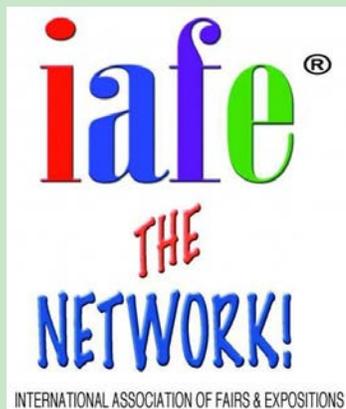




MAAF NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
2025
ISSUE #5



NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARRY NORRIS

Fair season is in full swing, and it appears you're doing a great job with the "Youth in Agriculture" theme this year. We have seen many of you having displays and interaction with the youth.



I want to thank Madison Chadbourne, of the Harmony Free Fair, for stepping up and organizing the Young Professionals program. Madison has an article in this newsletter for all to read. Your conference committee has been hard at work organizing a full program for the 2026 conference. As a result of your input, some of the classes this year are: Youth in Agriculture, Strategic & Long Term Planning, Grant Writing, Marketing & Social Media, Empowering Fair Boards & their Responsibilities, Fairs Helping Fairs, Meeting for Exhibition Hall persons, Treasurers, Secretaries, Fire Marshal's Office and State EMA just to mention a few. We'll have a complete conference program for you in late December.

One last thought: On Saturday, September 6th, the Litchfield Fair, partnering with the MECDHH and Maine Hands and Voices, is inviting people from across the state to join together for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Family Fun Day. All who are interested must REGISTER for this free event held at the Litchfield Fairgrounds from 9AM - 5PM, 44 Plains Road, Litchfield, Maine. FMI: Litchfield Fair FB page.

Until next time, see you at the fair.

THESE SHOES WILL BE HARD TO FILL

**ROBERT "BOB" BRANN,
TRUSTEE, VOLUNTEER,
VISIONARY**

This year the Windsor Fair Premium Book was proudly dedicated to Bob Brann, a lifelong Windsor resident, master craftsman, and cherished leader of the Windsor Fair community whose connection to the fair



ran deep through both heritage and heart. Sadly Bob passed away peacefully on July 23rd surrounded by his loving family. Bob's legacy is woven into the very heart of Windsor Fair - from his early inspiration through his mother, Mary French, who served as the superintendent of the Exhibition Hall for many years. That early exposure instilled in Bob a commitment to volunteerism that grew over a lifetime of service.

In 1985, Bob became involved with the Windsor Historical Society, and just a year later, he was elected its president. A skilled carpenter with an eye for authenticity and a passion for history, Bob set to work turning vision into reality. Under his leadership, his dream of a 1900s village became a treasured reality in the Windsor Fair Museum, inspiring generations with its authentic charm and historical spirit. The museum blossomed into one of the fair's most cherished and unique attractions, and it not only educated and inspired generations of fairgoers but also set a new standard for historical exhibits at agricultural fairs throughout Maine.

In 1999, Bob was elected to the Windsor Fair Board of Trustees and provided a guiding force behind the fair's steady growth and enduring charm. Bob's dedication,

vision, craftsmanship and kind-hearted spirit shaped not only the fairgrounds but also the soul of the community.

"We will miss his wisdom, quiet strength and unwavering devotion more than words can express. On behalf of the Windsor Fair, thank you for your extraordinary contributions and lifelong devotion to our fair and our community".

*A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, September 28, 2025 at the Windsor Fairgrounds, 82 Ridge Road, Windsor, Maine.

NEWS FROM THE MAAF FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Jason Bagley (Farmington, ME) - Jason has been a lifelong exhibitor at Maine agricultural fairs where he has shown his herd of dairy cattle with his family. Having spent his childhood at exhibiting at fairs, he



Abigail Caron (Corinna, ME) - Having exhibited animals from a young age, Abigail is no stranger to Maine agricultural fairs. She values the individuality of each fair and recognizes the lessons learned from each show she



Brooklyn Gould (Gray, ME) - Brooklyn has shown sheep at Maine agricultural fairs since the age of 10. Through her hard work and dedication to her flock, she has earned the opportunity to exhibit sheep on a National level. In

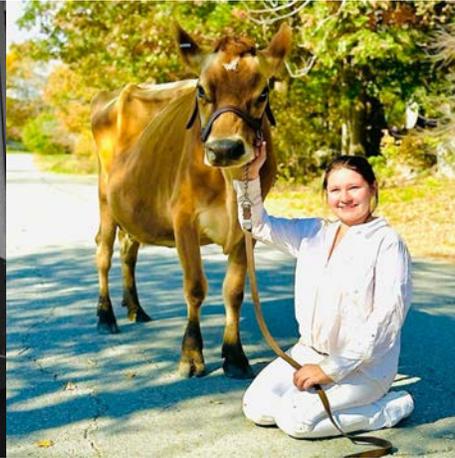
discovered a passion for educating others about agriculture. Jason served as the Captain of Mt. Blue's wrestling team and is a long time 4-H member. Jason will be pursuing a certificate in welding fabrication from Washington County Community College. He hopes to start his own mobile welding service in the future and focus on farm and tractor repairs.

has attended. Abigail plans to attend the University of Maine Fort Kent to obtain a degree in Law Conservation. She aspires to work as a Maine Game Warden and continue her engagement on her family's farm.

addition to her work as a sheep showman, Brooklyn has been a member of the Gray/New Gloucester Cheerleading team for 12 years and is an honor roll student. Brooklyn plans to attend the University of Maine to major in Animal and Veterinary Science. She hopes to attend vet school after her four years at UMaine.



