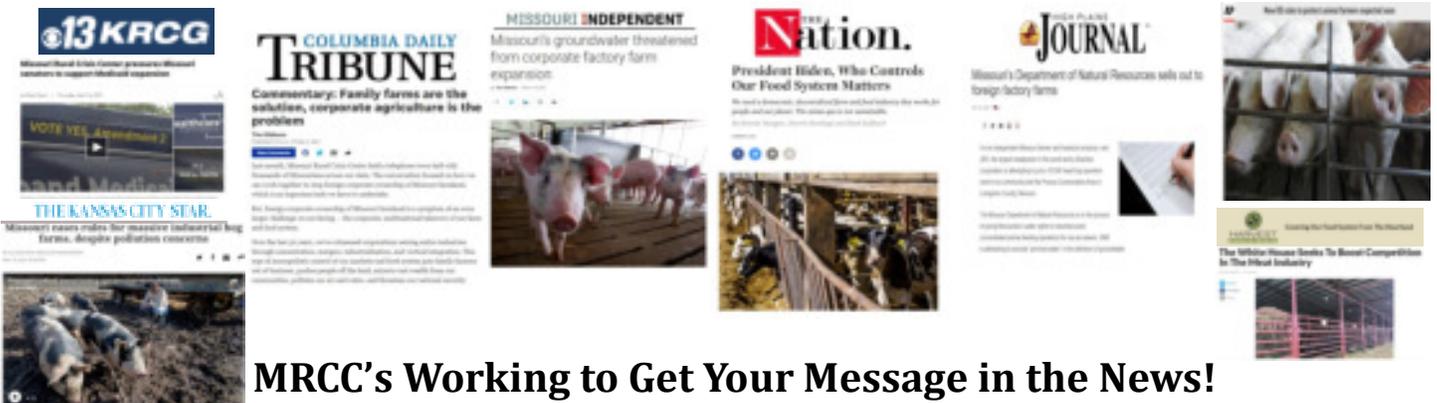


It's hard to believe we're already halfway into 2021, still grappling with a global pandemic but beginning to see each other's faces again. It's been a turbulent year and a half for all of us, but here at MRCC, we're organizing to ensure that these recent challenges turn into unexpected opportunities to change the system for the betterment of independent family farms, our communities (both urban and rural) and our country and world. It's a big task, that's for sure, but we all have an important stake, and with your help, MRCC is working hard to play our part.

Over the last year and a half, MRCC has been at the forefront pushing for the changes we know we need, from organizing on the ground helping Missourians fight corporate factory farm operations from moving next to their farms, homes and communities to ensuring that people have access to family farm pork. With your help, MRCC has also been prioritizing our collective power to challenge and change policies at the local, state and national levels, while engaging the media and getting our voices in news stories, and through op-eds, letters-to-the-editor and on social media.

We're mailing to give you a quick update on some of the things we've been busy doing so far in 2021, & to let you know how you can help us move this work forward & create an even bigger impact.



## MRCC's Working to Get Your Message in the News!

From local news to regional and national coverage, we are working diligently to elevate the voices of Missouri family farmers and rural citizens on the issues that impact all of our lives, both as producers and consumers.

At MRCC we take the responsibility of helping to shape the narrative and center the voices of our members very seriously. We pride ourselves on our members' hard work and being able to saturate the media with our voices. Across television, radio, print and digital media, our members and staff have been cranking out interviews, quotes, Letters-to-the-Editor, and Op-Eds.

If you haven't been keeping up with all of our coverage, check out the "Media Center" section of our website.

If you'd like to see your name in print or just want to help out by sharing your stories, opinions, and ideas, you can join our cadre of dedicated members who help us tell the tales by reaching out to Brian Smith at [brian@morual.org](mailto:brian@morual.org) or calling us at (573) 449-1336.

To all of you who are already telling your stories and helping make our voices heard about farm, food and rural issues, we really can't thank you enough! Keep up the great work!





