



# MAAF Newsletter



Issue 3

Nov. 1, 2019

## **President's Message: Kathryn Hunter**

It's always a little hard to say goodbye to our Fair Season. I'd like to thank our extremely loyal visitors and guests who walked through our gates in the blazing heat, the pouring rain, or on a simply gorgeous Autumn day. We appreciate your kind support.

It's now time to turn our focus to our January Conference. Please join us for some educational discussions, interesting vendor displays, great music and comedy, and a chance to share stories and laughter together! Be sure to invite your Fair Queens and Princesses! We are always honored to recognize and welcome them to our banquet.

Farewell 2019 - Hello 2020 - a year to celebrate the 200th birthday of the great State of Maine!!

**Our amazing Maine fairs had many highlights this year. In this issue, we are sharing the 2019 observations from a team of former and current MDACF evaluators. Enjoy!**

### **June and July Fairs**

**Monmouth 6/13-15:** Twisted Roots 4X4 truck climb was spectacular. A new event with large crowds. Tara and Matthew from Can Ya Catch Me Kennel brought Jack, Mingo, Lance and Kipsi from midcoast Maine for a very popular sled dog demonstration. This was unique and showed strong fair support for this thrilling sport.

**Northern Maine 6/28 - 7/3:** "How Did That Get Into My Lunchbox?" display provided excellent information to fairgoers about nutrition and making healthy food choices. The exhibition hall section for fairgoers with special needs to display their handiwork was so well done !

**Houlton 7/4 - 7/7:** The diversity of cooking competitions at the Houlton Fair is impressive. All age involvement and numerous unusual ingredients make for an extremely enjoyable and informational competition that yields interesting and tasty products.

**Ossipee Valley 7/11 - 14:** Families from all over Maine and New Hampshire were treated to so many outstanding livestock exhibitors this year. The weather was perfect, and the Ossipee crew welcomed everyone with grounds in excellent condition!

**Waterford World's Fair 7/19 - 21:** The pollinator display and bee presentation were excellent. Despite very warm weather, Waterford showcased some outstanding exhibits that brought an enthusiastic crowd to the fairgrounds.

**Pittston 7/25 - 28:** Pittston's exhibition hall was well attended with significant community involvement evident in numerous exhibits. Voting on dolls and exhibits by fairgoers adds to the enjoyment and understanding of the many displays.

### **August Fairs**

**Topsham 8/6 - 11 :** At Topsham their Round Bale Decorating Contest combined both agriculture and art. Each one was very well done and creative. Also the Information Booth is very helpful. They know everything. It is one of the first things you see upon entering the fair.

**Skowhegan 8/8 - 17:** The poultry barn increased their educational materials, and added a raffle that provided funds for poultry education. Bird fanciers of all ages were available to answer questions.

**Union 8/17 - 24:** Union has a strong 4-H presence with the Farm to Fair exhibit, exhibits in the Yurt and their contests and demonstrations. This combined with a strong livestock area and support of the Blueberry Industry illustrates the Union Fair's agricultural Focus.

**Maine Farm Days 8/21-22:** The Robotic Milking Presentation is a total fascination. The films, equipment and commentaries provide abundant information and heighten interest about animals, the milking products and history.

**Acton 8/22 - 25:** The repositioning of the midway made for a much more welcoming presentation for Acton Fair. The display explaining how to judge bales of hay was terrific!

**Blue Hill 8/29 - 9/2:** Such a feeling of teamwork at this fair. After a torrential downpour the day before opening, on August 29th the gates opened and all was set and ready to

**Bangor 7/25 - 8/3:** Bangor had an Impressive Rabbit Tent that was very well organized and attended. They used the Cross Center to cool off in because the temperatures were extreme. The Antique Car Show was a great addition.

**Piscataquis Valley 8/22 - 25:** The fire museum is very impressive. The rodeo was excellent, and the demolition derby arena is so well designed and easy for the fairgoer to see all the action.

**Windsor 8/25 - 9/2:** Bacon's Maple Barn created an interactive map showing how maple syrup is produced. Complete with tubing and evaporator, this hands on display was so much fun to operate - and educational!

go. Everyone on the grounds worked together to make this happen. What a crew!!

**Springfield 8/31 - 9/1:** Springfield continues to use youth competitions to draw families to their fair. Oreo cookie stacking was a huge favorite for all ages !

**Harmony Free Fair 8/30 - 9/2:** Harmony Free Fair events involve all ages like few fairs can. The all-age volleyball tournament encourages participation and is a great way to provide education for fair goers. Announcers inform spectators on the sport, and the constant encouragement from the audience makes a wonderful sense of community closeness.

### September Fairs

**Clinton 9/5 - 8:** The hard work done by the Clinton Fair crew includes working on their new land. The exhibits in their exhibition hall were absolutely wonderful - especially the 4-H displays.

**Litchfield 9/6 - 8:** Litchfield's Farm to Fair program was very active with patrons and many volunteers. The quality and quantity of the Museum is impressive even though it is small in size.

**Oxford 9/11 - 15:** There was a large turnout for the horse pulling and antique tractor pulling. What a popular event for the Oxford area. The 4-H hall is very impressive and their Grange exhibits were fantastic ! Museum demonstration of butter making was delightful.

**North New Portland Lions 9/13 - 15:** The unique way that the exhibition hall crew decorated their building was so inviting. Mittens on a clothesline and a seasonal display - Connor's Pumpkin Patch - were standout sections.

**Farmington 9/15 - 21:** The fairgrounds were sparkling this year. So much work has been done on the judges stand for harness racing. The covered wagon in the museum, and the new midway all combine to make this fair outstanding !