Isabelle Guillemette (Lyman, ME) - Isabelle, a graduate of Massabesic High School, is the president of the Cumberland County 4-H club and former president of the Massabesic FFA Chapter. She has been attending Maine agricultural fairs since she was born and credits her experiences at Acton Fair with her love of dairy goats. Isabelle plans on studying environmental science and secondary education to improve the efficiency and sustainability of her family's organic dairy farm and her dairy goat herd. She also hopes to become an agriculture teacher to educate the next generation on the importance of agriculture.



Ashley Kalloch (Whitefield, ME) - Ashley, a graduate of Hall-Dale High School, has been involved in Maine agricultural fairs through the exhibition of livestock, both beef and dairy. Ashley was also the 2024 Pittston Fair Maine Strawberry Queen and has been volunteering at the Pittston Fair since she as a little girl. She is a 4-H member and a Calves for Kids recipient. She will be pursuing a degree business this fall at KVCC where she hopes to gain the skills needed to eventually run her own butcher shop.



Jillian McLaughlin (New Harbor, ME) - Jillian, a graduate of Lincoln Academy, is an exemplary student and FFA member. She was a three-time FFA Member of the Year Award recipient, has received national recognition for her work in her local FFA chapter, and maintained a 4.0 GPA. Jillian recognizes the importance of Maine agricultural fairs as a bridge between producers and their communities. She hopes to pursue a career in veterinary medicine with a focus on exotic animals.

**HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF
AGRICULTURAL FAIRS
JOIN THE MAAF
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD!**

Are you a young professional passionate about agriculture, education and community ? The Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs (MAAF) is launching a Young Professionals Board (YPB) to work alongside our Board of Directors and we want you to be part of it.

The Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs connects and supports fairs across our state, fostering fellowship, promoting education and strengthening community ties. But our reach extends far beyond Maine. Through active involvement with the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) we collaborate with fair leaders nationwide and internationally - sharing ideas, developing programs and making a worldwide educational impact.

What the Young Professionals Board Could Be

Every board needs a starting point, and these are some early ideas to guide discussion-but we want your voice, your creativity and your vision to help make it even better. We envision the Young Professionals Board as a passionate , forward thinking group that will :

- Champion the preservation of agriculture in Maine, while working alongside peers nationwide to promote agricultural education, innovation and sustainability
- Take pride in representing their fair, their community and the State of Maine at state, zone, and national events
- Actively share ideas and bring back fresh approaches to strengthen fairs of all sizes - because no fair is too big or too small to make an impact
- Help remove cost barriers so members can attend conferences and training opportunities where they can learn, network, and represent Maine on the national stage
- Build connections with younger generations through meaningful, creative engagement that inspires pride in agriculture
- Serve as professional, dedicated ambassadors for the fair industry's cultural, educational, and economic importance-committed to showing up, contributing and making a difference

Get Involved - Join Us In January !

We'll be holding an introductory session at the MAAF Conference this January for potential YPB members to meet, share ideas and help shape our vision together. This will be an open discussion to explore what we want the Young Professionals Board to be, what roles should it take on and how we can make the biggest impact - locally and nationally.

Who We're Looking For

- Young professionals(approximately ages 18-40) with an interest in agriculture, events, education, marketing or community leadership
- People eager to bring new ideas to the table and represent Maine's fair industry on a global stage
- Individuals who are professional, committed and ready to collaborate in shaping the future of fairs.

If you're interested - or know of someone who would be - please text or call me at 207-343-1002 (madison.w.chadbourne@gmail.com) for more details. Be sure to mark your calendar for the January MAAF Conference session (1/23/2026 - 1/25/2026) - your chance to help shape the future of agricultural fair ! Let's grow the future together !

MAINE'S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY KAYLA JONES

As fair season moves past its halfway mark, it's clear that this summer has been both eventful and rewarding. Despite the hot temperatures, the weather has largely cooperated, allowing fairs across the state to thrive. Congratulations to everyone who has already wrapped up their fairs—your hard



work and dedication have paid off.

My most exciting opportunity this season has been working with the Northern Maine 4-H and FFA youth, who hosted a full day of activities for participants of all ages. Seeing so many young people engaged in livestock evaluation and skillathon events that tested their knowledge in areas such as forest products, floriculture, Agri-marketing, and livestock expertise was inspiring. The day was rounded out with a fun round of Ag Olympics, bringing everyone together in the spirit of friendly competition and learning. Thank you to the Maine State FFA officer team, and their Advisor Emily Doughty, for spearheading the day's events; Megan Cook - Aroostook County 4-H Agent, for helping collaborate and arrange the events; and the Northern Maine 4-H kids for their hospitality, encouragement, and involvement of the area youth in agriculture.

