

Emerson: Bad Time To Raise Taxes On Producers

WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson (MO-08) disagreed with a decision by the Missouri State Tax Commissioners to increase the property tax rate on farmland up to 29 percent. Emerson noted that substantial tax increases will break some small and medium-sized family farms which have owned land for generations and experienced significant property value increases.

"We really do rely on our farmers, dairies and ranchers for a stable, secure and affordable supply of food in America. When the costs of keeping an agricultural operation in business increase, so too does the cost of the food on our grocery store shelves. I'm not sure the Missouri Tax Commission appreciates that direct relationship," Emerson said. "Farmland that has been in the hands of family-owned operations for generations will get a huge tax increase if

this proposal wins passage in Jefferson City. I am very worried about the ability of some operations to survive such a big tax hike – not to mention the countless businesses in our rural economy that depend on the business of farmers and their families."

The Missouri state legislature must approve the new tax plan before it can take effect in 2011.

"Agriculture is a large and reliable portion of our state economy. Along with the costs of energy, fertilizer, equipment and seed – taxes are a major expense in the farm budget. The Missouri Farm Bureau has already pointed out that Missouri farmers are carrying one of the highest debt loads in the nation. We simply cannot challenge the competitiveness of Missouri agriculture and bring more instability to the family farm in times like these," Emerson said. Δ



Link Directly To: **CASH RIVER**



The miracles of science™

Link Directly To: **DUPONT**



Link Directly To: **PIONEER**