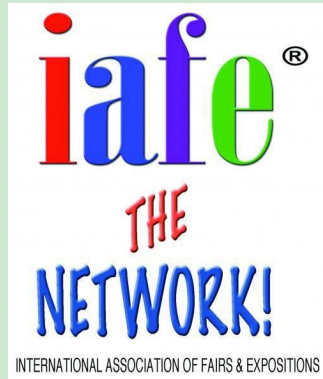




# MAAF NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

Issue #3



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Spring is in the air, and I know that you are all in the process of getting your fairgrounds ready for the 2023 fair season. Our Maine fair season will begin earlier this year as Springfield Fair is the first fair of the season operating from June 15th through June 18th. There have been a few other changes. Pittston Fair has changed their dates **for this year only** to July 14-16 and will run concurrently with Waterford Fair.

Our MAAF conference committee (chaired by Darcy Winslow of Waterford Fair) has been busy planning the 2024 conference and, based on the results of the post-conference survey, has contracted with Sable Oaks Sheraton for January 26-28, 2024. We will keep you posted as more information is forthcoming.

In 2025 the Zone 1 conference will be co-hosted by New Hampshire and Maine. The site will be the Grappone Center in Concord, New Hampshire, and set aside the dates of May 2-4, 2025. (The 2024 Zone 1 conference is being hosted by Massachusetts, and more information will be shared during the upcoming Albany, New York meeting this May.)

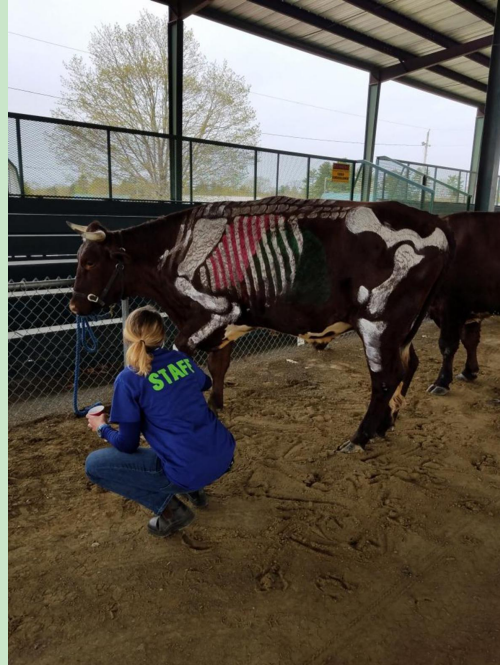
I want to thank everyone who represented MAAF at the Ag Trade Show in January and Maine Ag Day at the Maine State House. I am confident that your presence at both venues have helped to positively impact any legislation affecting our Maine agricultural fairs.

I look forward to traveling to all of our fairs this summer and hearing about all the new programs that you are working on. If you have any fair questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Barry



**NORTHEAST LIVESTOCK EXPO 2023**  
**May 18 - 21, 2023**  
**WINDSOR FAIRGROUNDS, WINDSOR, ME**

Go to:  
Northeast Livestock Expo 2023  
for all details & scheduling!



## HONORING OUR VETERANS & MILITARY AT YOUR FAIR

When you are planning the activities for your senior citizens/veterans recognition day, please reach out to these Maine organizations. They are all very interested in coming to our Maine fairs:

### TRAVIS MILLS FOUNDATION

Contact John Romac

### HOUSE IN THE WOODS

Contact Paul & Dee House,  
(207) 738-8387

### MAINE QUILTS OF VALOR

Contact Donna Brookings  
207-523-9322

### HONOR FLIGHT MAINE

(207) 376-7210

## 2023 MAAF AGRICULTURAL AWARD CONTEST "CREATING AN EXPERIENCE: MAINE ON MY PLATE"

Here is the [application](#) for this yummy contest!

