



Missouri Soybean Association Update

The past year has been challenging for Missouri crop producers, but the Missouri Soybean Association continues to work on behalf of farmers to improve profitability and expand opportunities. A representative from the Association will share updates on current issues, new products, market developments, and ongoing initiatives supporting Missouri soybean growers.

Farm Financial Benchmarking

Presenter: *Curtis Mahnken, Extension Economist with the Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota.*

Curtis who has been an economist with the Center since 2010. He will cover information about the Center for Farm Financial Management and Missouri data trends.



BBQ Basics: Smoking Meat Made Simple

Join for a hands-on introduction to the art of barbecue. As an FFA advisor and coach with the High School Barbecue Association, Zachary has guided several successful student teams—including two state champions—and has competed nationally for five years.

Presenter: *Zachary Funk, Pleasant Hope FFA BBQ Team Coach*

This session will cover fire management, equipment setup, and simple flavor techniques. Whether you're new to BBQ or looking to sharpen your skills, this live demonstration will give you practical tips to try on your own smoker.

Quail Production 101: Small Birds, Big Opportunities

Discover the rewarding world of quail production. Taylor and her family raise quail and other poultry, and she brings real-world experience and enthusiasm to helping others explore small-scale livestock ventures.

Presenter: *Taylor Funk, Missouri educator and agricultural advocate*

This workshop covers the basics of raising quail for eggs, meat, or hobby purposes—including incubation, brooding, housing, feeding, and flock management. Whether you're looking to diversify your farm or start a new venture, you'll leave with the knowledge and confidence to begin or improve your own quail setup.



Two Additional Workshops To Be Announced



Friday Mini Tour – Aurora Organic Dairy

Aurora Organic Dairy (AOD) is a leading producer and processor of retailer brand organic milk. The company is unique in that it operates dairy farms and milk bottling facilities, ensuring the highest quality and traceability of any organic milk product in the market. AOD grows a portion of its own certified organic feed and pasture, raises and milks organic cows at eight farms, and processes and packages milk at two locations (Columbia, Mo. and Platteville, Colo.).

We had originally planned on touring this facility at last summer's state tour however they had to cancel on us due to some construction that was going on in the plant. This tour requires long pants with no holes, no visible jewelry, and closed toe shoes. We will be leaving the hotel at 1:30 and carpooling to the plant for a 2:00 tour.