## MRCC Members Organizing to Stop Foreign Corporate Ownership of MO Farmland

At MRCC, we have been working to stop foreign corporate ownership of Missouri farmland since the laws have changed, from raising awareness to pushing for the policy changes we need. In April, over a thousand Missourians joined us from across the state for a telephone town hall to talk about the issue, hear from Senator Doug Beck, the bill sponsor, and learn what we can do about it.

### Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) Resolutions Introduced in Missouri House & Senate



## MRCC Gets Country of Origin Labeling Bills Introduced in MO Legislature

In the 2021 legislature, MRCC organized to get two resolutions introduced that support Country of Origin Labeling for beef and pork. Senate Concurrent Resolution 10 (introduced by Senator Doug Beck) and House Concurrent Resolution 33 (introduced by Representative Tracy McCreery) "support the right of consumers to know the origins of their food, support the use of country of origin labels, and urge the United States Congress to reinstate mandatory country of origin labeling".



## MRCC Organizes D.C. Farmer Fly-In

In April, MRCC members held a virtual D.C. "fly-in" to meet with Missouri Congress-people and USDA. We discussed the issues facing independent family farmers, concentration and corporate control of agricultural markets and the policy solutions, and Country of Origin Labeling (COOL).

NEWS

### CATTLE PRODUCER ENCOURAGED BY BIDEN EXECUTIVE ORDER

July 9, 2021 by Bill Robinson Filed under: Missouri News



## MRCC Holding the Administration's and Congress' Feet to the Fire on Antitrust Executive Order

Thanks to the work of our members and other organizations who fight alongside us, on July 9th, the Biden Administration issued an Executive order to increase competition, strengthen and enforce antitrust laws, and decentralize our food system. This is a huge step in the right direction but now we will need to hold them accountable and also urge Congress to draft and pass legislation to complement these actions and give them some teeth in regard to enforcement. It hardly seems fair that we must reward your hard work with more hard work, but we must ask ourselves one question: If not us, then who? The future of our food system is too important. Our goal of a safer, more resilient, inclusive, and fair food chain has inched ever closer with this announcement, so now is the time to organize for it, with all the tenacity and grit that we all can muster.

## Stopping a CAFO in Livingston County, MO

MRCC members and family farmers and rural citizens from Livingston County had a HUGE victory this year, successfully stopping a 10,000 head JBS hog operation from building next to their farms, neighbors, a beloved conservation area and their water.

*"While we do not know the exact reasons why they withdrew their application, we remain vigilant about the importance of local control, plus wary that another CAFO does not take its place," said Doug Doughty, a local farmer and supporter of Poosey Neighbors United. Doughty added, "But, for now, our group and community is relieved that this CAFO has decided to withdraw their application and not locate in Livingston County."*

*The hogs in the proposed operation were going to be owned by JBS, a Brazilian corporation and the biggest meatpacker in the world. Tim Gibbons with the Missouri Rural Crisis Center said, in a press release that JBS has a history of "illegal behavior, such as fixing prices and violating federal anti-corruption laws."*

## CHILLICOTHE NEWS | Constitution-Tribune

NEWS

### CAFO application withdrawn

Angie Talken | Chillicothe News

Published 12:52 PM CT Apr 16, 2021 | Updated 12:52 PM CT Apr 16, 2021

Facebook Twitter Email Print

The application for a Class III concentrated animal feeding operation, (CAFO), in Livingston County was withdrawn last week, according to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

A press release from Poosey Neighbors United, state that the document they received from DNR indicates that on April 6, 2021, United Hog Systems withdrew its application.

According to the permit application, the proposed Z-B Sew Farm would have held 10,467 swine and used 12' deep below-ground concrete manure containment structures to collect and store all hog waste. The proposed CAFO would be located near the Poosey Conservation Area and the Thompson River.

Livingston County Presiding Commissioner Ed Douglas said the commission was notified last Thursday.

