

# Agriculture Tours

Sikeston and Southeast Missouri has some of the most fertile soil in the State of Missouri and is home to numerous farming operations. Whether your visiting in the spring or fall season you'll see a cornucopia of color and activity. Area crops are varied and include watermelon, corn, rice, fruit, cotton, soybeans and other row crops. Ag tour maps are available by contacting the CVB. Below are some suggested sites and tour options...

**Buffalo Ranch** - Buffalo can be viewed on Nancy St. in the Mini-Farms Subdivision off Hwy HH.

**Matthews Cotton Farm (573) 471-3790** - Cotton crops are located on East Salcedo Road, Sikeston MO 63801. Corn crops are located on U.S. Hwy 61/North Main St., Sikeston (near First United Methodist Church)

**Jennings Farm (573) 667-5681**

2504 County Hwy 824, Sikeston MO 63801. Their crops are located on County Hwy 824 & 480. From Sikeston go through Morehouse to County Hwy 840, then cross Hwy 60 over to County Hwy 824. Fall crops include cotton, rice and soybeans.

**Vanduser Gin (573) 471-1903** - 801 Hamilton St. Vanduser MO 63784. The gin is located at the intersection of Hwy ZZ & Main St. Crops include cotton; the gin is also surrounded by other row crops of corn and soybeans. The gin is open Monday-Thursday 8am to 4pm & Friday 8am to 12pm.

**Diebold Orchards & Greenhouses (573) 545-3571** - 217 N Outer Rd, Benton, Missouri 63736. Crops include mums, pumpkins, apples, pecans, strawberries, flowers, much more. Other attractions: country store, bakery, fall decorations and more. Open Monday-Saturday 8am-6pm, Sunday 11am-6pm.

**Beggs Family Farms (573) 471-3879** - 2319 State Hwy U, Sikeston MO 63801

Crops include pumpkins, strawberries, corn and more. Other attractions: pumpkins patch, corn maze, petting zoo, and country store.

**Bader Farms (573) 246-2528** - 38601 State Hwy WW, Campbell, MO 63933. Crops include peaches, strawberries, watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, blackberries, corn, apples and pecans.

**Kinnaman Orchard (573) 568-2959** - 24987 County Rd. 317, Bloomfield, MO 63825. Crops include flowers, nut trees, peaches, strawberries, blackberries, plums, corn, tomatoes and much more.

**Cates Orchard (573) 624-3949** - 13423 State Hwy WW, Dudley, MO 63936. Crops include peaches, nectarines, plums, apricots, apples and pears. Apple cider, sweet corn, pecans, pumpkins, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, bell peppers. Open mid-June through October. Mon-Tues 4-6 pm, Thurs 4-6 pm, Fri 2-5 pm, Sat 9 am-4 pm

**Pioneer Seed Co. (573) 748-7971**, 11426 US Highway 61, New Madrid, MO 63869. Seed production company. Call for tour

## Points of Interest

*Sikeston Depot Museum*, (573) 481-9967, 116 W. Malone, Sikeston

*Veterans Park*, (573) 475-3725, Intersection of Linn & Campanella Streets., Sikeston

*Downtown Farmers' Market*, Corner of New Madrid & Front St, Sikeston. Open May-Oct. 7am-sellout

*Recreation Complex*, 501 Campanella St., Sikeston (573) 475-3725. Outdoor recreation park with fishing lake.

*Southeast Missouri Ag Museum*, Sikeston, (573) 471-9241521 Hwy 532 Bertrand, Warehouse of antique farm equipment



- The average dairy cow produces seven gallons of milk a day, 2,100 pounds of milk a month, and 46,000 glasses of milk a year.
- Soybeans are an important ingredient for the production of crayons. In fact, one acre of soybeans can produce 82,368 crayons.
- One pound of wool can make 10 miles of yarn. There are 150 yards (450 feet) of wool yarn in a baseball.
- Agriculture is one of the United States' most important industries, employing more than 24 million workers or 17% of the country's total workforce.



## Cotton Ginning Process

- Farmers use special harvester equipment to pick the cotton from the fields.
- Cotton is brought from the field to the gin in large modular wagons.
- Dirt, seeds, hulls & other particles are removed from the cotton as it runs through the cotton gin, also called ginning.
- The end product is clean cotton tightly pressed and tied into large bales.
- The bales are stacked in trucks & shipped to warehouses where they are distributed worldwide to millers to make fabric.

## What can you make from a bale of cotton?

Jeans - T-Shirts - Sheets - Diapers - shirts - Socks - Shorts - Handkerchiefs - Towels - \$100 bills

## How much does a bale of cotton weigh?

480 pounds

