



WELCOME



from the COMMISSIONER

Dear Fairgoer:

For more than 160 years, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture has been promoting agriculture through fairs and exhibitions. This ongoing partnership with fairs across our state is one that is important to farmers and the public. The Tennessee State Fair is symbolic of our dedication to this mission and we are proud of our long-term relationship with the event.

"A Tennessee Tradition" is this year's theme. From Sept. 9 until Sept. 18, the fair will showcase Tennessee's farmers, livestock, crops, artisans, entertainers and more. I hope it is your tradition to be a part of the State Fair as a loyal visitor, volunteer, competitor or exhibitor. We will experience the best that Tennessee has to offer in our beautiful capital city of Nashville.

Agriculture has a \$75 billion impact on our economy and employs more than 350,000 Tennesseans. Our wholesome food and fiber originates from our farms and forests, and you cannot put a true value on the beauty of our landscape and the quality of life that we all enjoy. Fairs highlight those assets and I encourage you to join with me to appreciate our rural heritage.

The Tennessee State Fair and Exposition Commission has designated the Tennessee State Fair Association as operator through 2018 in recognition of their commitment to host a statewide event to emphasize the best of our agriculture, education and history.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture is proud to support the Tennessee State Fair and more than 60 county and regional fairs statewide.

I hope you will join me for a wonderful and fun-filled time at the fair.

Best regards,

Commissioner Jai Templeton
Tennessee Department of Agriculture

