



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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A Better Year for Agriculture

JEFFERSON CITY – Last year at this time I wrote about the drought conditions plaguing the state and how the hot, dry weather was punishing crops and pastures throughout Missouri. Fortunately, most of the state has received beneficial rains this summer and the latest report from the Missouri Agricultural Statistics Service finds the state's crops are doing fairly well this year.

Soil moisture and deteriorating pasture conditions remain concerns in northern Missouri. The statistics service says reports from northern Missouri indicate short hay production and poor pasture conditions are forcing cattle producers into supplemental feeding. Yet, the state's crops are doing well.

The corn crop is 87-percent silked and 34-percent is in the dough stage, which is nearly normal for this time of the year. Fifty-one-percent of the soybean crop has bloomed, which is in line with the five year average. The wheat harvest is nearly complete with just a few fields remaining.

In the 28th Senatorial District, Pettis County farmers planted the most corn last year, at 48,500 acres, producing 3.7-million bushels at harvest. Barton County corn producers planted 5,000 fewer acres of corn but yielded 5.7-million bushels at harvest. Henry County farmers planted more than 20,000 acres of corn and harvested 1.6-million bushels last year.

Pettis County also produced the most soybeans in the district last year at 2.4-million bushels on 92,000 acres, followed by Barton County at 1.6-million bushels of beans on 76,000 acres.

Wheat production in the 28th District is strongest in Barton County, with 1.45-million bushels produced on 52,700 acres last year. Pettis County wheat producers harvested 1.29-million bushels on 27,400 acres last year.

Polk County leads the district in cattle and calves, with 106,900 head, including 52,000 beef cows and 5,700 milk cows. Henry County is next, with 65,200 head, including 33,500 beef cows and 460 milk cows.

Pasture conditions for our livestock producers remain a concern, with 5 percent rated very poor, 17 percent rated poor, 30 percent fair, 31 percent good and 8 percent excellent. The statistics service says some producers may have to consider liquidating part of their herds if pasture conditions don't improve.

More information on the progress and condition of Missouri's crops and livestock can be found at the state Department of Agriculture's website at www.mda.mo.gov, or call (573) 751-4211.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.us.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.