



MAAF Newsletter



Issue 1

July 1, 2019

President's Message: Kathryn Hunter

Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall - - but the BEST season in Maine is FAIR SEASON ! Monmouth Fair rolled out the red carpet for their visitors, and I bet Northern Maine Fair, Houlton Fair and the rest of our amazing fairs will too !

The baby animals are in their stalls, the quilts are delicately displayed, the pulling ring is lined with ribbons, the apple pies are ready to be judged, and the race horses are circling the track ! Bring your friends and families to as many fairs as you can. Let's show up in abundance to offer our full support for each and every Maine fair ! They deserve it, and your time will be well spent making memories !

Thank you."

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

June and July Fairs

Monmouth 6/13-15: The first fair of our 2019 season opened with bicycles, babies, tossing frying pans and so much more. This "Little Fair With A Lotta Pull" offered Family Day, Woodsmans' Day and so many bicycles for the youngsters, plus a Rock Crawl !!

Northern Maine 6/28 - 7/3: Offering new fair dates , Northern Maine Fair reminds you to bring your appetite to the 2nd Annual Star City Backyard BBQ Cook off.

Houlton 7/4 - 7: Returning again, the Motorcycle Charity Run on Saturday, July 6th. Proceeds go to Wilderness Walk for Warriors. See Houlton Fair website to register.

Ossipee Valley 7/11 - 14: Calling all cribbage players to the new cribbage tournament at Ossipee Valley Fair.

Waterford World's Fair 7/19 - 21: Attention youth ages 18 and younger. The **NEW** Youth Livestock Show at WWF offers 4 classes - rabbits, goats, sheep and cattle - for youth to participate in an instructional show. Two age divisions per class. 7/21 10:00 AM

Pittston 7/25 - 28: Our 2019 Pittston Fair poster contest , promoting "Maine's Friendliest Fair", produced winners in the 11 and under age group as well as 12-18 years of age. It was quite popular ! Look for our winning posters displayed throughout central Maine !

Bangor 7/25 - 8/3: Bangor Fair is celebrating their 170th anniversary. A highlight this year is the tribute to one of Maine's most famous country singers, Dick Curless. The program will feature his signature song " A Tombstone Every Mile". 7/31 8PM.

August Fairs

Topsham 8/6 - 11 : The Topsham Fair is looking forward to starting their fair week with a brand new roof on the grandstand. Thanks to the town of Topsham for helping with the funding! (See the old time photo below)

Skowhegan 8/8 - 17: For a sweet treat, stop in to our Maple Building. Follow the steps from sap to syrup, and sample some tasty maple treats. Speak with our maple producers, and learn about cooking with maple syrup.

Union 8/17 - 24: If you like Moxie and blueberries, there are museums highlighting both items on the Union Fairgrounds. Moxie memorabilia and tastings served daily, while across the street, informative up-to-date blueberry industry videos greet you as you enter the main fair gate !

Maine Farm Days 8/21-22: The folks at Misty Meadows Farm would like to start building some permanent buildings on their event site. Check out their website to learn more about their first funding project: an amazing raffle !

Acton 8/22 - 25: Sponsored by Partners Bank, the Cruise'n Car Show (8/22) is a hit with the entire family. Show off your car, pose for pictures and compete in one of 17 classes.

Piscataquis Valley 8/22 - 25: Colorful and educational posters teaching our fairgoers about agriculture, animals, gardening, etc are being created by local children. Plus, an exciting scavenger hunt is planned !!

Windsor 8/25 - 9/2: Mark your calendars to attend the Maine State Holstein Show at Windsor Fair on August 26th. Ysabel Jacobs, Quebec, will judge animals of exceptional quality. This event is hosted by Pine Tree Holstein Association

Blue Hill 8/29 - 9/2: A true "Down to Earth" Country Fair introduces "Mutts Gone Nuts". These amazing mutts unleash havoc and hilarity in a comedy dog spectacular. A finalist in America's Got Talent, you will fall in love with these shelter pups.

Springfield 8/31 - 9/1: Confederate Railroad at the Springfield Fairgrounds, July 27th. Midnight Rose will open the show at 6:30 PM. Gates open at 5PM. Don't miss it !!

