



# The Weekly Update

**Tennessee General Assembly**  
*House of Representatives*

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## **HOUSE DEMOCRATS CELEBRATE AGRICULTURE DAY ON THE HILL**

*Event focuses attention on the importance of agriculture to Tennessee's economy*

Recently House Agriculture Committee Chairman Stratton Bone and Commissioner of Agriculture Ken Givens led Capitol Hill in celebrating Agriculture Day on the Hill.

Agriculture continues to be a very important part of our state's economy. As we continue the move toward more green jobs in Tennessee, I believe agriculture will play a significant role.

Recent statistics released by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture show that over \$60 billion (about 18%) of the state's economy is generated by agriculture and forestry. Agriculture alone accounts for over 210,000 Tennessee jobs, with over 11.4 million Tennessee acres currently being used as farmland.

Agriculture is making a comeback in a big way, and I believe we need to continue to find ways to encourage and expand opportunities for more agricultural in Tennessee.

In addition to livestock displays including mules, pigs and sheep, a cow milking contest was held between Representative Dale Ford and Rep. Mike Turner. Ford edged Turner 110ml to 10ml to claim the coveted Ag Day Milk Pale.

## **PROPOSED ROAD & BRIDGE PROJECTS**

All 95 counties expect to see transportation improvements in the coming months. This week Department of Transportation Commissioner Gerald Nicely announced upcoming proposed road and bridge projects.

We believe that the road to economic recovery starts with local roads and bridges. We must begin to repair and improve how the people of this state travel and make sure we do everything we can to ensure that our infrastructure is protected.

Our roads and bridges not only bring businesses in, but they allow our families and friends to travel all over our state.

Current projects and those beginning later this year have been funded through the federal American Recovery and Revitalization Act of 2009, with the future projects expected to be taken up during budget hearings later this month.

## SWINE FLU

The “Swine Flu” has taken a front seat in the news. I would like to give you information I received yesterday, April 30 from our Tennessee Department of Health.

### ***Provided by Tennessee Department of Health***

• Anyone seeking the latest information about the flu outbreak can visit the Tennessee Department of Health Web site at <http://health.state.tn.us/swineflu.htm> or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at [www.cdc.gov/swineflu/](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/). These sites are updated daily. Here are responses to some specific questions:

#### **• I think I might have the swine flu.**

If you are ill and believe you may have the flu, stay home. If you have questions, call your primary care provider. If you don't have a primary care provider, call your local county health department for information. The main number for Metro's Health Department is 340-5616, the flu clinic number is 340-2100.

#### **• Do I need to get medicine to have on hand in case I get sick with this flu?**

No. If you become ill with flu-like symptoms, call your healthcare provider.

#### **• When can I get a vaccine against this flu virus?**

1. There is currently no vaccine against this flu virus. The best way to protect yourself and your family from this virus is to follow common sense good hygiene practices that help protect you from other illnesses: wash your hands frequently and cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve.

2. Persons who are sick with flu-like symptoms should stay home from school and/or work until they're well.

#### **• I have travel plans – should I cancel them?**

At this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is recommending that American travelers avoid all nonessential travel to Mexico. No other specific travel recommendations have been made at this time related to the flu outbreak. Changes will be posted on the CDC's Web site at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/>.

#### **• Do I need to close my business due to this flu outbreak?**

No. However, if an employee is sick with fever and flu-like symptoms he or she should stay home.

I hope this is helpful, and have a good weekend.



Weekly Updates are for informational purposes only