**Common Ground 9/20 - 22:** The amount of education in all areas is impressive. From growing garlic to ploughing with draft horses. Even if you spent all weekend there you couldn't begin to capture it all.

**Cumberland 9/22 - 28:** The Rawhide Rodeo Company presented professional entertainment for the whole family. Announcers provided historic and current information about the animals, the values, the personnel involved along with the riders and the activities. This is a show for all ages which gives a great deal of enjoyment while educating the attendees about a large part of our American culture and heritage.

**Fryeburg 9/29 - 10/6:** A new venue on the fairgrounds was the craft beer tent. Well designed and quite popular, this offered Maine brewers an opportunity to share their products with fairgoers. Many hours of planning insured that this was done right ! A special congratulations to the fair for their amazing new 29,000 square foot Mountain View Pavilion, housing livestock from throughout New England.

### Upcoming MAAF Fair Events & Dates

**IAFE Annual Conference:** December 1-4, 2019 San Antonio, TX Several MAAF board members are attending and will share what they learn during our January 2020 conference.

**Click below to check out the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs website:** <http://www.maineairs.org> or like us on Facebook.



\*\*\*\*\* **Waterford Fair** invites everyone to our upcoming series of fundraising suppers. \*\*\*\*\*

**December 7 - Baked Stuffed Haddock.**

**January 4 - Turkey dinner.**

**February 1 - Roast pork.**

**March 7 - Boiled dinner.**

**April 4 - Chicken Pot Pie.**

**May 2 - Baked stuffed haddock.**

**(Above listed suppers at the church.)**

**June 6, August 1 and September 5 - Fish Fry at the Waterford Fairgrounds.**

**FMI: [Hvbelgians@gmail.com](mailto:Hvbelgians@gmail.com) ----- \$10.00 per person.**

### **MAAF Conference Reminders**

**Send us a 4x6 of your best fair photos - places, people and livestock - to be included in our new MAAF photo displays.**

**Send your photos to:**

**[barrywnorrismainefairs.com](http://barrywnorrismainefairs.com)**

**Start gathering up your Auction items for our Friday afternoon MAAF Scholarship auction. New Time: 3:30 on Friday of Conference. Items may be brought to the Marketplace area prior to the auction. Returning as our auctioneer this year will be Litchfield Fair's own Dick Brown.**

**FMI contact Darcy Winslow, [hvbelgians@gmail.com](mailto:hvbelgians@gmail.com).**

### **January Conference Entertainment**

**Our Friday night music will be provided by The Allison Ames Band, courtesy of Piscataquis Fair and Bears Den Restaurant and Tavern in Dover-Foxcroft.**

**Saturday Night Entertainment will be Birdie Googins - Maine's Queen of Comedy! Also known as "The Marden's Lady", Birdie will keep you laughing with her off-the-wall true Maine stories.**

**Don't miss this!**

### **Executive Director Update:**

**Barry W. Norris**

First I would like to thank all of you for your support, it's been a wonderful fair season. Your dedication in keeping agriculture education at the forefront of your fairs is so important. Thanks. Through all of us, I look forward to this continuing for the next generation to experience at our fairs. Your conference committees are working very hard for January. (More to follow). We continue to grow as an organization Your board members attended a retreat to formalize a strategic plan and update the Mission and Vision statement for the MAAF. We continue to work with our partners to bring you the most updated information available. Look forward to seeing you all in January.

### **Legislative Liaison**

**Katie Damren**

The legislative season is slowly coming together, with several pieces of legislation already being submitted. Harness racing dates for the fairs will be deliberated and assigned after November 7th. In the January issue of the newsletter, there will be more specific bills to report back on.

## Agricultural Program Specialist

Melissa A. Jordan

The staff at the MDACF would like to thank you all for working in conjunction with us through the 2019 fair season to promote agriculture through your events. Your increased efforts in agricultural education, public awareness and safety did not go unnoticed ! We are looking forward to year end wrap-up and starting on great things for the summer of 2020.

All fairs and fair supporters are invited to share old fair photos with us to use on the MAAF Facebook page throughout the winter for our #ThrowBackThursday posts ! This doesn't need to be a photo from long ago, something from the 80's, 90's or even more recent are great to share as well. Please send them , with a description, to [Melissa.a.jordan@maine.gov](mailto:Melissa.a.jordan@maine.gov)

### MAAF Scholarship Recipient Chosen for 4-H Youth Development Professional Position UMaine Extension Waldo County Office

**Sadee Mehuren**, a Dean's List graduate of the University of Maine and a past recipient of the MAAF scholarship, was recently chosen to work as the 4-H Youth Development Professional in Waldo County. Sadee, from Faithful Venture Organic Dairy Farm in Searsmont, Maine, will be working with youth ages 5 to 18, and helping them to work on the four values of Head, Heart, Hands and Health through fun "learning by doing" activities and projects. She will offer 4-H curricula for community clubs, school, after school settings and other positive youth development organizations. Come meet Sadee at the 50-50 raffle table during the January conference. Our 50-50 raffle sales are a major contributor to our MAAF scholarship. program.



The "Pink Crew", from Piscataquis Valley Fair, who sold close to \$3000 worth of 50-50 tickets in one day during Windsor Fair for the MAAF scholarship program. Not all in this photo, but this group included the following volunteers: Corey, Kathlene, Issaac, Jasmane, Kinsley, Nathan, Danielle, Donna and Rusty Weymouth. Thanks!

### **MAAF January Conference Housing and Meals Information**

**MAAF annual conference dates are: January 23 -26, 2020. The conference will be located at The Holiday Inn By The Bay, 88 Spring Street, Portland, Maine. 04101 207.775.2311. Detailed information about room rates, meals, banquet tickets and much more will be sent**

**via email directly to each fair president following the November 9th MAAF board meeting.**