

# Welcome to the 2008 Monroe County Fair!

## Monroe County Fair 1838 - 2008

The first known meeting to organize the Monroe County Fair was in 1837 and the fair held in the fall of 1838. It was located on Marion Street, just east of the J. C. Fox home.

On July 27, 1879, citizens met to reorganize the fair association and said association was incorporated in 1880. On August 21, 1888, Charles and Sallie Pelsue deeded the fairgrounds to the Monroe County Fair. Fearing that the grounds might someday fall into private hands, the fair association deeded the property but reserved easement to continue the fair or public exhibitions to the City of Paris on January 29, 1916.

## Kentucky Day ~ Monroe County Day

"Big Thursday" of the fair was traditionally called Monroe County Day and was the largest attended day at the fair in the early 1900s. Also instituted was "Kentucky Day" where fairgoers who were born in Kentucky wore special badges to denote their birth state. Only in dear old Monroe County, Missouri do you find such a fondness for our Kentucky roots and this has been exemplified in the rich tradition at the fairgrounds.

## Oh, What A Fair It Was!

In the late 1800s and early 1900s the fairgrounds sported up to 6 barns that held livestock, the Floral Hall, and the Agricultural Hall. Crowds were immense and carts transported fairgoers from Paris proper to the fairgrounds. In the early 1900s the financial budget for the fair equaled the amount spent today. Bands, gymnastic groups, and other entertainments that appeared at the Missouri State Fair and other large events were regularly hired for the Monroe County Fair.

## Mission of the Monroe County Fair

Hugh E. McGee, former secretary of the fair, wrote in 1884: "The object of this association is to enhance the prosperity of our county; develop agricultural, mechanical, scientific and domestic departments; create a spirit of honorable rivalry, and cultivate a general taste for high excellence in all the varied pursuits of noble citizenship."

Today the mission of the Monroe County Fair reads: "To hold an annual fair in the City of Paris, Missouri, in connection with other amusement features. To hold and conduct agricultural exhibitions, fairs, horse and cattle shows, and other forms of entertainment for the citizens of the City of Paris, and the citizens of the County of Monroe, and surrounding area . . . devoted to the purpose of providing recreation for the general public."

## Monroe County Fair

c/o Monroe County Extension, 208 North Main, Paris, MO 65275

Phone 660-327-4158 Fax 660-327-1376

[www.farmmom.com/fair](http://www.farmmom.com/fair)

[www.myspace.com/monroecountymofair](http://www.myspace.com/monroecountymofair)

[monroecountyfair@gmail.com](mailto:monroecountyfair@gmail.com)

## Kentucky Day

Saturday, July 19, 2008

Opening Ceremony

11:00 a.m.

*Celebrate Our Kentucky Heritage!*

Sponsored by  
Monroe County Historical Society

## Military Day

Sunday, July 20, 2008



Sponsored by  
Missouri National Guard

## Family Day

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

CHILD ID  
POPCORN

Sponsored by  
Girls Scouts & Boy Scouts