

# Legislative Rejection Of Farmland Tax Increase Urged By Farm Bureau

JEFFERSON CITY, MO.

In letters sent to the leadership of the Missouri Senate and House of Representatives, Missouri Farm Bureau is urging the General Assembly to make passage of a concurrent resolution rejecting the State Tax Commission's increased farmland assessments a priority for the 2010 legislative session.

The State Tax Commission has approved as much as a 29 percent increase in farmland productivity values used for property tax assessments. While the productivity values for some grades of farmland would decrease, overall farmers would experience an 11.5 percent increase statewide.

In the letters to legislative leaders, Missouri Farm Bureau President Charles Kruse states, "As you know, on December 15th the State Tax Commission voted to impose a tax increase on many Missouri farmers which will go into effect on January 1, 2011 unless a concurrent resolution is adopted rejecting the recommendation

within the first sixty days of the current legislative session. On behalf of Missouri Farm Bureau, I ask that you support this concurrent resolution and expedite its consideration.

Many Missouri farm and ranch families are facing the most difficult financial pressures they have ever experienced. Extreme market volatility combined with record production expenses, unusually wet weather, and weak demand have left many struggling to manage debt and cash-flow. Missouri farmers are carrying some of the highest debtload in the nation. USDA has projected 2009 as one of the worst three years since 1929 for U.S. net farm income in real dollars. Clearly, a tax increase is the last thing we need now."

Several legislators are indicating they will introduce or cosponsor a concurrent resolution rejecting the new farmland productivity values. Missouri Farm Bureau urges Governor Nixon to also support the passage of such a concurrent resolution. Δ



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