## MRCC Members Help Coordinate over 1,000 Public Comments into DNR Opposing Factory Farm Groundwater Rule Change

MRCC organized a public comment campaign into DNR demanding they do not exclude “perched water” in the definition of groundwater for CAFOs, resulting in over 1,000 comments with the vast, VAST majority in opposition (the few and only comments in favor were from corporate ag supporting organizations). MRCC organized 30 MRCC members to participate in a DNR public “stakeholders” meeting about the proposed groundwater rule, and we coordinated 15 virtual public testimonies at DNR’s public hearing on their proposed groundwater rule.



MRCC members organize to stop the “Clean Water” Commission’s attempt to change definition of groundwater to exclude perched water—for CAFOs only.



### Family Farms Can Help Solve Climate Change

To truly mitigate climate change, we need to focus on the long-term economic viability of independent family farms who respect the land and raise animals the right way.



NICK HERBERT, JOHN JOYVAC, BARE KAUBACH, DARVIN BENFLAKE  
July 8, 2021

Solving the climate crisis is one of our generation’s most important responsibilities, and as independent family farmers from four Midwestern states, we’re willing to do our part. But it will require a major shift away from policies that prop up a highly polluting corporate factory farm system that has been gutting rural communities for decades.

## MRCC Member Co-Authored Op-Ed: Family Farms Can Help Solve Climate Change

“Solving the climate crisis is one of our generation’s most important responsibilities, and as independent family farmers from four Midwestern states, we’re willing to do our part. But it will require a major shift away from policies that prop up a highly polluting corporate factory farm system that has been gutting rural communities for decades.”

“A family-farm centered system, with more farmers on the land raising animals on pasture, is best suited to revitalize rural communities, produce a healthy and sustainable food supply and respond to the climate crisis. We’re happy to see the Biden Administration and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) take initial steps to respond to climate change and acknowledge policy changes are needed.”

## MRCC Making Your Voice Heard About the Future of Our Farm and Food System

Now is the time to move forward with policies that create a fairer and more resilient and sustainable food system.

With recent disruptions in our food system, from a global pandemic that closed mega-processing plants and endangered workers and our national security, to a cyberattack on the world’s biggest meatpacker, it’s time to create policies toward a more localized, decentralized, democratic food system based on independent family farms and consumers, not global corporate agribusiness...



Missourians need to make voices heard on future of farms, food systems

Guest Commentary  
PUBLISHED 07/08/2021

By The Missouri Missouri Rural Crisis Center

Missouri Rural Crisis Center recently sent its comments to the Biden Administration and USDA in response to their request for comments to “revise and strengthen the supply chain for the production, processing and distribution of agricultural commodities and food products. Now is the time to move forward with policies that create a fairer and more resilient and sustainable food system.”

With recent disruptions in our food system, from a global pandemic that closed mega-processing plants and endangered workers and our national security, to a cyberattack on the world’s biggest meatpacker, it’s time to create policies toward a more localized, decentralized, democratic food system based on independent family farms and consumers, not global corporate agribusiness. Now is the time to move forward with policies that create a fairer and more resilient and sustainable food system.

## Missouri Rural Crisis Center

The Missouri Rural Crisis Center is a statewide farm and rural organization founded in 1985. Our mission is to preserve family farms, promote stewardship of the land and environmental integrity, and strive for economic and social justice by building unity and mutual understanding among diverse groups, both urban and rural.

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### Missouri Rural Crisis Center

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Missouri Rural Crisis Center pressures Missouri senators to support Medicaid expansion

by Mark Davis | Thursday, April 10, 2020



Members of the Missouri Rural Crisis Center speaking with Missouri senators that support Medicaid expansion. (KRCG)



COLUMBIA — It was a verbal fistfight Thursday on the floor of the Missouri House, as the body signed off on the state's \$34.6 billion budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

It was the final opportunity for House Democrats to rip the majority Republicans for failing to finance the voter-approved expansion of Medicaid before the budget leaves the House for more tinkering in the Senate.

