



## Fair Time A Great Opportunity for Old-Fashioned Fun

JEFFERSON CITY — Local county fairs and the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia are annual summer traditions that I hope you and your family will be able to take in and enjoy this summer. They include some good old-fashioned fun and are an affordable and entertaining activity that the whole family can enjoy.

Next week, the St. Charles County Fair begins on July 28 and runs through Aug. 1 in Wentzville. As usual, the fair will feature top-notch entertainment, 4-H project and livestock judging, great fair food, and new this year— bull riding, a catch-and-release Kids Fishing Derby, and *Mad Science* — innovative science-related shows tailored for kids. Families will also want to take advantage of free carnival rides each evening from Tuesday through Saturday.

In addition, the fair features an array of other fun family-oriented activities, including the ever-popular pony rides, a climbing wall, mini rod pull, queen coronation, karaoke, the Little Mr. and Miss St. Charles County Fair Contest, DockDogs competition, an exotic petting zoo, pig scramble, kids' pedal pull, nostalgic car show, frog and turtle races, a Super Farmer "He-Man" competition, garden tractor pull, out of field tractor pull and factory stock truck pull, demolition derby, and lots of good musical entertainment.

Admission to the St. Charles County Fair is \$10 (Tuesday through Thursday) and \$15 (Friday-Saturday) for adults, \$5 for children ages 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under. Wednesday, July 29, is Senior Citizens Day, and seniors 60 years and old will be admitted at a reduced price of \$5.

While the county fair is definitely a fun time for kids, many 4-Hers work very hard to bring their projects and livestock to the fair. So, if you have never witnessed the inspiring work of our local 4-H groups, I encourage you to head for the livestock barns and 4-H buildings as soon as you arrive at the fair.

Similarly, the Lincoln County Fair, which concluded on July 18, also featured a vast array of impressive 4-H projects, a good variety of family-oriented activities, and proved to be a great success.

While some of us take in our local county fairs, it's also worth a trip to Sedalia to visit the Missouri State Fair, which runs from Aug. 13-23. This year's theme is "MOre Fun than Ever!"

Admission to the State Fair is very affordable with plenty to do. The 11-day event will feature a circus under the big top, a Wild West Show, a unique rainforest act and concert headliners, including a free concert by the legendary rock group *Kansas*. The fair also features hundreds of free demonstrations and exhibits highlighting agriculture innovation, green initiatives and timely consumer topics. And, of course, what is a state fair without a giant carnival midway, 4-H judging, livestock barns, and more delicious fair food that you can possibly eat.

A regular daily adult admission ticket is \$8, a senior admission is \$6, and children 12 and under are free; parking is also free. On opening day, adult admission is \$1. Tickets can be purchased for a savings of \$2 through Aug. 12 at certain gas stations, auto parts stores and farm and home stores across the state.

For more information on the state fair, visit their web site at [www.mostatefair.com](http://www.mostatefair.com).

Fair season is in full swing and for many of us it creates some great summer memories. I hope you and your family will be able to enjoy one of our best local traditions by taking in a day at the fair.

As always, if you have any questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by phone at (866) 271-2844.

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