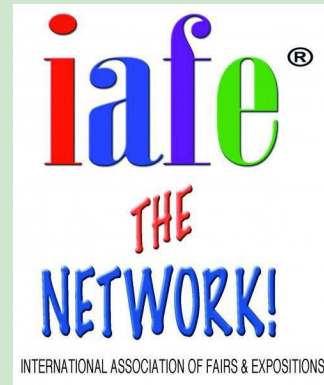




MAAF NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE
2022

Issue #4



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE by BARRY W. NORRIS

Thank you again for attending our annual conference in March. There were some new, and, at times, confusing moments during the weekend, but we all figured it out and had a great time in the process. Thank you so much for taking the time to complete the survey! Your responses have been very helpful as the MAAF board works towards planning the 2023 MAAF conference.



Speaking of the conference, here are some interesting facts about our time together in Portland. There were 185 rooms reserved - all of our fairs were together under one roof! 420 dinners were served, hot and delicious, by servers who entered the banquet room from 5 different vantage points. 52 auction items plus our 50/50 raffle (thanks to Katie, Mark, Kathy and Mel) raised \$5,079.75 for the MAAF Foundation. The Marketplace welcomed in 7 new associate members to join with 27 returning associate members! The associate member traveling the farthest to attend our conference was Freddie Prez from California, and the fair members traveling the farthest were Lynwood and Jessica Winslow joining us from Presque Isle. 25 fairs were represented along with one non-Maine fair (Massachusetts).

We offered six informational meetings and six meetings for affiliate groups. Six of our corporate sponsors from previous conferences stepped up again to help and were joined by one new sponsor. Joining us this year were two amazing Maine food trucks! When you see Pinky D's and Fat Guys at your local fair this summer, make sure to stop in and thank them for coming out in the rain and snow to serve up some delicious "Fair Food."

The sports wagering legislation is headed to the Governor's desk as you read this, and we are hopeful that it will be signed into law. The funds generated from this bill will greatly assist MAAF in making our future conferences even better.

A reminder that you should have sent to Missy Jordan your fair dates for the three upcoming years. This is important business and needs to be done ASAP!

You may have heard that there are two fairs who have decided to withdraw from the fair list. Maine Farm Days has left due to an increasing business load and family commitments, while Bangor State Fair has decided not to have an agricultural component in their event. Please support the 4-H Youth from Penobscot County as they are currently using last year's venue. More in the next newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you this summer at the fairs, and encourage you to participate in our MAAF 2022 Fair Challenge, "Create an Experience: Maine Grows!"



Thank you Pinky D's!



Thank you Fat Guys!

MAAF BOARD MEMBER UPDATE



Shortly after our 2022 MAAF conference, newly installed President Mike Timmons notified the MAAF board that he would be stepping down as President. In the letter that he sent to the board, Mike mentioned "conflicts of interest" and "medical issues" as contributing to his decision.



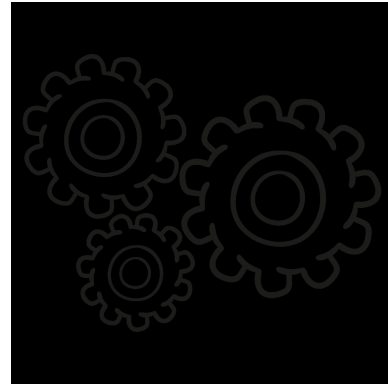
G. David Byras, Jr., the former 1st VP, is serving as President. Following the MAAF by-laws, David became the MAAF President. The executive board members are: David as President, Garrett Lambert as 1st VP and Darcy Winslow will be filling the position of 2nd VP. We wish Mike all the best and thank him for the many years that he worked with MAAF.

FAIR PRESIDENTS MEETING

WITH THE MAAF BOARD

Over the past few years, the MAAF board has invited all fair presidents to attend the next monthly board meeting following the MAAF conference to review and reflect on the annual conference. This year, ten fairs joined the board at their April meeting - eight in person and two via Webex. The fairs were from all across the state and represented small, mid sized, and large Maine fairs.

