

Week of August 9, 2010



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Take a Trip to the Missouri State Fair

Growing up in the Show-Me State, I have many great memories of the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia. My father, Clarence Pearce, served as the local FFA advisor, and our chapter was in charge of the FFA Children’s Barnyard at the fair. So each summer, my father would take my older brother and me to the fairgrounds to help the older FFA members with the barnyard. I remember how much I looked forward to the end of summer, just so I could spend time at the state fair. There was so much to see and do! To this day, I try to make a trip to Sedalia during the fair to relive some of my childhood memories.

The Missouri State Fair is one of the most time-honored traditions in our state, and it dates back to 1901. In those days, the fair was mostly agricultural and livestock exhibits. Though quite a bit has changed, our state’s proud agricultural heritage and the spirit of competition are still the pillars of the state fair, and the activities and events embody our farming history, present and future. Hundreds of thousands of visitors each year come from across the state to enjoy the top-notch exhibits and friendly competition, as well as shows, music, and of course, delicious food.

The fun kicks off this week at the state fairgrounds in Sedalia. From August 12–22, Missourians will gather at the Missouri State Fair for excellent entertainment (much of it free), carnival games and rides, and a celebration of one of Missouri’s top industries—agriculture. The fair’s annual success and popularity is evidence of the strength of agriculture and agri-business in our state, and this year’s theme, “Growing Great Memories,” reflects the fair’s deep-rooted history in farming.

Some highlights of this year’s fair include an opening day ceremony and parade, the Missouri State Fair Queen Coronation, a Science Street Fair, rodeos, a Military

Appreciation Ceremony, motorcross events, a Show-Me Robots competition, a truck and tractor pull, the Missouri First Lady's Pie Contest (a new event this year), the midway carnival, and much more.

Campground renovations for the 2010 Missouri State Fair will make the grounds more comfortable for those interested in spending the night, as new electrical, water and sanitary sewer utility hook-ups for 36 recreational vehicle sites have been added. Also new this year is the I-Land Internet Service Cyber Café, which includes four high-speed stations, starting at just \$5.

I hope you and your family make the trip to Sedalia this year to enjoy all the fun and activities the state fair has to offer. Single day adult tickets are just \$8, children ages 6-12 are \$2, children age 5 and under are free, and seniors (age 60 and over) are \$6. The fair also has special discount and promotion days to make it even more affordable for visitors, including a free admission day on Aug. 15 for active military and veterans (admission for their immediate family members is just \$1). For more information about this year's Missouri State fair, go to www.mostatefair.com.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office with your questions or concerns at any time. We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestions and trying to answer any questions you may have. You can reach us by phone at 866-277-0882 (toll-free) or 573-751-2272, or by fax at 573-526-7381.

Senator David Pearce serves Bates, Cass, Johnson and Vernon counties in the 31st State Senatorial District.

Contact Information

Capitol Office
State Capitol Building
Room 419
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Website:
<http://www.senate.mo.gov/pearce>

Phone Number:
866.277.0882 (toll-free)
573.751.2272

Fax:
573.526.7381