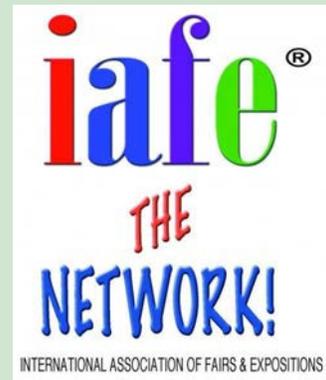




MAAF NEWSLETTER

MAY
2025
ISSUE #3



NEWS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BARRY NORRIS



Have you seen our new [MAAF website](#)? It's a must see!

It's almost fair time, everyone is excited to have the season get under way.

Our MAAF conference will be at the Cross Center in Bangor January 23-25, 2026 - mark your calendars!

Our MAAF conference theme this year is "Journey Upward."

As the last paragraph in the previous announcement states, "Your input is invaluable to us." Message us at mainefair@gmail.com to share your ideas for workshops, classes and other sessions. The conference committee will be putting together an ongoing list of suggested programs for individuals and fairs to vote on.

With the change of venue, the conference committee is hard at work preparing many new, exciting, educational and informational programs. We will now have the opportunity to offer more programs, as we have additional classrooms available. We are hoping to have the conference schedule firmed up by July 1st. Please keep checking the website for more exciting information.

See you all soon and remember to be Fair Friendly Barry

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.

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.

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.

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.

**WELCOMING THE FIRST MAINE FAIRS
OF THE SUMMER**

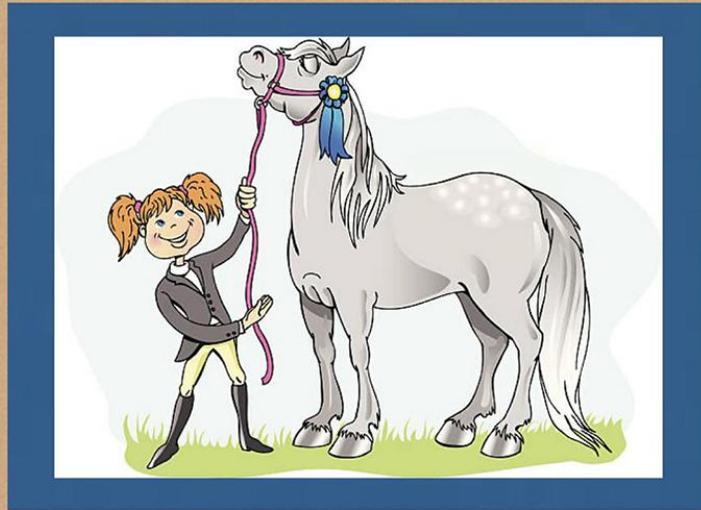
SPRINGFIELD FAIR - JUNE 12-15



PITTSTON FAIR - JUNE 19-22

Open Youth Horse Show

Sunday June 22 @ 10:30am



Ages 21 & Under

No registration fees!



MONMOUTH FAIR - JUNE 25-28



Monmouth Fair

June 25-28, 2025!

Enjoy rides, food, entertainment, and local exhibits. Join the fun and make lasting memories with family and friends!



QUILTS OF VALOR

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to “cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.” Look for more information on the ME QOV chapters in our July-August



MAAF newsletter. Consider reaching out to a local QOV chapter if your fair schedule includes a special day to recognize our service members and veterans. FMI: donna.brookings@qovf.org

YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE MAAF 2025 THEME FOR KIDS - BY KIDS - WITH KIDS



Welcome to the newsletter section designated to what is happening in our Maine fair world that is focused on kids!

