



MAAF NEWSLETTER

November/
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Issue #6



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT by BARRY NORRIS

First and foremost, I would like to thank all of you for creating a wonderful fair experience for all our fair guests this past season. June and I traveled across the state attending all of the fairs, and to a person we found excitement with staff, guests, and your partners as well. Fair families were reunited, and everyone was excited to have the fairs back. Great job everyone!

Our conference is fast approaching, and the planning committee is excited to be preparing for a live event this year. Here is a quick summary, as we prepare: January 21–23 are the conference dates; we will have meetings and the annual business meeting with awards on Friday, January 21. Friday will also have the auction and dance. Saturday's schedule will contain workshops, meetings, and the annual banquet. Our banquet will be held Saturday evening and the program following will feature awards presentations and a guest speaker. The final specifics of the conference program will be available to the fair presidents in mid-November. Remember that we are at a new location – **Sable Oaks, Portland.**

Something really exciting this year is the opportunity to enjoy Saturday's lunch provided by Maine food trucks. Many of our fairs have invited food trucks to partner with them during their fair weeks and throughout the summer months. Come and meet some of our most popular trucks and the crews that make them so successful.

The MAAF will have our booth at the State Agriculture Trade Show,

held January 11-13 at the Augusta Civic Center. Please stop by, say hi and take a peek at our newest MAAF banners featuring the first ten years of Rising Star recipients. Additionally, we'll be back at the State House to follow the Sports Wagering bill. We feel it will come out of the Appropriations Committee with a recommendation to pass in both the House and Senate.

Some of you may have heard that our MAAF President Rusty Weymouth was recently hospitalized. I'm happy to report that he is at home recuperating, and doing much better.

I look forward to traveling in November with other members of MAAF to the IAFE Convention in San Antonio, Texas, to learn from other fair groups from across the country.

Again, congratulations on a very successful fair season.

You all have shown that you are truly **FAIR STRONG!**

FAIR VISITS & RECAPS SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Windsor Fair: August 29 – September 6: Kennebec County residents eagerly welcomed the return of Windsor Fair this fall. The familiar events such as harness racing and Woodsman's Day were part of the weeks long activities. A special moment recognized the longtime commitment to the fair from Lincoln Orff. His hard work and dedication to the working show steer program, as well as his many years spent as the fair secretary were remembered. Fair folk from across the state gathered with the Orff family to honor his memory and the show steer competition ring was named the Lincoln Orff Show Ring.



Blue Hill Fair : September 2-6: No matter the wet weather, Blue Hill exhibitors were set up and ready when the fair opened its gates. The alpacas were delighted to be repositioned to a new location which put them front and center of the livestock area. The list of vendors – new and veteran - was extensive, and fairgoers were able to sample many delicious treats. Hard work by many dedicated volunteers and staff made the fair a definite success.

Springfield Fair: September 4: A highlight of the fair was the annual Youth Woodsmen's Day! Families cheered as their youngsters competed in several events. People walking through the exhibition hall were delighted to be offered a free aloe plant as a gift from the Springfield Fair.

Clinton Lions Fair: September 9-12: The giant sunflowers were back. The 4-H displays were colorful and popular. Despite weather challenges, the fair had enthusiastic guests coming to listen to Sharon Hood - a very popular local entertainer, and gather to watch any of the several mechanical pulls.

Litchfield Fair: September 10-12: Throughout the fairgrounds folks could be found gathered at one of many family friendly events. The 4-H horse show, Wheeler's Wee Farm, freshly made applesauce in the museum, livestock shows, pig races and so much more. Children eagerly signed up to be entered in the bicycle drawing. An often heard question was: "Just WHERE is the mouse elf?"

Oxford County Fair: September 15–18: As usual, the steer and oxen show at Oxford was a “must see” event. Handcrafted items filled the exhibition hall and pig scrambles were a highlight of every day. Like many fairs before Oxford, a major attraction of the week was the 4 cylinder demolition derby. * What an unforeseen obstacle Oxford Fair had to overcome as their first fair day included damage caused by a powerful windstorm! Despite closing the fair midday and working tirelessly to repair and replace damaged items, the fair was up and running the next day. Great job!

New Portland Lions Fair: September 17-19: Two fair fan favorites were the eel races (yup – for real) and the truck and tractor pulls, but the real treat was the “Then and Now” section of the Exhibition Hall. Recognizing Maine’s 200th birthday, the display placed items side by side that were from ‘then and now’. Dial phones next to cell phones, lanterns next to electric lights, percolators next to Keurig coffee machines...it went on and on. Well done folks !

Farmington Fair: September 19-25: The Cushing Amusements midway at Farmington Fair was spectacular. Franklin County fairgoers were thrilled to see the selection of rides for fairgoers young and old. Harness racing was held every day but “Drag Your Neighbor” was the 2021 equivalent of the early 1900s farmers racing their fastest horses against each other. Bragging rights !

Cumberland Fair: September 26–October 2: Of course, the gigantic pumpkin competition was front and center again this year. Joining the pumpkins was seven straight days of exciting family entertainment, which included a parade, woodsman’s show, a livestock auction and the very popular pig scrambles.

Fryeburg Fair: October 3–10: The 8 horse hitches were back! The magnificent drafts and their exquisite wagons entered the draft horse show ring to a grandstand overflowing with spectators. Truly a show stopper event! The fairgrounds welcomed back many veteran vendors and added some new faces as well. Food selections were plentiful and the beer and wine tents offered a location for friends to gather and share fair stories. As the sun went down on Friday night, two of our favorite Maine fair traditions were on display - Motor Booty Affair and Central Maine Pyrotechnics. These two standouts have played a major role in entertaining Maine fairgoers for years. Thank you to both for all your support!





RISING STAR NOMINATIONS

Here is the **nomination form** for this year's Rising Star Award. Deadline for submission is January 1.

TRADES SHOW

A reminder that the State of Maine Agricultural Trades Show held at the Augusta Civic Center will be held January 11, 12, and 13, 2022.

MAAF DIRECTORS - OPENINGS

Elections will be held for the following positions at the upcoming MAAF 2022 annual meeting:

- 2nd Vice President representing a pari-mutuel fair,
- A director from a pari-mutuel fair (three year term)
- A director from a non-pari-mutuel fair (three year term).

Interested - here is the **nomination form**. Must be sent to the chairperson of the nominating committee no later than January 2, 2022.

Mail to: Donna Weymouth, 159 Main Road, Charleston, ME 04422.

MAAF SCHOLARSHIP

Here is the [MAAF scholarship form](#).

REMEMBERING MIKE WILSON AT FRYEBURG FAIR

Mike Wilson was very missed at Fryeburg Fair and was honored with a tribute and presentation to his family.





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