



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
Week of October 19, 2009**

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# Busy Fall

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JEFFERSON CITY – This is a busy time of the year for folks like me who earn a living off of the land. The fall harvest is also one of my favorite times of the year because my family and I finally get to measure the results of all our hard work during the spring and summer. Unfortunately, Mother Nature has not been cooperating with Missouri farmers this fall by giving us too much rain. A lot of fields remain too muddy to drive a combine through, and more rain is in the forecast.

The latest report from the National Agricultural Statistics Service finds the wet weather has delayed Missouri's fall harvest by two weeks to a month behind the normal rate. Only 44% of our corn crop has been harvested so far compared to 77% in typical years, while the soybean harvest is 22% complete, compared to 49% complete by this time of the year.

My family has been watching the latest news about the H1N1 flu virus very closely, as I'm sure everyone has. The third case of H1N1 was just reported in Marion County this week, and cases have been reported in Monroe, Lewis and Pike counties as well. I wanted to pass along some information that can help protect you and your family from both the seasonal flu and the H1N1 flu.

First of all, state health officials encourage all Missourians to get the flu vaccine as it becomes available. Missouri began receiving its first shipments of the H1N1 vaccine earlier this month, and additional shipments are on the way. My office has been receiving calls about vaccine shortages as folks line up to get their flu shots and we're looking into the problem. As soon as we find out the status of the availability of the flu shots, we'll pass that information along to the public.

Health officials are giving priority to pregnant women, children and young adults because they are most at risk of contracting H1N1. Studies have shown older people have some resistance to the virus and are less at risk.

Symptoms of H1N1 flu include fever, cough and sore throat. Most of the cases have been mild and have not required treatment, with most people recovering at home. If you have the flu, be sure to drink plenty of fluids, take over-the-counter medications to reduce your fever and stay home and rest.

The state health department also has set up a toll-free number for information about the H1N1 flu, from basic medical advice to the availability of the vaccine in your area. That number is 1-877-FLU-4141 (1-877-358-4141) and it will be answered 24/7 by H1N1 InfoLine specialists. You can also visit the state health department's website at [www.dhss.mo.gov](http://www.dhss.mo.gov) for the latest information about H1N1 and the seasonal flu.

I also want to share some good economic development news for the 18<sup>th</sup> District. The City of Paris has received a Community Development Block Grant for \$158,000 to replace and relocate water mains that were washed out in last year's flooding. In Mexico, Mid-America Brick has been approved for a Brownfield Tax Credit to help restart the former A.P. Green Fire Brick factory to manufacture face brick, which will create 74 new jobs. The Schuyler County Ministerial Alliance has been awarded \$76,494 in Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credits to assist in the construction of a new facility to house the Food Pantry and Clothing Nook, and the Department of Economic Development has approved an "Enhanced Enterprise Zone" designation for Lewis County to promote job creation.

Finally, I just want to remind folks to watch for little ghouls and goblins wandering our streets in search of candy in the coming days. Some Halloween costumes make it hard for kids to see, and many trick-or-treaters are paying more attention to where they can find their next sugar fix than watching traffic. It's also a good idea for parents to check out their child's haul just to make sure they haven't received anything inappropriate. I hope everyone has a fun and safe Halloween.

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue, give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an email at [wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov), or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.