



Our Mission: To be the preeminent Midwestern agribusiness organization that provides educational, networking and professional development opportunities for its members, and promotes a positive image and future for agriculture to the consuming public.

Contact: Jennifer Sowash, 314-513-4212, jsowash@stlcc.edu or John Osthus, 636-825-7656, johnosthus@blue-spring.com

Agribusiness Economic Study Highlights Bright Spot in Metro Economy

ST. LOUIS, June 11, 2010 -- A recent St. Louis Agribusiness Club economic study demonstrates how agriculture remains a thriving economic driver in a regional economy that has brought profound challenges to other industries.

The study found that in contrast to other industries that have suffered layoffs, foreign ownership or headquarters moving out of the region, agriculture has brought more jobs and revenue while making a significant global contribution.

This study highlights the important role agriculture plays in supporting a strong and stable economy in the St. Louis Metropolitan region, according to Club President Cindy Myer. "While many other sectors such as the manufacturing and auto industries are feeling the pinch of the economy and shutting down operations that have provided employment to thousands of St. Louis residents, agriculture has managed to cushion the effects of the deflating economy and continues to thrive as an industry, providing jobs to approximately 20 percent of our Metropolitan region while continuing to grow and prosper," Myer said.

The study, based on 2007 economic data, found that Agriculture in the St. Louis region is responsible for:

- \$131.2 billion in farm production within 500 miles of St. Louis
- \$75 billion global impact (comparable to more than 60% of local gross domestic product)
- 265,000 jobs created by agricultural operations in the Metro St Louis area (comparable to 20% of the total metropolitan employment)
- 3,075,775 acres of farmland in the Metro area (56% of total land area)
 - - 12,686 farms in the Metro area
 - - 26,536 farm operators and farmhands
- \$1.1 billion total market value of farm products (42% increase compared to 2002 census of agriculture)
- \$842.1 million in farm production expenses

"Many regional industries have struggled to adapt to changes in the business climate and remain economically competitive," Myer said. "A key to agriculture's success has been the investment and advances that local industries have made in biotechnology, commodity trading and alternative energy, among



Our Mission: To be the preeminent Midwestern agribusiness organization that provides educational, networking and professional development opportunities for its members, and promotes a positive image and future for agriculture to the consuming public.

other successes. St. Louis metro agriculture is on the move and will continue to energize the local economy.”

To view a copy of the study [please click here](#), or go to <http://www.stlouisagclub.org/index.aspx?page=13>

For more information and to set up an interview with local agricultural leaders, please contact Jennifer Sowash, 314-513-4212, jsowash@stlcc.edu or John Osthus, 636-825-7656, johnosthus@blue-spring.com.

About The St. Louis Agribusiness Club

The St. Louis Agribusiness club (SLABC) was founded in 1981 by business leaders on the principle that with the prosperity of agriculture in the St. Louis region, an organization was needed to provide a forum for interaction and discussion of important agricultural issues. SLABC is the regional advocate for its 300 members providing a source of information on agriculture issues and trends. This organization has also been the impetus behind attracting agricultural companies and associations to the St. Louis area and has played an important role in helping government leaders better understand the importance of agriculture to our nation.