchase of dairy cows.

“The number of dairy farmers and dairy cows have been on the decline the over the last 15 years,” said Cauthorn. “This loan program will bring a positive economic impact to our small communities and encourage new farming opportunities for our young people.”

Noodling legislation also was heard during the Senate Agriculture Committee this week. Cauthorn’s SB 62 would legalize hand fishing in the state of Missouri. Noodling will be legal in waters open for hook and line fishing according to the legislation. A limit of five catfish per hand fisher would be imposed along with unlimited amounts of carp. The season would last during June and July.

“Hand fishing dates back to the 1700s and the Southern Indians. While not mainstream, the sport has loyal followers who want to preserve this age-old tradition,” said Cauthorn.

Cauthorn hopes to finalize actions on his agriculture legislative agenda in coming weeks as the Senate will take up legislation regarding the school funding formula, tort reform, and the budget.

Sen. Cauthorn represents Missouri’s 18<sup>th</sup> Senate District. He can be reached at his capitol office at (573) 751-6850. You can also visit his web page by going to [www.senate.mo.gov/cauthorn](http://www.senate.mo.gov/cauthorn).