



# MAAF Newsletter



Issue 2

Sept. 1, 2019

### President's Message: Kathryn Hunter

We are a little over a third of the way through our fair season, and I have had such a wonderful time already. I have been delighted to see that everyone is happy, relaxed, friendly, easy to talk to, and anxious to show off their beautiful handiwork and/or well-cared for animals. The pride out here is bursting and a delight to witness. I have especially noticed all of the young folks, children and teenagers, working hard in the barn stalls, assisting their parents at the vendor booths, exercising their animals, demonstrating their skills in the pulling rings, and showing off their creative displays in the exhibition halls. This younger generation is amazing and certainly the backbone of our future Maine fairs. Please thank them when you see them out and about at the fair and let them know that their hard work is recognized and very much appreciated..... Congratulations !! Great job and thank you !!!

#### June and July Fairs

**Monmouth 6/13-15:** The first Maine fair of the 2019 season showcased the unique produce of a Maine spring in our exhibition hall. Asparagus, lilacs, maple products, herbs, and fiddleheads. Plus our Off Road Truck Rock Crawl was quite popular this year.

**Northern Maine 6/28 - 7/3:** Once again, Jessica Winslow has shown us how to engage children in agriculture education. Lil' Farmers at The Fair has grown to include a wide variety of Maine commodities, including wool, maple, chickens and of course, potatoes !

**Houlton 7/4 - 7/7:** It is with mixed feelings that we say goodbye to our retiring president, Paul Cleary. Paul guided the fair for the past 13 years and has seen it grow annually to represent agriculture at its best in Aroostook County.

**Ossipee Valley 7/11 - 14:** Great weather and a great turnout. All our events were well attended.

**Waterford World's Fair 7/19 - 21:** Our Little Hands for Agriculture continues to be a popular spot on the fairgrounds.

**Pittston 7/25 - 28:** The winning poster for our fair was perfect ! It included all the special aspects of our fair. Congratulations to John Campbellton, age 8, Riverview Elementary School !

**Bangor 7/25 - 8/3:** Our rabbit show had many entries. A special rabbit, Thumper, was a rescue rabbit who shared her babies in the Old MacDonald's Farm building while she competed in the main tent. Thank you to her owner, 4-H member Zachary Raymond. Our 4-H goat show had 31 youth and 112 animals, and the open goat show had 33 farms and 242 animals. Our licensed judge was from North Carolina, and we proudly offered a dual sanctioned show.

#### August Fairs

**Topsham 8/6 - 11 :** We were blessed with great weather and had a successful fair. We noted that our hall entries were up significantly this year. Hall Director Cindy Rogers overhauled our premium list to include more modern crafting categories, such as "redneck recycling".

**Skowhegan 8/8 - 17:** Fairgoers were introduced to Tarie Sawyer and her mini horses at Skowhegan Fair. They drive as well as can be ridden. There was also an informational demonstration to show how important these little equine folks are as therapeutic pets.

**Union 8/17 - 24:** Our Back to Basics Saturday was a HUGE success! So many families and so many smiles. The bounce houses were full of children of all ages !

**Maine Farm Days 8/21-22:** Our building fund grew a lot during Maine Farm Days. Thank you to all who contributed. NRCS/USDA sent Alice with the department rainfall simulator. We ran out of chicken BBQ on Thursday as fairgoers were enjoying the warm, sunny weather. Attendance was WAY up !

**Acton 8/22 - 25:** We extended our truck and tractor pulling track another 100', to a final distance of 325'. This year we also added garden tractor pulling to our Sunday schedule. Farmer's Lil' Helper was packed with kids, as usual. Thank you to Donna Goodrich and her amazing volunteer crew !

**Blue Hill 8/29 - 9/2:** Every department at Blue Hill Fair has a devoted crew of volunteers that contribute their time and energy to insure that their fair is truly a "down to earth country fair". Livestock, exhibition halls, and all across the fairgrounds, the "crew" was seen with a welcoming smile.

**Piscataquis Valley 8/22 - 25:** We had a great fair this year with 70" temperatures, sunshine and no humidity ! The Blue Ox drag was with us for the truck and tractor pulls, we had a lot more oxen for the steer and oxen pulls this year, and our attendance was way up !

**Windsor 8/25 - 9/2:** Our new cornhole tournament was a big success and we hosted over 20 2-person teams. We are so proud of Dale Strout, a young 4-H member from Cornville,, who raised over \$5,000 at the Windsor Fair Market Lamb Sale, by auctioning off his lamb, "Goose". This money was donated to Dale's friend, and fellow classmate (nicknamed Goose) who is battling bone cancer. Dale was featured on the local television stations, as well as Facebook.

**Springfield 8/31 - 9/1:** We had perfect fair weather for our lawn mower pull.

**Harmony Free Fair 8/30 - 9/2:** Our new reptile building was quite popular! The daily blacksmith demo had a new smith every day. Saturday and Sunday we added an ox and steer pull.

