



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY
65102

As this year marks the 200th anniversary of Missouri's entry as the 24th state in Union, the theme of the 2021 Missouri State Fair is "Our Missouri Celebration" – a perfect tribute to our bicentennial.

Looking back at 200 years of statehood, we remember all of the hard-working agriculturalists who have cultivated Missouri into what it is today. The first Missourians broke land, tilled fields, and planted roots as they settled across the state. Eighty years later, after recognizing the importance agriculture plays in the state, the Missouri State Fair was born.

Nearly 30,000 exhibits are showcased at the Fair every year, including everything from livestock and produce to quilts and tractors. Whether this is your first year or you are a seasoned exhibitor, we would like to personally welcome you to the Missouri State Fair.

Nothing is richer in history and tradition than the Missouri State Fair. Fair food on opening day, concerts, rodeos, truck and tractor pulls, and showcasing your agricultural exhibits – these are the traditions that make the Fair so memorable.

Over the years, the Missouri State Fair has grown to incorporate carnival rides, concerts, and many other activities, but at the heart of every Missouri State Fair is the families who bring their history and traditions with them. From camping at the fairgrounds to eating at your favorite place, Missouri families are what make the Missouri State Fair so special. We grew up going to the Missouri State Fair, and today we bring our children and grandchildren to the Fair.

The Missouri State Fair is always a great reminder that Missouri agriculturalists are truly providing for the world. Valued at \$88.4 billion annually, Missouri agriculture is our state's number one economic driver. As fellow farmers, we both understand that hard work, determination, and family values are so important to farming today.

We have an incredible team working at the Fair on your behalf. We are so proud of each of them, including Director of Agriculture Chris Chinn and Missouri State Fair Director Mark Wolfe. As a team, our goal is to invest in you – the next generation of Missouri agriculture. Their time and investments in the Missouri State Fair help keep this incredible tradition alive.

After nearly 120 years of the Fair, Missouri is still celebrating the premium crops and livestock produced in our state. During this bicentennial year, we can't help but think of the role that Missouri agriculturalists have always had in making Missouri the great state that it is. Missouri was built by farmers and agriculturalists like yourselves who were willing to put in hard work and effort. Missouri FFA and 4-H members embody those values, and as Governor and First Lady, there is nothing that makes us prouder than meeting our young agriculture leaders.

History is being written every day, and we are so grateful that exhibitors like you continue to contribute to the history and tradition of the state of Missouri. Your hard work and dedication to the agriculture industry is so vital and will always be needed.

Thank you for your efforts that continue to make agriculture Missouri's number one industry and the Missouri State Fair the state's top agricultural showcase.

Governor Mike Parson & First Lady Teresa Parson