



# MAAF Newsletter



2020 Issue #2

March 2020

## President's Message: Rusty Weymouth

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as the president of the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs for the next two years. My goal as president is to make sure that our organization is on sound financial footing, and I want to recognize the sponsorship committee for doing a great job. I believe that our board decision to change our financial year budget to start on July 1st will help us meet this goal.

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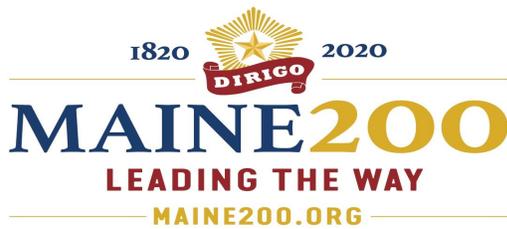
## Executive Director's Report : Barry W. Norris

Our 2020 annual conference, "Creating an Experience" was very successful. Let me share some of the observations made by fair presidents at our recent MAAF board meeting:

- "Outstanding seminars ! and a great auction."
- "The seminars were what brought our fair folks down. Definitely improvement this year "
- "There was a lot to do, and it was well organized."
- "The roundtables were excellent. Our fair really enjoyed them."
- "We had more interested in attending because the schedule was available in a timely manner. Perhaps we could have more programs that address offering programs for kids at our fair."
- "A main purpose of the MAAF conference is to meet with folks from other fairs and get new ideas. We appreciated that opportunity."
- " Our group liked the Disney keynote and especially appreciated Sadee and Emma Mehurn working the 50/50 table."
- " Our fair had the most ever attendees. All the seminars were very well attended with some having standing room only. The virtual sulky driving experience in the Marketplace was exceptional!"
- " Perhaps we could look at the 2021 schedule and add a few more minutes between seminars. Kind of difficult to get from one spot to another."
- "The conference booklet looked good and the seminars had more participants than in the past. In 2021, maybe the conference could consider highlighting another commodity considering that the goat meeting was quite well attended by both dairy and boer goat exhibitors. In 2020, we could ask fairs to bring copies of their Emergency Plans to share with each other and get ideas on how to improve their own plans."
- "The banquet food was delicious and we appreciated that the main meal was served in a timely manner. Plenty of food for our fair this year. Thank you !"

There were some well thought out suggestions for: improvement in the meals to be served both for the banquet and the lunches; a request from the livestock groups to post an agenda for their meetings to help attendees make the right choice with their limited time; the timing for all events that would eliminate simultaneous offerings in the livestock area; and the request for a room for all fairs to meet and network.

After meeting with the fair presidents and listening to feedback from conference attendees, the 2021 conference location will continue to be at the Holiday Inn in Portland, however the format may change as a result of the presidents' meeting.



**Creating An Experience: Maine's Bicentennial**

Thank you to all those who attended the conference workshop on suggestions for celebrating Maine's bicentennial this summer at your fair. Thank you to Rayna, Ann-Michele and Rodena for sharing their ideas, and for those participants who added to the conversation. Information on the 2020 MAAF Agricultural Award Contest, and entry forms, are available for download on the MAAF website. Deadline for entries is November 6, 2020. Thank you also to our three judges - Mary Castonguay, David Cheever and Robert Spear.

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Welcome  
Maine's new  
Livestock  
Specialist.  
Carol  
Delaney  
The MDACF  
welcomes  
Carol  
Delaney as  
the new  
livestock  
specialist for  
the Maine's  
Agriculture  
Department..  
Carol comes  
to Maine

from Vermont. Since 2008, she has been grant coordinator for the Farmer and Partnership grant programs for the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program. Carol has previously served as the Extension Small Ruminant Dairy Specialist at UVM. Her past includes owning and operating farm and retail food businesses, working on livestock farms, shearing sheep commercially, and raising cows, sheep and goats for dairy, meat and draft purposes.

**Fair Activity in the Off Season**

**Waterford World's Fair**

Saturday, March 7, 2020 5 - 6:30 PM  
Homemade Boiled Dinner  
North Waterford Congregational Church  
\$10 per person. 50/50 raffle.

Saturday, April 4, 2020 5 - 6:30 PM  
Homemade Chicken Pot Pie Dinner  
North Waterford Congregational Church  
\$10 per person. 50/50 raffle

Saturday, May 2, 2020 5 - 6:30 PM  
Baked Stuffed Haddock Dinner  
North Waterford Congregational Church  
\$12 per person. 50/50 raffle

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**MAAF Scholarship Recipients**  
**Give Back to MAAF**

Sadee Mehuren, an MAAF scholarship recipient , joined the 2020 MAAF conference on Saturday to show her appreciation for being chosen to receive our scholarship. Sadee, a graduate of the University of Maine at Orono, is the Waldo County Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development Professional. Sadee, and her sister Emma, can be seen at many Maine agricultural fairs (*Union Fair* is their home fair) as they show their Faithful Venture Holsteins. Sadee has been chosen to serve on our Scholarship Committee. See her photo below.

