

State Senator Robert Mayer The Mayer Memo

Senator Robert Mayer - Serving Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stoddard & Wayne Counties



[Website](#) | [Contact Me](#) | [Biography](#) | [Newsroom](#)

Emergency Declaration Helping Missouri Farmers With Harvest

A brutally wet October has caused major damage and prompted severe delays in many areas of crop production in southeast Missouri as area farmers here — and in other parts of the state — are scrambling to get their crops harvested.

The combination of late plantings due to a wet spring and recent excessive rains has made it very difficult for farmers throughout Missouri to get their crops out of the fields. The downturn in the economy has only compounded the problem. Recognizing the tough times our farmers are experiencing, the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) recently asked the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to step in to help farmers with an emergency declaration that loosens transportation and hours-of-operation requirements to assist farmers in getting their crops harvested from the fields and stored in bins or hauled to their local elevators and processors. Additionally, the Department of Agriculture has asked MoDOT to authorize the movement of product from storage facility to storage facility or end-user.

Under MoDOT's emergency declaration, Missouri farmers will be required to follow these guidelines:

- Loaded gross weight can be no greater than 10 percent above the gross vehicle weight rating of the vehicle licensed weight.
- Limit the transport of row crops from the farm to a local storage facility and empty return trips to the farm.
- When crossing a bridge, the driver must not exceed 45 mph and must center the truck between the two lanes of the bridge.
- Travel on highways other than Missouri interstate highways — no interstate travel will be permitted.
- While transporting row crops from farm to storage, farmers are not required to follow hours-of-service laws.
- Farmers must carry a copy of the emergency declaration in each vehicle that operates in response to these relief efforts.

The next couple of weeks will be very busy ones as many farmers are just now getting back into their fields, so please remember to be on the lookout for slow-moving trucks and combines on our rural roads and practice safety during this critical time.

Farmers can download and print an emergency declaration by visiting the following web site: www.modot.org/mcs. Information is also available at the Department of Agriculture web site at www.mda.mo.gov.

As always, if you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by phone at 1-877-291-5584.

###

Capitol Office

State Capitol Building

Website:

Phone Number:

877.291-5584

Room 422
Jefferson City, MO 65101

<http://www.senate.mo.gov/mayer>

Fax:
573.526.1384