



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Missouri State Fair

JEFFERSON CITY – One of the best ways to enjoy the dog days of summer is to attend the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia, which opened August 11 and runs through August 21.

This family-friendly event brings out the kid in all of us, whether it's strolling the mile-long midway, reviewing the 4-H and FFA exhibits from across the state, or snacking on corn dogs and funnel cakes.

The Missouri State Fair was established by the General Assembly in 1899, and six Missouri communities vied to have the new fair located in their towns. Members of the State Board of Agriculture visited Centralia, Chillicothe, Marshall, Mexico, Moberly and Sedalia, and then returned to Jefferson City to choose among the competing entries. The voting continued well after midnight, and after ten ballots, Sedalia received the majority vote.

Since the first state fair in 1901, thousands of Missouri families have made the trek to Sedalia. And one thing has remained constant over the years – competition. The state fair brings out the best of Missouri, from prize hogs and cattle to homemade pies and cakes. Since the first fair, the reward has been ribbons, premium money and recognition. But the long-term effect of this healthy competition has been a steady improvement in Missouri agriculture, agribusiness and domestic arts.

From 1901 to today, the Missouri State Fair has been the barometer of the state's economic health and a documentary of the history of Missouri agriculture. The Missouri State Fair plays an essential role in keeping agriculture one of Missouri's top industries.

If you haven't experienced the Missouri State Fair, you're missing a one-of-a-kind entertainment experience. Where else can you see some of the country's biggest musical acts, watch pigs race, hop on a carnival ride and eat just about any food you can imagine on a stick? As this year's theme suggests, Give It a Whirl!

For more information about the Missouri State Fair, visit www.mostatefair.com or call (800) 422-FAIR.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.