The fair representatives shared their feelings about the 2022 conference as well as suggestions for the 2023 conference. Among the topics discussed were : rooms, meals - breakfast, banquet and food trucks, facility location and layout, speakers, parking, Ment-A-Minute, scheduling conflicts, and entertainment. There was strong support for coffee during the banquet



MAAF thanks those fairs represented for their feedback, and the conference committee will work to address any concerns/suggestions that were brought forward.

MDACF FAIR EVALUATORS FOR THE 2022 FAIR SEASON

Fair evaluators - there are five - are hard working, conscientious men and women who travel to all of our Maine fairs beginning in June and ending the first week in October. Each evaluator comes from a background of involvement in Maine fairs, and in some cases have served as a department superintendent for their home fair. Working with Missy Jordan, they meet prior to the fair season to review and revise the fair evaluation form. Discussions involve: clarification of specific areas that are listed in the form, the importance of meeting with fair officials during the evaluation visit, and notifying (if possible) each fair when the evaluator intends to be on the fairgrounds. This impartial feedback - both in person and in the comment sections - from this form and visit should help to inform and guide fairs as they plan their events. *

Please note: Each fair evaluator should receive a fair schedule and other promotional materials from the fairs they are to evaluate. Receiving these materials prior to the visit helps the evaluator to be aware of special times, programs, etc that a fair might wish to be seen.

* This fair season Roger Hoffses, and his wife Gail, have retired after many years of evaluating our fairs. If you see them at your fair, please introduce yourself and thank them for their hard work helping all our fairs. To learn all about Roger and his years working with his home fair - Northern Maine Fair - as well as MAAF and fairs across the Maine, please read our feature article, "These Shoes Will Be Hard To Fill."

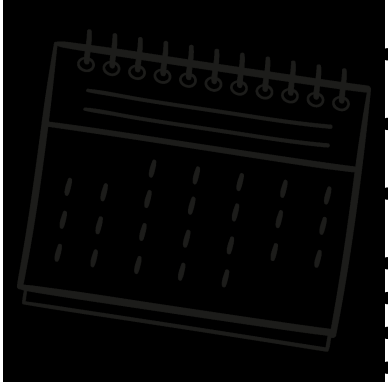
The 2022 MDACF fair evaluators, and their home fairs, are: Rayma Ashby (Litchfield), Linda Baker (Topsham), Erik Fitch (Blue Hill), Bill Jones (Ossipee) and Junia Norris (Union).

MAY & JUNE EVENTS OCCURING AT MAINE FAIRGROUNDS

Up to the minute information can be found on the [MAAF](#) website!

MAY:

- May 6-8 - Eastern Maine Agility and Dog Show,



- Skowhegan Fair
- May 13-15 - The Maine Event Spring Premier Horse Show, Skowhegan Fair
- May 13-14 - Knox-Lincoln Soil and Water Plant Sale, Union Fair
- May 14-15 - Women's Chainsaw Safety Workshop, MOFGA, Unity
- May 21 - Maine 4X4 Mud Festival, Pittston Fair
- May 21 - Car Show, Union Fair
- May 27-30 -MQHA Pine Tree Classic, Skowhegan Fair
- May 28 - Goat Show, Windsor Fair

JUNE & EARLY JULY:

- June 2 - American Public Works Show, Skowhegan Fair
- June 3 - Fiber Frolic, Windsor Fair
- June 4-5 - Celebration of 150 Cumberland Fairs, Cumberland Fair
- June 4 Antique Power Show, Skowhegan Fair Cornhole Tournament
- June 10-12 - Barrel Racing, Windsor Fair
- June 17-19 - Spring Draft Horse Pull, Windsor Fair
- June 17-18 - Monster Trucks Return, Topsham Fair
- June 17-19 - The Maine Event: Blue Ribbon BBQ, Skowhegan Fair
- June 22-25 - Monmouth Fair - featuring Motor Booty Affair.
- June 24-26 - Central Maine BBQ Cookoff, Skowhegan Fair