Harmony Free Fair 8/30 - 9/2: Yessiree, it's a real frog jumping contest on Sunday. (BYOF) - that would be Bring Your Own Frog. All fairgoers - and frogs- are welcome. Remember, even the frogs get in free to the Harmony Free Fair. !

September Fairs

Clinton 9/5 - 8: Contestants are wanted for the Maine Dairy Princess Scholarship Pageant ! September 5th. 4 age divisions. Scholarships to ages 14-23. Cash prizes for ages 5-13. medairyprincess@gmail.com

Litchfield 9/6 - 8: Wheeler's Wee Farm is stocked and ready to go again this year. Hands-on agriculture for children of all ages !

Oxford 9/11 - 15: Bring your appetite to the Oxford County Fair because they have partnered with King Arthur Flour for a baking contest ! The recipe (from the premium book) is Old Fashion Apple Cake with Brown Sugar Frosting. Open to adults ages 18 and up.

North New Portland Lions 9/13 - 15: It's the 85th Agricultural Fair and 21st Maine Crafts Festival in New Portland. Josh Turner, Maine chainsaw artist, returns to demonstrate chainsaw carving and have various art pieces set up for sale. Fireworks Saturday at 9 PM !

Farmington 9/15 - 21: Our fair welcomes Cushing Amusement on the midway this year. This addition is exciting for us as it will give us a whole new outlook for our fair. Fun and games for every member of the family !

Common Ground 9/20 - 22: Congratulations on being recognized in the *Best of Maine* issue of Down East magazine as Maine's Best Festival/Event. Voted by their readers, this is truly a feather in your cap !

Cumberland 9/22 - 28: This fair is the site of the Giant Pumpkin and Squash Weigh Off. Each year participants vie to see who will outgrow last year's massive gourd. (2018: Charlie Lopresti 811.5 pounds) Also children's prizes for the Most Beautiful Pumpkin.

Fryeburg 9/29 - 10/6: The Annual Chicken Coop Raffle coop is a masterpiece! The artwork alone will make any chicken lay plenty of JUMBO eggs. Look on our Facebook page. We are pretty "egg-cited" about this coop ! It's a beauty and can only be won through the Fryeburg Fair chicken coop raffle held during the fair. Drawing on the last day of our fair. Tickets are : 1 for \$5, or better yet, 3 for

Photographs from Maine Fairs



THE GRAND STAND FILLED TO OVERFLOWING AT TOPSHAM FAIR

The old Topsham Fair grandstand

As Topsham Fair heads into its 165th year, they will be replacing their historic grandstand roof thanks in part to a \$25,000 grant the Town of Topsham helped them secure. The grant will fund a little over half of the cost.

Bicycles for Kids !!



Thanks to the many bike sponsors at Monmouth Fair ! Bike winners were drawn daily !

\$10.(Proceeds go toward chicken and poultry education.)

Upcoming Events and Dates

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>



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

Executive Director Updatesession:

Barry W. Norris

First, let me thank everyone for their support . I have been spending time with Katie Damren at the State House watching over the many bills that may have an affect on our fairs. She has introduced me to members of the gambling and veterans affairs committee and agriculture, conservation and forestry committee. These are two groups that hear bills that significantly impact our fairs . One example, LD 1186, was a bill that first vice president Rusty Weymouth worked hard to get passed. This bill deals with electricity costs for fairs. The amended bill passed both houses and was signed by the Governor. (We will have a workshop on the impact of this bill at the annual conference.) As I'm typing this report, Katie is at the State House watching over a bill (LD 1797) that could provide monies to all of the fairs as well as to the harness horsemen.

The board authorized our IT committee to update the MAAF web page, and I am pleased to report that in the coming months the newsletter will also have more technology information for you.(Note the **PCs for Maine** information.) There is also a committee working on seminars and workshops for our January conference . As I travel to fairs this summer, please share your ideas for workshops that will meet the needs of your fair. The September-October newsletter will contain more specifics regarding our January conference.

My wife, Junia, and I are working together on the newsletter and will be contacting you throughout the year for more up to date information from your fair.

See you all at the fair. .

Missy Jordan

Agriculture Program Specialist

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Hello Maine AgriculturalFairs ! Fair season is upon us and the entire department is excited to join you at your events.

Should you need assistance, please contact the following:

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