Sept. 9, 1901

*This Date in Missouri Senate History*

On *This Date in Missouri Senate History*, the date was Sept. 9, 1901, the day the first Missouri State Fair was held.

Approximately a half century before this day, Missouri’s Agricultural Society attempted a livestock exhibition in Boonville, but this only lasted three years.

The annual meeting of the Missouri Swine Breeders Association, in 1897, asked lawmakers to make a state fair a reality. The governor would agree with this request. In 1899, a state representative introduced the bill that would establish Missouri’s fair.

It would be up to the State Board of Agriculture to determine a final site, after Centralia, Chillicothe, Marshall, Mexico, Moberly and Sedalia asked to be the home of the fair.

Ironically, the owners of the land originally in contention for the state Capitol won the bid to host the state fair.

The following year, lawmakers would appropriate $15,000 to establish the site. A year later, the amount would be $50,000, with money also used for new buildings there.

The first Missouri State Fair only lasted five days.

In later years, the fair would be moved from September to August, in order to be finished in time for children to be back in school.

September 9, 1901, the date marking beginning of the first Missouri State Fair, on *This Date in Missouri Senate History*.

(Sources: [Missouri State Fair history](http://www.mostatefair.com/fair-history/), *Journal of the Missouri Senate*)