MHA Downeast Horse

- June 25 - Bonus Demolition Derby and Cornhole Tournament, Springfield Fair
- July 1-4 - Houlton Fair
- July 7-10 - Ossipee Valley Fair

Bring the kids for "Touch a Truck"

Bring your "stuff" to sell (\$10 entry fee)

Union Fair
6th Annual

CAR SHOW

Trophies, Raffle, \$100 Best of Show, Music, Food

May 21, 2022
Rain date May 22

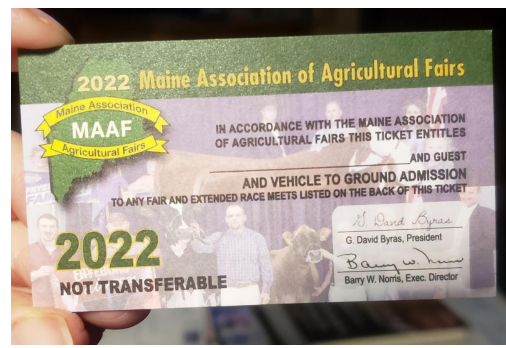
Registration \$10 (includes driver + 1) – 8-10am
Spectator Admission \$5 (under 12 Free) – 10am–1pm
Spectator Voting 10am-noon with Awards at 1pm

Proceeds support Medomak Valley HS, Agriculture Education, and the Union Fairground

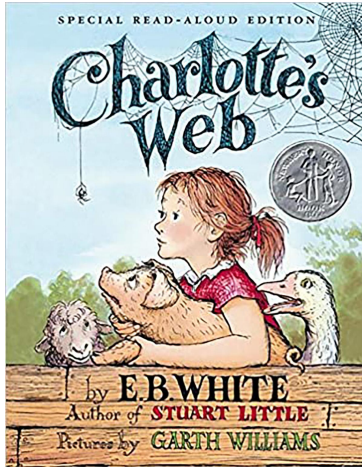
The Car Show will be at the Union Fairground – Just off Maine Rte 17
FMI: Contact Mike or Sarah at 207-470-7401 or mike.drickey@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook at Union Fair / The Maine Wild Blueberry Festival

**PURCHASE A 2022
MAINE STATE FAIR PASS**

Acting on a vote taken by the fair presidents during their annual conference breakfast meeting, the MAAF board is announcing the opportunity for interested persons to purchase a 2022 Maine State Fair Pass. The purchase price is \$200, and there will be 100 passes offered. Look for a special notice from the MAAF as to the exact date (third week in May), and how to access the online address and any other specifics that you will need to take advantage of this unique opportunity.



CHARLOTTE'S WEB AT BLUE HILL FAIR



Blue Hill Fair is creating a delightful museum themed around the E.B. White children's book "Charlotte's Web." Mark your calendar to be at the Blue Hill Fair September 1-5 where you will be able to visit Zuckerman's farm with Wilbur, Charlotte and, perhaps, Templeton! More specifics to come in the next newsletter.

CUMBERLAND FAIR'S 150TH!

CUMBERLAND FARMERS CLUB

150TH FAIR



CUMBERLAND, ME

AMBASSADORS FOR AGRICULTURE
PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE

150th Celebration – June 4th and 5th, 2022

Cumberland Fair 150th Schedule

ALL TIMES ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SATURDAY SCHEDULE	SUNDAY SCHEDULE
GATES OPEN: 8:30 – 8:00	GATES OPEN: 8:30 – 2:00
<p>9:00 Opening Ceremony with special guests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graci Gillen sings God Bless America <p>Museum, Sugarhouse, Hall John Deere Store open all day, Antique Engine Club Show, Horse Carriage rides Tractor display, 4H animal events, Food trucks, church booths</p> <p>9:30 Sawmill Display. Kids Pedal Tractor Pull</p> <p>10:00 – 2:00 Old Time Fair Games (lots of games for kids and adults including 3 legged races, egg races)</p> <p>10:00 Firemen’s Muster Demo</p> <p>10:30 Ox & Horse Plow Demo</p> <p>11:00 Blacksmith Demo</p> <p>11:30 Old Style Ox & Horse Pull Demo</p> <p>Lunch Time Music – Port City Sound</p> <p>12:00 – 3:00 Old Time Baseball Game Lisbon Tunnelmen of Connecticut vs. Dirigo Base Ball Club of Maine. Legendary baseball voice Mort Soule kicks off the game. Player meet & greet after.</p> <p>1:00 – 3:00 Lumberjack Demos (ax throw, speed chop, super chain saw and more)</p> <p>1:30 Ox & Horse Plow Demo</p> <p>2:00 Saw Mill Display</p> <p>2:30 Blacksmith Demo</p> <p>2:30 Harness Racing</p> <p>3:00 Old Style Ox & Horse Pull</p> <p>4:00 Get Your Dinner and Dessert in before the dance!!!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sylvester’s Fish & Chips • Pinky D’s Poutine • Cheese the Day • West Cumberland Methodist Church <p>5:00 – 8:00 Ole Country Music Dance – all new Beaver Trap & The Pelts - Pulling Arena</p>	<p>8:30 – 9:30 Sugarhouse Flapjack breakfast</p> <p>Museum & Sugarhouse open all day, Antique Engine Club Show, Horse Carriage rides Tractor display, 4H animal event, Fair food trucks, Church booths</p> <p>9:00 Sawmill Display</p> <p>9:00 Kids Pedal Tractor Pull</p> <p>9:00 – 12:00 Old Time Fair Games (lots of games for kids and adults including 3 legged races, egg races,</p> <p>9:00 – 1:00 Antique Auto Show (pre-1960)</p> <p>10:00 Ox and Horse Plow Demo</p> <p>10:30 Blacksmith Demo</p> <p>11:00 Old Style Ox & Horse Pull</p> <p>11:00 Saw Mill Display</p> <p>Lunch Time Music – Jerks of Grass or Royal River Quartet</p> <p>1:00 Blacksmith Demo & Sawmill Display</p>

THESE SHOES WILL BE HARD TO FILL ROGER HOFFSES - NORTHERN MAINE FAIR

“I like to work for the public and I like to work for the community.” “Anyone who doesn’t do volunteer work is missing out. It’s an awful lot of fun and a way to give back to my community,”....and Roger Hoffses certainly has had his share of fun for close to 40 years at the Northern Maine Fair!

For many years, Roger has been a welcoming figure at the fair. His long time friend, Bill Smythe, recognizing what an asset Roger would be for the fair, invited him to become a board member. Since joining the NMF board, Roger has been involved in all aspects of the fair. His responsibilities have included, but were not limited to, superintendent of the grounds, midway, fireworks, 50/50 tickets, horse racing and so much more. During his time on the board, Roger entered as a board member, then later served as fair vice president and ultimately president of the Northern Maine Fair. He also was elected a member of the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs.



More recently, Roger was known to travel from his winter home in Zephyrhills, Florida, to the winter MAAF annual conference where he could be found at the 50/50 ticket table with his longtime friends Mark and Katie Damren. Initially begun as an MAAF fundraiser, the 50/50 raffle became the cornerstone of the MAAF scholarship program. Roger was thrilled when his grandsons, Caleb and Jacob Buck were chosen as recipients in the early days of the scholarship program. After graduating from college, the Buck brothers partnered with Buck Farms, and in 2015 opened the doors of The Maine Malt House. Their highly successful business plan has been able to provide the unique flavors of the Aroostook growing region to local breweries and distilleries.