As always door is open, and my phone is on. If I can help or support you all in any way, I am happy to try. This summer has been filled with opportunities to connect with and support our incredible youth, whose energy and enthusiasm inspire us all. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this fair season a success. I look forward to continuing my travels across the state and visiting each fair. For those with upcoming fairs, best of luck as you prepare for your events.

Kayla A. Jones
Agricultural Promotional Coordinator
Agricultural Resource Development Division
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

2025 Farmington Fair Youth Market Auction



Show:

Tuesday September 16, 2025 4:00pm

Auction:

Wednesday September 17, 2025 6:30pm

Youth from Franklin County and surrounding towns
will be auctioning off their market animals.

Available at this year's auction will be:

Beef Steers

Turkeys

Lambs

Broiler Chickens

Hogs

Laying Hens

MAINE FAIRS 2025

YOUTH MARKET AUCTION INFO & DATES

Bangor Fair, Saturday August 2nd, 6pm, Auctioneer: Jeff Tilton, Tilton's Auction

Northern Maine Fair, Saturday August 2nd, 4pm, Auctioneers: Dale A. Folsom Auction Services

Skowhegan State Fair, Friday, August 15th, 6:30pm, Auctioneer: Jeff Tilton

Windsor Fair, Monday, September 1st, 12:00pm, Auctioneer: Jeff Tilton

Oxford Fair, Friday, September 12th, 9:00am, Auctioneer: Douglas Ryan, Ryan Auction Sales

Farmington Fair, Wednesday, September 17th, 6:30pm,
Auctioneer: Jeff and Adrian Harris, Farmington

Cumberland Fair, Wednesday, September 24th, 4:30pm, Auctioneer: Jeff Tilton

Fryeburg Fair, Friday, October 3rd, 11:00am, Auctioneer: Jeff Tilton

***Check with each fair to get a listing of commodities to be auctioned
and any other necessary information.***



LITCHFIELD FAIR



It's What A Fair Should Be

LITCHFIELD FAIR

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Family Fun Day

Litchfield Fair, MECDHH and Maine Hands & Voices welcomes you to Litchfield Fair for a DHH Family Fun Day on **Sept. 6th**!

Thanks to Litchfield Fair they are offering **free admission tickets** for all registered DHH families and community members!

Saturday Fair Schedule

- 9am** DHH Family Day Check-In
- 10am** Pig Racing
@ Red Barn/Old MacDonald's Farm
- 11am** Picnic/Fair Lunch
- 1pm** Wheeler's Wee Farmers'
- 3pm** DHH Family Day at the Museum
- 4pm** Butter making in the Museum

Register today to save your spot!

**SATURDAY
SEP 6TH**

9 AM - 5PM
44 PLAINS RD.
LITCHFIELD, MAINE



ASL Interpretation Provided

CONTACT:

Megan Garrity for questions:
(e) megan.garrity@mecdhhs.com
(t) 207-200-4592

2025 FAIR DATES

Fair Book



<https://www.litchfieldfair.com/>

- Windsor Fair: August 23 - September 1
- Blue Hill Fair: August 29 - September 1
- Harmony Free Fair: August 29 - September 1
- Clinton Lions Fair: September 4 - September 7
- Litchfield Fair: September 5 - September 7
- Oxford Fair: September 10 - September 13
- New Portland Lions Fair: September 12 - September 14
- Farmington Fair: September 14 - September 20
- Common Ground Fair: September 19 - September 21
- Cumberland County Fair: September 21 - September 27
- Fryeburg Fair: September 28 - October 5

Exciting Changes for the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs Annual Conference

Join Us at the Cross Center in Bangor, January 23-25, 2026

Announcement ;

We are thrilled to announce that the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs Annual Conference will be held at the Cross Center in Bangor, Maine from January 23-25, 2026. This marks a significant change from our traditional location in Portland, and we understand that this transition may come with challenges. However, we believe that this new venue will allow us to bring you a more comprehensive and enriching program.

Expanded Program;

We are committed to working diligently to bring you an enhanced and diverse program. Our team is working tirelessly to curate workshops, classes, and sessions that will provide the education and resources you need. We believe that the Cross Center's extensive facilities will enable us to offer a broader range of topics and activities, fostering an environment of learning and collaboration.

Why the Change?

For many years, Portland has been the beloved home of our conference, making it a familiar and comfortable setting for our attendees. Yet, as our conference has grown, so has the need for a larger and more accommodating facility. By moving to the Cross Center, we are ensuring that we can provide the best possible experience for everyone involved. This new location offers ample space for our expanded program, ensuring that we have room to be all together for our banquet and various sessions.

Call for Ideas;

To ensure that our conference meets your needs and interests, we invite you to share your ideas for workshops, classes, and other sessions. Whether you have suggestions for short or longer sessions, your input is invaluable to us. Please let us know how we can make this conference the best it can be.

Stay Tuned;

More details will be coming soon, so stay tuned for updates. We are excited about this new chapter in the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs Annual Conference and look forward to welcoming you to Bangor in January 2026.

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