“For Kids” in May is a look at the amazing Northeast Livestock Expo. Held, May 16, 17 & 18, 2025, at the Windsor Fairgrounds in Windsor, Maine, this annual event anticipates welcoming over 3,00 school children in grades K-6. Students, teachers and chaperones participate in self-guided tours that introduces them to a variety of livestock and agricultural commodities, often with hands-on interaction. FMI: Melissa Daigneault at mel.maitc@gmail.com



“By Kids” takes a quick peek at the Harmony Fair Junior Patriarch’s Club who are the driving force behind the activities for children at their fair. In partnership with the local 4-H

Extension and Jr. Patriarch's Club, this space is designed to encourage the next generation to share their passion for agriculture with their peers and community. Featured events include presentations about agriculture, live demonstrations, animals showings and hands on educational games. Kids also have the opportunity to present and talk about their admissions to the exhibition hall, giving them a platform to proudly showcase their learning and community engagement. The club stays active with enriching agriculture -focused experiences like farm tours, wreath making, elderberry syrup workshops, winter seed sowing, maple syrup making, a community garden and much more.
FMI: Madison Chadbourne (207-343-1002) or Allison Butler (207-717-9177).

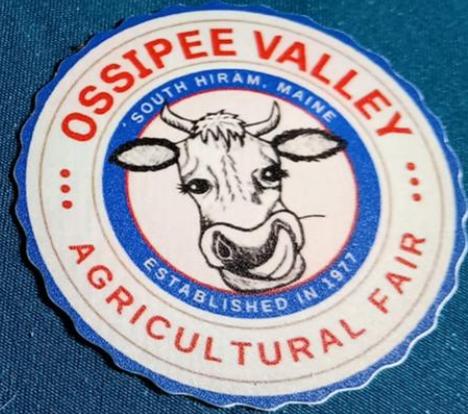


“With Kids” is a preview of our new MAAF theme banner which highlights Maine FFA club members as well as our Maine 4-H competition teams. “With Kids” in September you will find our Maine 4-H Beef Team heading to Eastern States Exposition, also known as “The Big E” in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Maine 4-H Beef Team will be competing September 19, 20, 21 & 22, 2025 against other New England State 4-H Teams. The Team will be competing in fun activities like Beef Cook-Off Contest, 4-H Beef Judging Contest, Farm Olympics, 4-H Beef Heifer & Steer Show, 4-H Beef Showmanship, 4-H Beef Record Judging and 4-Beef Skill-A-Thon. On their final day will be an awards ceremony to give recognition to the 4-H Teams for their hard work and accomplishments. FMI: Kristen Grondin at kristen.grondin@maine.edu



MAINE FAIR STICKER PROJECT 2025

Work with your fair team and design a sticker that shows a special part of your fair. Work with a designer or on your own. Bring your stickers to our 2026 MAAF conference and show them off. Any questions can be directed to [Lilly Bagley](#) or [Sadee Mehuren](#)



NEWS FROM KAYLA JONES MAINE DEPT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

The upcoming weeks are full of agricultural events and plenty of excitement for kids of all ages. Look for the North East Livestock Exhibition (NELE) information (May 16 & 17) mentioned earlier in the **Kids** section of this newsletter. Windsor Fairgrounds are the perfect location for this event.

The Maine Youth General Livestock Judging Contest (May 9) flyer is included in this section. Notice that it is open to any youth grade 6-12. Teams and individuals are welcome to participate or just come and watch our amazing FFA members.

Thank you - Kayla Jones, Agricultural Promotional Coordinator, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, 90 Blossom Lane, Augusta, NE, 04333-0028. Direct Line: 207-592-2126





MAINE YOUTH

OPEN TO ANY YOUTH GRADE 6-12

GENERAL LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

Sign-Up Starting April 1

Pre-Registration: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/learning/ffa/resources>



**Friday May 9, 8 am
Bangor Fair Grounds
Rain or Shine
Contact Kayla Jones
for more details.**

**✉ kaylaajones2018@gmail.com
☎ 1.207.592.2126**

- ✓ **May 9th 8am**
- ✓ **Open to any Maine FFA Member**
- ✓ **Open to any Maine Youth Grades 6-12**
- ✓ **Teams & Individuals**
- ✓ **FFA & Non - FFA Awards**

FAIR STIPEND UPDATE

MEETING OPEN TO ANYONE

31

**MAY
2025**

Starting At:

9:30 AM

Location:

Maine Department of Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry

Deering Building Room 101
90 Blossom Ln. Augusta

**THIS MEETING WILL INFORM AND CLARIFY
FAIR MEMBERS AND STAFF ABOUT CURRENT
AGRICULTURAL FAIR STIPEND FUND RULES
AND REGULATIONS.**

RSVP

meagfairs@maine.gov



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