Roger has always been working to make the fair better... "I'm very excited about the fair. The fair does an awful lot for the city of Presque Isle and Aroostook County." Working closely with his good friend, Ray Lamoreau, Roger spearheaded a campaign to raise money to build the fair's Agricultural Heritage Building, which serves as a museum and educational center. Roger has shared his enthusiasm for, and commitment to, the fair community with his family. His daughter, Lauri, and husband, Bruce, served as leaders in the 4-H Baby Beef program for many years, and his four grandsons were involved at the fair in showing cattle. Sons, Scott and Karl, and daughter, Lisa, round out the Hoffses family, as well as eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Roger and his wife, Gayle, were selected by the Maine Department of Agriculture to serve as Maine fair evaluators. Over the past several years they have traveled to most of Maine's 25 agricultural fairs, and made many close friends along the way.

As the 2022 fair season is set to open, and the Northern Maine Fair puts the final touches on its preparations for this year, Lynwood Winslow, NMF President, reflected back on the many years of volunteer service that Roger Hoffses has given to the fair. "Roger Hoffses has an amazing passion for agricultural fairs, and especially for the Northern Maine Fair. He has dedicated a big part of his life to this passion and is well known across the state for it. His tireless work ethic and his vision for the organization has kept Northern Maine Fair going through some difficult years! Whether he is negotiating with a carnival provider, leading a major construction project, or repairing fences, Roger can usually be found somewhere on the fairgrounds. I am thankful for his decades of service that will help to preserve the Northern Maine Fair for years to come."

BANGOR FAIR - NO MORE AGRICULTURE

This article ran in the Bangor Daily News on April 1, 2022 and is written by Julia Bayly.

When the Bangor State Fair returns this summer there will be some notable absences. Namely, the barns that normally house the livestock and 4H animal exhibits will be gone.

The land on which the fair takes place includes city-owned Bass Park. The barns and other buildings associated with the fair's livestock exhibits are being torn down due to their age and condition, according to Tracy Willette, director of Bangor Parks and Recreation. The buildings were still standing as of Thursday.

"The city's engineering department had an independent assessor come in to look at the condition of the barns," Willette said. "They had fallen into some disrepair and the assessment came back that it would be a significant investment to make them safe and the ultimate decision was made to demolish the existing buildings."

The Bangor State Fair, first held in 1849, is one of the country's oldest state fairs. It's unclear what removing the barns and other buildings mean for the 4H exhibits and other agriculture shows typically held there each year, or what effect losing those events would have on the event's future status as a state fair.

Leaders of 4H animal programs in Penobscot County learned about a month ago that

the fair was scrapping the livestock shows and exhibits, according to Sheila Norman, University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4H professional in Penobscot and Piscataquis counties.

“I was told in a conversation on the phone,” Norman said. “It means we will need to find new ways for the kids to show their learning and what they are doing in their projects.”

Norman said she was told of the decision by Anthony Vail, general manager of Cross Insurance Center, which hosts the annual fair.

Vail did not return requests for comment.

For now, the event remains a fair as it is in the final year of a three-year fair license, according to Jim Britt, spokesperson for the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

The city is considering allowing the 4H participants to put up temporary structures for the duration of the fair, according to Willette.

“That could still happen,” Willette said.

A local 4H club leader said they have been told to get anything they own out of the barns. They have also been told to remove a club-owned building from the site.

It’s a blow after two years of pandemic-curtailed 4H activities, according to Corinna Caron, leader for the Penobscot County 4H Livestock Club.

Normally 4H participants show and sell their livestock at state fairs. When COVID-19 halted those activities in 2020 and 2021, Caron hosted events on her family’s Casa Cattle Co. farm in Corinna.

Caron said she and the other 4H participants were looking forward to things getting back to normal this year with the excitement and exposure that comes with showing at a state fair.