## September Fairs

**Clinton 9/5 - 8:** Busy getting ready for our upcoming fair.

**Litchfield 9/6 - 8:** New this year in Litchfield are two Farmers' draft horse classes. Farmers draft horse 2 wheel cart and Farmers draft horse pair.

**Oxford 9/11 - 15:** Busy getting ready for our upcoming fair.

**North New Portland Lions 9/13 - 15:** Busy getting ready for our upcoming fair.

**Farmington 9/15 - 21:** Trustees and volunteers alike have been busy cutting grass, mending fences and putting on a fresh coat of paint. **Note on your calendars Monday, September 16th is the Drag Your Neighbor event.**

**Common Ground 9/20 - 22:** For updated information on our Common Ground Fair schedule,, check our website: [www.mofga.com](http://www.mofga.com). Our 2019 poster is a pair of Dexter heifers posing with oats and red and crimson clover. Designed by Kevin Martin of Vinalhaven.

**Cumberland 9/22 - 28:** Busy getting ready for the fair.

**Fryeburg 9/29 - 10/6:** Due to the major disaster of two large barns burning in July 2018, we had our largest capital improvement campaign , raising over \$2.2 million. This project included 120' x 240' barn to replace those lost in the fire. The cost of this project is over \$2million. We will also be starting a new project of a Craft Beer tent, highlighting the Maine craft beer industry.

## Upcoming Events and Dates Technology

**PCs for Maine:** This program is a nonprofit effort to increase technology access for people and nonprofits that need technology to achieve important goals. They provide a combination of new, refurbished and custom computers with support and training for the lowest possible cost. Waterford World's Fair, Union Fair and MAAF have utilized their services and highly recommend this program. [www.pcsforme.org](http://www.pcsforme.org)

**Big E - Maine Day:** Saturday, September 14th. Also is 4-H/FFA Day

**IAFE Annual Conference:**  
December 1-4, 2019 San Antonio, TX

Scholarships to attend are available. Refer to the website. <https://www.fairsandexpos.com>



**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 their delicious **fish fry** on **September 14th**, 5 -6:30 pm at the fairgrounds. No fair booth at Fryeburg Fair this year, so please support our fall fundraiser. \$10.00 per person. **December 7th is Baked Stuffed Haddock** at the church.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MAAF Conference Reminders</u></b></p> <p>Send us 4-6 of your best fair photos to be included in our new MAAF photo displays.</p> <p>Start gathering up your auction items for our Friday afternoon MAAF Scholarship auction. FMI: Darcy Winslow at hvbelgians@gmail.com</p> <p>More details in the Nov - Dec newsletter.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>January Conference Update</u></b></p> <p>MAAF annual conference dates are: January 23 -26, 2020. Located at the Holiday Inn By The Bay, Portland, Maine. 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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Don't miss this !</b></p>
---	---

**Executive Director Update:**

**Barry W. Norris**

It's been an exciting time visiting all of the fairs over the past two month, and I am looking forward to the fall fairs. You have shared excellent suggestions regarding the January conference. This session, the legislature established the Agricultural Fair Assistance Program. Efficiency Maine will be working with fairs over the coming months to implement this.. Thanks to everyone who worked the MAAF Scholarship 50-50 raffle at Windsor Fair. (Especially the "pink" crew from Piscataquis Fair !!) I am asking each fair to send me 4-6 fair photos from this year's fair. We are creating MAAF pull-up display banners to be introduced at the January Ag show, and used at our MAAF conference in January. Topics being considered for our conference are: Efficiency Maine, Fairs, Carnivals and the Fire Marshal' office. Keep checking the website for further updates on the conference.

**Legislative Liaison**

**Katie Damren**

There were a large number of new legislators in the 129th Maine Legislature. Many of those now serving were not aware of the connection between the fairs and harness racing, or where the agricultural fair funding comes from that is distributed through the Department of Agriculture. We had a good number of bills (or L.D.s) that concerned the Maine agricultural fairs. One of the first ones appearing was a bill on Horse Pulling. Animal Cruelty was also addressed, with testimony from out-of-state organizations.

**Following are the L.D. numbers of a few bills that were heard, passed into law and affect all of us. (Dates following bills are when signed by the governor)**

- L.D. 1154 (Emergency) "An Act to Increase the Betting Limit on games of chance at Fairs and Festivals, and to expand allowed operation" 05-16-19**
- L.D. 1728 (Emergency) "An Act to Align the Harness Racing Laws with Current Policies" 06-13--19**
- L.D. 1186 (Emergency) "An Act to Address Electricity Costs of Agricultural Fairs" 05-30-19**
- L.D. 158 "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Beano" 04-26-19**
- L.D. 1534 "An Act to Amend Maine Fireworks Laws to Include Flame Effects " 06-07-19**
- L.D. 1456 "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Raffles"**
- L.D. 1515 "An Act to Allow Sports Wagering in Maine"**
- L.D. 34 "An Act to Clarify Games of Chance Licensing Requirements" 04-30-19**
- L.D. 1590 (Replaced with the following) "An Act to Amend the Laws Relating to Harness Racing"**
- L.D. 1797 "An Act to Amend the Advance Deposit Wagering Law"**