



AI and AgTech Need More Than Tech

Missouri's leaders are being tested on science policy — here's why it matters globally.

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THE DATA

93.7 billion dollars

Economic Output from Ag & Related Industries

Missouri's agriculture and agtech sectors contributed \$93.7 billion in economic output in 2021.

This figure underscores the scale of opportunity in agtech, but it also highlights a critical vulnerability: without sustained public policy support, even high-output sectors can falter. The fact that this data was cited by a candidate in a science policy initiative shows that the link between science, agriculture, and economic resilience is now being formalized in political discourse.

Source: Missouri Stance on Science • Published October 12, 2026
<https://snapcoalition.org/initiatives/stance-on-science/states/mo>



01

Policy Is the Real AgTech Infrastructure

The \$93.7 billion figure isn't just a metric — it's a signal. In Missouri, candidates are now being asked not just to support agtech, but to define how they'll protect it through science-based policy. This shift means that the next wave of innovation isn't just about sensors or drones, but about who governs the data, funds the research, and trains the next generation. The real infrastructure is not in the field, but in the legislative chamber.



02

Science Literacy Shapes the Future of AgTech

One candidate explicitly tied K-12 science education to the future of Missouri's agtech workforce, arguing that hands-on exposure in schools must connect to real-world industries. This is not incremental — it's a systems-level rethinking. If the next generation doesn't understand how data, AI, and biology intersect in farming, even the most advanced tools will fail. The future of agtech isn't just in labs; it's in classrooms, and in how we teach students to think like farmers, engineers, and scientists at once.

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