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## Senate Agriculture Committee to Hold Special Hearings

JEFFERSON CITY, MO. – State Sen. Dan Clemens, R-Marshfield, has announced a series of public hearings to focus on the future of Missouri agriculture.

Clemens, who is chairman of the Senate committee on Agriculture, Conservation, Parks and Natural Resources, announced the first meeting will be held Dec. 6, 2006, beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the West Plains Civic Center in West Plains, Mo. Later meetings will be held in Macon, Mo., and Jefferson City, Mo.

"Our goal is to meet with Missouri farmers and ag leaders and hear their success stories, get updates on their obstacles, and learn what, if anything, state government can do to help them," Clemens said. "We are dealing with the state's No. 1 industry, and we must protect today's operations and tomorrow's operators."

Topics for discussion at the West Plains meeting include:

- Strategies to competitively promote and market Missouri agricultural businesses and family farms.
- Planning for the future to compete in a global market.
- Concerns and challenges in today's agriculture.

Meetings will be open to the public. Visitors seeking to make comments or appear on the final agenda should contact Sen. Clemens' Jefferson City office by calling toll free (866)242-0810 or e-mail Dan\_Clemens@senate.mo.gov.

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