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## **Sen. Goodman's Farm Mentoring & Education Act Advances Through Senate**

JEFFERSON CITY— Late last week the Missouri Senate passed a bill that will provide assistance to farmers across Missouri.

Senate Bill 417, sponsored by Sen. Jack Goodman, R-Mount Vernon, establishes the "Farm Mentoring and Education Fund" which will be administered by the University of Missouri, and provide services at the agricultural extension offices of different universities across the State. The program is designed to provide all farmers with access to ongoing educational opportunities that will keep them abreast of the latest research in traditional and sustainable farming techniques. Also, the program will help aspiring young farmers develop mentoring relationships with more experienced farmers.

"This program will help to provide our farmers with the educational tools they need to compete in a constantly changing market" said Sen. Goodman. "By helping to foster mentoring relationships, this program seeks to ensure that the hard earned experience of successful farmers is not lost to future generations."

SB 417 provides that up to \$99,000 may be appropriated to the authority each fiscal year. These funds, if appropriated, will be used to pay staff and market the program to diverse farmers in all parts of Missouri.

The bill has been sent to the House of Representatives, where it awaits approval.

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