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**A Weekly Column for the
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A Time Honored Tradition — The Missouri State Fair

One of our state's most time honored traditions is quickly approaching, and this year this fun-filled event is more affordable than ever. The Missouri State Fair dates back to 1901 and is one of the state's oldest summer events. This year marks the 106th Missouri State Fair (Aug. 7-17), and the success of the long-standing event is reflected in our state's agriculture, agri-business, domestic activities, and fine arts. It is a well-known fact that the Missouri State Fair plays an essential role in keeping agriculture one of our state's top industries.

Traditionally the Missouri State Fair has provided visitors with concerts from some of music's biggest stars, exciting rodeo action and sit on the edge of your seat bullriding, a wide variety of our state's farm animals, numerous contests for participants of all ages, as well as informational exhibits. Thrill seekers can also visit the exciting carnival midway, and of course, there is never a shortage of fair favorites — corndogs, funnel cakes, and cotton candy.

Beyond the historical and traditional elements of the fair, this annual state event provides entertainment for family members of all ages. And with the increasing price of gas and other every-day necessities, the Missouri State Fair is an affordable entertainment option. Visitors will see the savings reflected in the fair's prices, promotions, and shows.

Dollar Day (Aug. 7 – Opening Day) allows adults to enjoy the fair for only \$1 admission; children age 12 and under are admitted free every day; and parking is free every day as well. Dollar Day will also feature \$1 specials throughout the fairgrounds. Half-Price Day (Aug. 17 – Closing Day) allows adults to purchase a ticket for only \$4. The fair has also added a new \$5 after 5 p.m. admission promotion every day throughout the eleven-day event. Regular daily senior admission tickets have been decreased to just \$6.

The state fair this year includes a lineup of free entertainment shows featuring the Amazing Anastasini Circus, ShananiGuns! Wild West Comedy, and the Cannon Lady. More strolling entertainers will also be seen throughout the grounds, including The Fritters, Fireman Chuck, Turbo the Robot, and Dale Jones — comedian and one-handed juggler.

Another family value is the free Kids' Zone, which has been added to the grounds this year and will feature family-friendly entertainment, including professional shows and special contests for children daily. Also new this year is the IGX: Interactive Game Experience, which will allow guests to play a variety of the latest video games for free.

It takes dedication, cooperation, and thousands of responsible individuals to organize and operate the mecca known as the Missouri State Fair. I urge you to plan your visit to the state fair this summer. Help support one of our state's oldest summertime events and see the remarkable, rich tradition unfold for yourself.

If you have questions or comments about the Missouri State Fair, you can visit the official Web site at www.mostatefair.com. And if you have a question or comment about another issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.mo.gov.

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

