



Scott Skarvan/Index

Local farmer Steve Salt, left, talks with resident Waldo West, right, about the produce he had available during last Saturday's Farmer's Market on The Square. Salt, who said he has experienced some trials with farming during the high temperatures this summer, said he thinks droughts and floods from years past have been worse.

## Farmers look toward better season

BY KYLE HUNSTEIN  
Staff Reporter

The summer heat and the low rainfall have caused some farmers crops to die nationwide.

As bad as the heat might have seemed, there have been worse years, local farmer Steve Salt said. He said the floods of 1993 were more destructive and even worse was the 1995 planting season, which had floods, drought and then more flooding. Most farmers this year are still able to produce crops, he said.

"If farmers went down after every bad year, there wouldn't be any farmers left," Salt said. "With farmers, as long as you're not broke, you go on to the next year."

Many farmers replanted during August, when the temperatures had slightly lowered, he said.

While occasional early frosts claimed some of the later crops, they are doing fairly well, Salt said, and the rains from hurricane Isaac greatly improved growing conditions. He said he and many other farmers remain hopeful for late crop growth during the fall.

Certain regions, including Kirksville, are worse than others, said Michael Seipel, agricultural science department chair.

He said the average harvest has produced between zero to 100 bushels of crops per acre. Many local farms have had to make the choice between cutting what they managed to keep alive, or risk losing more of their crop waiting for the

fall harvest.

Grains cut at this point during the season are used as cattle feed, he said, which is a less preferable choice to selling the crop outright.

Some farmers managed to avoid the monetary backlash caused by this loss, Seipel said. Farmers who raise crops such as corn and soybeans are able to get crop insurance, meaning some of the larger farms will be able get some of their losses back, he said.

The 25 percent drop in harvest amount has repercussions within other parts of the farm industry.

"One of the main impacts in this area has been on livestock producers, and cattle production is the leading agriculture enterprise in this area," Seipel said.

The drought caused shorter grazing periods for livestock during the summer and a poor hay harvest and has driven up the price of the crops ordinarily used to supplement livestock's diets, he said.

Seipel said farmers who grow small scale crops have been hit particularly hard because they are ineligible for insurance.

The water bills alone were harsh, Kirksville farmer Junior Fountain said.

It only was through constant watering that his crops were able to be saved, Fountain said. In many cases, the watering only managed to keep the plants alive and growth often never occurred. He said despite this, next year's plans for planting are, at the moment, the same as this year's.

## Activists continue efforts to legalize marijuana

State decriminalization efforts are sparked after recent repeal

BY ANDI WATKINS DAVIS  
Assistant News Editor

Efforts to decriminalize marijuana have continued throughout the state since the Show-Me-Cannabis Regulation campaign left Truman State's campus last spring.

Although the campaign was unable to put decriminalization of marijuana on the ballot for the November 2012 elections, John Payne, Show-Me-Cannabis executive director, said the campaign is considering a second attempt to place the issue on the 2014 ballot, and currently is working to lessen penalties for possession of the drug in cities such as Springfield, Mo.

Payne said recent decisions made by the Springfield City Council have increased controversy about the issue. In Springfield, citizens put together an initiative petition during June attempting to lower the penalties for possession of marijuana with in the city. The petition aimed to

make the maximum punishment for possession for 35 grams or less of marijuana a fine of up to \$150, eliminating jail time for those charges, Payne said.

The activists collected the required 2,101 signatures needed to present the petition to the council with the expectation that the council would either pass the ordinance or send it to the ballots for a vote during the November elections, Payne said.

Instead, Payne said the Council passed the ordinance with the intention of repealing it. The ordinance was repealed with a seven to two vote during the Sept. 24 meeting.

"We think the Council violated the city charter," Payne said.

Payne said Show-Me-Cannabis is working with activists in Springfield to challenge the decision of the City Council. He said options include starting a referendum petition to check the actions of the Council, starting a recall petition forcing members of the Council to stand for reelection, or litigation, which would clarify how the city's initiative process is supposed to work.

Payne said the Show-Me-Cannabis Regulation is currently at-

tempting to work with the Board of Alderman in St. Louis and the City Council of Kansas City to change laws in those cities.

"We are looking to help groups across the state reform cannabis laws, so anywhere we think there is an opportunity to do it, we're going to take that," Payne said.

He said there currently are no plans to try to change laws in Kirksville. However, if activists in the area wanted to begin the petition process, the regulation would support them financially and assist in any way possible with the process.

"In a city such as Springfield, and like Kirksville as well, it would take direction action from the people to get something like [the lowering of penalties for marijuana possession] passed," Payne said.

Senior Michael Baharaeen said he worked for the Show-Me-Cannabis campaign last spring, and he thinks the decriminalization of marijuana would be a good thing for the state and for the Kirksville community.

He said there was a positive response from students regarding the campaign and some members of the community also participated in the petition process.

**Penalties for marijuana possession in Missouri**  
according to norml.org

Less than 35 grams	misdemeanor one year in jail \$1,000 maximum fine
35 grams to 30 kilograms	felony one year in jail \$5,000 maximum fine
30 kilograms to 100 kilograms	felony five to 15 years in jail \$20,000 maximum fine
More than 100 kilograms	felony - considered trafficking 10 years to life in jail \$20,000 maximum fine

He said attempts to change ordinances in specific cities is a great start to changing state laws as a whole and that other cities, such as San Francisco and Denver, have taken a similar approach to the issue.

He said he thinks an attempt to change ordinance laws would be received well in Kirksville and would be good for the community.

"We have an agricultural community here that knows [marijuana] is a good cash crop," Baharaeen said.

City Manager Mari Macomber said there have been no attempts in Kirksville to change ordinances related to marijuana while she has worked for the city, since 1998.

She said the citizens of Kirksville could bring an initiative petition to the City Council for any reason, but an initiative petition has not happened during the past 12 years.

Currently, Kirksville law states that possession of less than 35 grams a misdemeanor and 35 grams or more is a felony offense, Chief of Police Jim Hughes said. Typically a person found with less than 35 grams of marijuana will be arraigned in the Kirksville Municipal Court. He said individuals with larger amounts of the drug or individually packaged marijuana will be suspected of the intent to sell and will be sent to the state court.

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