



# THE STOUFFER REPORT

**Senator Bill Stouffer**  
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**Capitol Building, Room 332**  
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**For the Week of:**  
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## **Turning Hog Manure into Crude Oil**

If you live in Rural Missouri, you've heard the saying, "That's the smell of money," as folks pass by hog farms or cattle feedlots. Soon, that odor may be a thing of the past.

There's a lot of controversy and emotion surrounding modern livestock production. Both sides have their reasons—there's no denying that. However, agriculture leaders in our state are searching for ways to find solutions, not problems, with these neighbor issues.

First, this year state legislators will no longer push to take away counties' abilities to enact health ordinances regulating large livestock operations. This pending legislation has forced many counties to pass these ordinances fearing the Legislature would take away their opportunity to do so. This is no longer the case.

Second, agriculture leaders are finding ways to invest in technology that eliminates most, if not all, neighbor issues. This includes calling upon Missouri's universities and engineering groups to invent new ways to fix these issues. These goals would include eliminating odor at the property line and the risk of air and water pollution through spills, fertilizer broadcasts, lagoons and pits.

One Missouri company has invented a process by which hog waste is collected and turned into potable water, bagged fertilizers and, believe it or not, crude oil. The process is completely contained—completely eliminating the need for lagoons or dry pits. The potable water is used in a scrubber system that cleans the air as it is released from the facility, eliminating 90 percent of the odor. By-products including organic plant foods are collected for the farmers' fertilizer use or potential sale. The heavy sour crude oil is created as the end product.

While the market for the sour crude oil isn't readily available, a plant to process sour crude is planned in western Illinois in the near future. Currently, the price of sour crude oil is about half that of the normally quoted sweet crude value.

The project has been made possible by a grant through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and, according to Kent Schien, president/CEO of Innoventor, Inc., the affluent of one market hog has the potential to produce six to eight gallons of sour crude oil.

With most of the lab work and bench testing complete, the next step in this pilot project will be to install a prototype processing unit for on-farm trials during the first half of 2006. I am currently working to find the funding for our state to invest in this solution.

Within 2 ½ years, this equipment pays for itself—making it a great investment for farmers and a win-win-win situation for producers, neighbors and consumers.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by email at [bstouffer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov).

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