## MRCC Leading the Charge in Rural Missouri for Accessible Healthcare

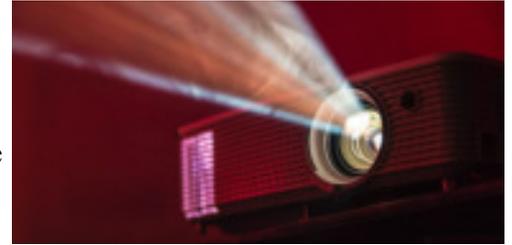
MRCC was a lead rural organization fighting for access to healthcare for limited-income Missourians. Our message was simple: Rural Missourians face a lack of affordable, accessible healthcare because of our lower incomes, older populations, higher costs of health insurance policies and less access to providers. Medicaid Expansion will make quality healthcare more available to many farmers, rural families and communities and will save the state money.

At the end of July, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of the Medicaid Expansion Amendment that Missouri voters passed a year ago, meaning that soon hundreds of thousands of Missourians will be able to sign up for the health care they deserve. MRCC will continue to lift up the stories of how access to healthcare impacts all of our communities. If you want to get more involved in the fight for affordable, accessible healthcare, no matter where you live, please reach out to us—we'd love to have you! Contact Dina van der Zalm at [dina@morural.org](mailto:dina@morural.org).

## MRCC's SUSTAINABILITY CINEMA

Coming Soon...

This Fall we will be hosting documentary film screenings as part of our Sustainability Cinema Series. We will be showing four films about sustainable agriculture in and around Cooper County before taking this project on the road. We will be doing Pop-up Drive-ins and Movies in the Park—events with the full complement of concessions. Come for the Patchwork pulled pork nachos and stay for insightful films, panel discussions and popcorn.



### COLUMBIA DAILY TRIBUNE

#### Biden executive order to promote competition in agriculture and food is a good first step

Rhonda Perry  
Published 07/24/20 07:44:30 EDT

Earlier this month, President Biden issued an executive order that takes significant action to reduce the trend of corporate consolidation, increase competition and deliver concrete benefits to America's consumers, workers, farmers and small businesses.

The Missouri Rural Crisis Center (MRCC), a statewide farm and rural membership organization representing the interests of independent family farms and rural communities, has long led the call for action to stop further consolidation and concentration within agriculture and our food system.

President Biden and his Administration's commendable effort to level the playing field and increase fairness and competition within our food, livestock and agricultural industries is a hopeful first step in addressing the corporate control of our food production, processing and distribution that has threatened our economies, national security, water and air, climate and democratic process.

On July 25th, Rhonda Perry, MRCC Executive Director and 5th generation Missouri cattle and grain farmer, was featured in the Columbia Daily Tribune commenting on President Biden's recent Executive Order on Competition.

"Earlier this month, President Biden issued an executive order that takes significant action to reduce the trend of corporate consolidation, increase competition and deliver concrete benefits to America's consumers, workers, farmers and small businesses."

"President Biden and his Administration's commendable effort to level the playing field and increase fairness and competition within our food, livestock and agricultural industries is a hopeful first step in addressing the corporate control of our food production, processing and distribution that has threatened our economies, national security, water and air, climate and democratic process."

### And now...the ask:

Your contributions and memberships are what make our work possible. Every cent we receive from you, we spend working to protect and advocate for family farmers, consumers, workers and everything we value. We all play an important role in creating a better food system that works for all of us.

We know it's been a hard year for everyone, and we know not everyone will be able to be as generous as you'd like, and that's okay. All we ask is that you do what you can. Whether your donation is \$50.00, \$500 or \$5,000, we know it comes from the heart and we appreciate every last one of them. We also appreciate gifts of time and expertise—and our end of year auction and CoMOGives Peer-to-Peer campaign is right around the corner, so if you've got ideas, neat auction items, or a hilarious plan for a peer-to-peer, we appreciate those things too. However you can give, we appreciate it, and we love everything you do to make MRCC a stronger organization in the fight for family farms, rural communities, a clean environment and democracy.

**Thank you all for your continued support, it really does make all of this possible.**