“The state fair is our Penobscot County showcase for the kids’ market animals like cattle, dairy, sheep, goats and horses,” Caron said. “Our farm has hosted an option for our kids to sell their animals and we invited buyers and all the players to hold the show and sale in our barn.”

Caron said the move also shows a disconnect between city officials and the state’s agricultural traditions.

“All of these 4H kids have a real passion,” Caron said. “Every kid who takes part can educate people on where food comes from and a few of those kids will take this passion and carry it on to raising that food.”

Families participating in the 4H programs learned of the cancellation of livestock exhibits well after they had purchased their animals for the year. Most get the animals in late summer or early fall and are now raising them.

Norman said the decision affects about 40 4H participants.

According to its website, the Bangor State Fair is “an agricultural and recreational gathering” and is licensed as an agricultural fair by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. No specific information about the 2022 fair is included on the website.

SCENES FROM THE FRYEBURG YOUTH SHOW



To see more photos from the Fryeburg Youth Show, go to the [MAAF Facebook page](#).

2022 MAAF SCHOLARSHIP

Here is the [2022 MAAF Scholarship Application](#). Please mail completed applications by April 29th, 2022 to: MAAF Scholarship Application Committee Chair Hope Ricker, 8 Caston Road, Pittston, ME 04047, or email completed application to Hope at hersec96@aol.com

ANNOUNCING - 2022 MAAF CONTEST! “CREATING AN EXPERIENCE: MAINE GROWS” DETAILS

Category 1 – Agricultural experiences designed for **CHILDREN**. These experiences will include information, demonstrations, and hands on activities which introduce children to Maine agriculture.

Category 2 - Agricultural experiences for **ALL FAIRGOERS** that educate fairgoers about Maine’s agriculture. This can be a one day program or on going throughout your fair.

Division 1: Fairs operating for four concurrent days or less.

Division 2: Fairs operating for five concurrent days or more.

2022 MAAF Agricultural Award Judges are:

Kayla Bess, Sales and Marketing Manager, *Maine Grains*
Maine Grains, located in Skowhegan, is creating jobs, improving land use and providing healthy food for all while serving as a successful model for thriving local economies. They manufacture locally grown stone-milled grains, a staple in the human diet. kayla@mainegrains.com

Aaron Englander, Farm Program Coordinator, Erickson Fields
Erickson Fields Preserve located in Rockport, Maine, is, among other things, home to the Teen Ag Program, where local high school students work planting, harvesting and distributing food to local hunger relief organizations. It also includes a community garden and Kids Can Grow, a program that teaches families about backyard gardening.
aenglander@mcht.org

Jeannie M. Tapley, Director of Operations, Maine Potato Board
The mission of the Maine Potato Board is to provide a competitive environment for Maine potato growers, processors and dealers while promoting the economic importance to the state and quality of the product. You may be familiar with Spuddy, their mascot, who is the star of their children's informational booklet about Maine potatoes.
jtapley@mainepotatoes.com

MAAF Award Application:

Please include the following five elements:

1. A brief description of your event(s) and the connection to Maine agriculture. *Specifically, *Maine Grows*
2. Who was involved in the planning process? – i.e. individuals, community organizations, agencies, businesses, sponsors, etc. – and the roles they played
3. What challenges did you face and how did you address them?
4. How did the public react to your event? – i.e. personal feedback, hits on your website, survey monkey results, photos of interaction during your event
5. How was your event promoted? – i.e. newspapers, social media, posters, school and promotional programs prior to the event, etc.

*Each element will be evaluated on a scale of 1 – 4

1 = No evidence presented

2 = Minimal evidence of involvement presented

3 = Evidence of involvement is presented

4 = Evidence of involvement is thorough and comprehensive

Mail applications to: MAAF, P.O. Box 3, Union, ME 04862

Applications must be received by Friday, November 4, 2022.

*For further information, contact Barry W. Norris,
barrywnorrismainefairs@gmail.com

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