



Senator  
**Bill Stouffer**

**DISTRICT 21**

Senator Bill Stouffer – Cultivating Rural Missouri.

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## **The Stouffer Report: Fayette Is the Veterinary Science Capital of Missouri**

Folks living in the larger cities in Missouri probably have no idea how large and diverse businesses are in rural Missouri. Over the past few weeks, I have had the pleasure of exploring some of the different industries in our area. Some are new; some have been around a while.

[Inovatia Laboratories](#) is based in Fayette. They specialize in providing research, analysis and technology development services throughout the country. The company also has other operations throughout the state, all related to life and veterinary sciences. They are a privately held firm, started by Dr. Rhys Thomas and J.B. Waggoner.

They were founded in 1994 and have since led the way in veterinary sciences. They have also become known worldwide for their success with competitive research grant programs. This can be a difficult thing to do. Industries all across the world do their best to gain research dollars, but it is a competitive attempt. Only a few are successful. Inovatia has been very good at getting these grants for their clients and partners, which helps in the work they do to keep the food you eat and the water you drink healthy. Their research includes work for the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA), the [United States Air Force](#) and the [Department of Energy](#) (DOE).

They employ seven people at their Fayette location, four of whom are technical staff — including one PhD — and three administrative employees. The company also has a few part time staffers and interns. Inovatia operates out of a 6,000 square foot lab and they are in the process of expanding. They are currently in the design phase, so most of the details are still being worked through. As you can see, vet sciences are growing more and more as we continue into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Another leader in veterinary sciences is [Addison Biological Laboratory](#), which is also based in Fayette. For over 25 years, they have been leading the way in technologies related to vaccines. Their biggest claims to fame are vaccines fighting pink eye in cattle and a respiratory agent for baby pigs. They have revolutionized methods used in fighting illnesses that used to be common in farm animals. We have heard about tainted foods so much over the past few years, and it is companies like this that work tirelessly to ensure the food you eat is healthy.

Both of these companies work closely with the University of Missouri's [College of Veterinary Medicine](#). The university has been making an effort to "beef up" the school's offerings over the past few years. Large animal veterinarians are in short supply and the more folks we can get interested in this, the better.

It is good to see rural Missouri grow with the times and still stay true to itself. Fayette is a town of fewer than 3,000 people. In addition to students and services that come from the University, Fayette is also home of Central Methodist University. Most folks probably would not think of a smaller town housing such large industries, but we know how great rural Missouri is. Between Inovatia, Addison Labs and a lot of great folks in our area, Fayette has truly become the veterinary science capital of Missouri.

*Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.*

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

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