

Preliminary Round Questions 2025

1. The issue of water rights has been top-of-mind for producers in the West for a very long time. It is becoming more and more of an issue in Missouri. In 2024, there was legislation (HB 2153) proposed to make it unlawful for any person to withdraw from any water source for export outside the state of Missouri via a pipeline facility unless he or she holds a water export permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources. Missouri Corn, Missouri Soybeans and Missouri Farm Bureau supported the legislation. What short term and long-term consequences – positive and negative – could the legislation, if passed, bring to the table.

The development of solar energy is being incentivized at the federal level. Unlike wind energy, there are very little opportunities for production agriculture to utilize the land in conjunction with the solar panels. Many in agriculture are split on this issue. On one hand, landowners are voluntarily making the decision to enter into contracts with solar companies. It is their private property. On the other hand, some are concerned that the land will never return to production agriculture and could have long term implications. What are your thoughts on this issue?

2. Missouri was the first state in the nation to pass labeling laws as it pertains to cell cultured and plant-based proteins. Just this year, Florida became the first U.S. state to completely ban the sale of cell-based meat (also known as “cultivated” or “lab-grown” meat). A federal judge upheld the law in October. Do you believe Missouri should follow Florida’s lead, why or why not? Could this set a precedent that does more harm than good for Missouri?
3. Bridging the rural and urban divide is always a topic of conversations within agricultural organizations when it comes to consumers better understanding agriculture. Is progress being made or is this a lost cause?
4. The Missouri legislature often debates legislation pertaining to the expansion and promotion of urban agriculture. What opportunities or challenges does expanding urban farming create for traditional agriculture?
5. Every five years, the federal government formulates the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, a foundational document on nutrition that helps inform federal nutrition policies and programs like school lunches. The Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee recently published their “Scientific Report” posing questionable advice to the public regarding the role of beef in American’s diets. Please explain why this poses a threat to the beef industry and provide your opinion on the role of beef in a healthy diet. What is being done to promote the benefits of beef as a component to healthy living?
6. On May 9, 2024, USDA-APHIS published into the Federal Register the final animal disease traceability rule “Use of Electronic Identification Ear tags as Official Identification

in Cattle and Bison” making visually and electronically readable tags the only form of official identification for sexually intact cattle 18 months of age and older, all rodeo, exhibition cattle, and dairy cattle moving interstate. This new rule came into effect on Nov. 5, 2024. How will this impact beef producers in Missouri? What are the positives and negatives associated with this rule.

7. President-Elect Donald Trump will be sworn into office on January 20. How do you think this administration will differ on agricultural policy from the current Biden Administration?