

SB 1380/HB 2438/HB 2730 create a tax incentive for small-scale specialty crop farmers and grocery stores in food deserts, supporting new farms and new economic opportunity for the next generation and improving food insecurity across the state.

Missouri's Food Deserts

The map on the right displays the Missouri census tracts where the majority of the population are low income and live more than a half mile in urban areas and more than 10 miles in rural areas from a grocery store. These census tracts are deemed “food deserts.”

Grocery Stores

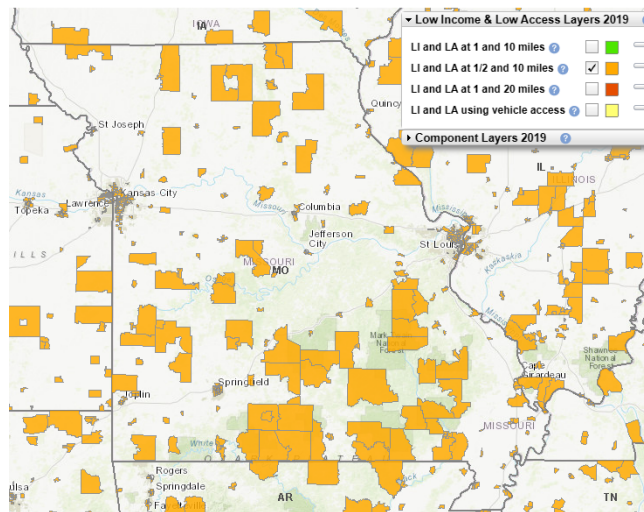
Missouri communities, particularly rural, would benefit from this tax incentive to diversify economic activity while increasing access to nutritious food. Young people have left much of rural Missouri for more populated areas with easier access to certain resources, such as grocery stores. This tax incentive would inspire development in rural communities that both diversify economic activity and provide nutritious food close to home. This may help bring young people back to rural Missouri.

Specialty Crop Farms

We have plenty of small-scale farmers who could grow more if they were given more support and many aspiring farmers eager to grow nutritious fruits and vegetables for Missouri families! Increasing fruit and vegetable production would also help local economies be more self-reliant in supplying their own nutritious food.

Missourians want to eat more local food

Missouri consumers want more Missouri-grown produce and these bills would have the potential to help family farms diversify their produce operations to meet this demand. With more fruit and vegetables grown, more products will be available to sell at farmers markets, to restaurants, and to communities' grocery stores.



USDA Food Access Research Atlas, <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas/>



Support the future of Missouri's agriculture, economy, and food security. Support SB 1380, HB 2438, & HB 2730.

Missouri's Food Insecurity

Low income households often struggle with food insecurity, whether they live near a grocery store or not. **The USDA reports that Missouri over a 3 year average had a food insecurity rate of 12%.** Looking more closely into their data on a more severe level of food insecurity called "very food insecure," you will see that Missouri ranks among the highest. **The USDA indicates 5.6% of Missourians are very food insecure - fourth highest in the nation.** See top rankings of "very food insecure" states in the table to the right.

Missouri isn't just capable of being more self-sufficient, it wants to be. Missourians want more Missouri-grown produce. The demand is evidenced by the variety of local food resources developed in parts of the state to help consumers find small-scale producers near them.

State	Percentage of Population that is Very Food Insecure
Arkansas	6.3%
South Carolina	5.9%
Louisiana	5.7%
Missouri	5.6%
Mississippi	5.5%
West Virginia	5.2%
Texas	5.0%

Missouri's Fruit and Vegetable Production in Food Deserts

Rural Food Deserts Would Benefit From More Specialty Crop Farms. Missouri has specialty crop farms in every county, though very few in some of the most food insecure counties, examples below:

Sources:

Missouri Show Me Food, <https://showmefood.org/>;
MCE's Known and Grown Program's Local Food Locator, <https://knownandgrownstl.org/local-food-locator/>; KC Healthy Kids' Eat Local KC Map, <https://www.kchealthykids.org/eat-local-kc-map.html>.

Table 29. Vegetables, Potatoes, and Melons Harvested for Sale: 2017 and 2012, USDA Ag Census (2017), [st29_2_0029_0029.pdf \(usda.gov\)](https://www.nass.usda.gov/publications/st29_2_0029_0029.pdf).

Table 31. Fruits and Nuts: 2017 and 2012, USDA Ag Census (2017), [st29_2_0031_0031.pdf \(usda.gov\)](https://www.nass.usda.gov/publications/st29_2_0031_0031.pdf).

Table 30. Land in Orchards: 2017 and 2012, USDA Ag Census (2017), [st29_2_0030_0030.pdf \(usda.gov\)](https://www.nass.usda.gov/publications/st29_2_0030_0030.pdf).

Table 32. Land in Berries: 2017 and 2012, USDA Ag Census (2017), [st29_2_0032_0032.pdf \(usda.gov\)](https://www.nass.usda.gov/publications/st29_2_0032_0032.pdf).

Missouri County	Farms with Vegetables	Farms with Fruits and Nuts	Orchards	Farms with Berries
Benton	3	2	8	6
Bollinger	12	3	4	3
Douglas	7	1	9	15
Laclede	13	5	12	10
Madison	2	0	0	0
Oregon	3	2	3	3
Ozark	10	2	6	5
Putnam	2	1	1	1
Ripley	7	0	6	5
Schuyler	6	0	1	0
Shannon	11	3	10	3
Washington	13	2	7	7
Wayne	2	1	7	4
County with greatest number of farms in each specialty crop category	Jackson: 54	Vernon: 74	Vernon: 82	Boone: 31