Jake Hutton, from *Ossipee Valley Fair*, received his MAAF scholarship in 2014, and donated an item for our MAAF auction. His accompanying note read in part " Thank you for my scholarship in 2014. It was a big help with books."

Interestingly, our conference 50/50 winning ticket holder was the *father* of yet another past MAAF scholarship recipient. A graduate of Freeport High School, Brittany Moon, from *Cumberland Fair*, was presented with her scholarship by then president Hope Ricker. Hope Ricker, who now serves as the MAAF Clerk, has accepted the position of chairperson on the Scholarship Committee.

## A Gathering of Goats

The Saturday afternoon workshops included a new offering. "Goats at the Fair" had an enthusiastic turnout of both dairy and boer goat exhibitors. A spreadsheet was passed around listing current goat shows and exhibits at Maine fairs. Discussion included safety concerns, disposal of milk at fairs, expectations from fairs, how to start a goat show at fairs, etc.etc. Thanks to Paul and Marilyn Hopkins (Fryeburg Fair) for moderating the *goat gathering* and keeping excellent minutes. Thanks also to Charlie Morrill (Ossipee Valley Fair) for being the impetus for this meeting to be held. Looking forward to *more* goats next January...and perhaps to add an opportunity for another commodity to have a workshop....think about it !!!



Mike Timmons, Cumberland Fair, elected as the new 1st vice president



Thank you Morrill family for your support of MAAF !



Past President Kathryn Hunter (Topsham Fair) and Incoming President Rusty Weymouth (Piscataquis Valley Fair)



David Byras, Litchfield Fair, elected as the new 2nd vice president



**Erik Fitch** , Blue Hill Fair, elected as the new board member representing non-pari mutuel fairs.



**Garrett Lambert**, **Katherine Kugelmann**, and **Charlie Morrill** Junior Advisory Board members



**Katie and Mark Damren**, Windsor Fair, 50/50 organizers



**Sadée Mehuren** ( and sister **Emma**) working the MAAF Scholarship 50/50 table

**IAFE Zone 1 Meeting:**  
**May 7-9: York, Pennsylvania**

MAAF board members and fair folk are planning to travel to York, PA for the IAFE Zone 1 meeting. Held in York, which is located near the Lancaster/Amish section of Pennsylvania, our Pennsylvania hosts are planning an outstanding event. Included in the program is a tour of the battlefield at Gettysburg National Military Park. The IAFE website has the detailed information that you need ([fairsandexpos.com/Zone-Meetings](http://fairsandexpos.com/Zone-Meetings)). Go to the Zone 1 information. Early conference registration (through March 15th) is \$150, and special rates for lodging are at the Wyndham Garden Hotel ([www.wgyorkpa.com](http://www.wgyorkpa.com)). Transportation is on your own.



**Rising Star - Jasmane Hanson**  
**Piscataquis Valley Fair**



**2019 Fair Person of the Year**  
**Dr Lawrence "Doc" Murch ( Oxford Fair)**



**Outstanding Commercial Exhibit**  
**Matt and Sarah Perkins**  
**Ledgeway Farm Goat Milk Soap, Pittston**



**Maine's Queens & Princesses at the MAAF Conference**



**Hope Ricker, Clerk & Barry Norris, Executive Director**  
**MAAF**



**Outstanding Agricultural Programming**  
**Common Ground Country Fair** director April Boucher accepted this award on behalf of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association



**Innovative Fair Event**  
**Windsor Fair** President Tom Foster accepting the award for their Cornhole Tournament



**Recognizing Farmington Fair** for their extraordinary support of the Farmington Fire Department following the propane explosion at the LEAP Building, September 16, 2019



**Outstanding Youth Programs**  
**Cumberland Fair** has a vibrant and ever expanding 4-H program. Fair President Mike Timmons accepting the award from Junior Advisory Board member Katherine Kugelman on their behalf

**Legislative Liaison: Katie Damren**

The Agriculture Committee has been considering many bills this session - some carried over from the previous legislative session. LD 1590 and LD 553 have created the most interest; one dealing with extended meet harness racing and the other with sports wagering. Many legislators supported MAAF in these votes, and although the outcomes weren't what we had hoped for with sports wagering, we are so appreciative of their continuing support. Maine AG Day at the legislature is March 24th from 8AM to 2PM !