## 2023 MAINE ON MY PLATE CONSIDER SHOWCASING SOME OF MAINE'S OUTSTANDING FOOD PRODUCTS



**Pineland Farms Dairy** strives to produce the highest quality cheese available using 100% fresh Maine milk to handcraft our specialty cheeses in our state-of-the-art facility using old-world cheese making techniques. In late August 2022 we learned that Fair milk did not have a home and we were able to coordinate bringing Fryeburg Fair milk to Bangor to process in Cheddar cheese. In addition, we were able to provide education on Pineland Farms and demonstrate cheesemaking

in the milking parlor. We're looking forward to 2023 and seeing Fryeburg fairgoers buying cheese made from the milk from 2022!



**Maine Aquaculture Association** is a non-profit trade association that represents the Maine aquaculture industry at the state, federal, and international levels. Our members grow fin fish, shellfish, and sea vegetables. Since 1978, we have worked to support Maine's aquatic growers in developing economically and environmentally sustainable business practices, promoting the benefits of

aquaculture in the local food system, and preserving Maine's heritage of a vibrant working waterfront. Maine's aquaculture industry overall represents nearly 200 farms and more than 700 farmers who produce premium seafood—fin fish, shellfish, and sea vegetables—in Maine's cold, clean waters. The sector has been steadily growing in recent years, and its total economic impact has nearly tripled – from \$50 million in 2007 to \$137 million in 2014 – according to the latest Maine Aquaculture Economic Impact Report. Sustainable aquaculture has tremendous potential to bolster our coastal economy, providing good jobs, local food security, and diversification opportunities for working waterfront families.



**Raye's Mustard** award-winning small batch blends are handcrafted for the true Artisanal condiment connoisseur, every taste a testament to the pride that goes into each and every jar. Since 1900, four generations of the Raye family have been making mustard in the eastern-most city in America – an island community on the rock bound coast of Maine. Today, they are still making one small batch at a time in North America's last remaining traditional stone ground mustard mill. Raye's complex balance is formed by the perfect blending of old world craftsmanship and

modern science. Unlike other mustard makers, the Rayes have maintained vintage Second Industrial Revolution machinery and the traditional cold grind process that preserves the volatile piquant qualities of the whole seeds, natural herbs and spices. The resulting flavor experience comes in part from the heightened awareness as the mustard stimulates the taste buds, providing distinctive aromas and tastes – to tempt the most discriminating palate. The tenacious commitment of each succeeding generation of the Raye family has preserved that quality and authenticity even while adapting to the preferences of a changing world. These premium Small Batch Crafted mustards, as the name suggests are made in limited quantities. No one else makes mustard this way anymore. No one!

# FAIR & AG TRIVIA

"In Summer 2021, India's first "grain ATM" was set up in Gurugram; it can dispense up to 154 pounds of wheat, rice and millet. "

" The World's Columbian Exposition was the first world's fair. Held in Chicago in 1893 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World in 1492, it was open over 6 months, and drew over 27 million visitors. Some "firsts" in this fair are : The Ferris Wheel, Cracker Jack, and Juicy Fruit gum. This fair is where PBR won its namesake Blue Ribbon."

## MAAF FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship application deadline has passed and the board is reviewing several applications. Winners will be announced in our July-August issue.

## WOODSMEN'S DAY POSTER WILL BE AT THESE FAIRS!

Monmouth - June 21 - 24  
Northern Maine - July 29 - August 6  
Windsor Fair - August 26 - September 4  
Oxford Fair - September 13-16  
Cumberland Fair - September 24-30  
Fryeburg Fair - October 1-2

## THESE SHOES WILL BE HARD TO FILL! TOM FOSTER, WINDSOR FAIR



Thomas E. Foster was born and raised on a dairy farm in Augusta, Maine where his family raised registered Guernsey cattle. Tom continues to reside on that farm and is the fifth generation of the Foster family to reside on the farm. Although there are no longer dairy cattle on the farm, Tom still keeps a small herd of Black Angus beef cattle.

Tom's involvement in Windsor Fair started as a youth showing cattle with his father, Russell, and his grandfather , Daniel. Both men became trustees of Windsor Fair, starting the family's tradition of involvement in Windsor Fair. Tom is hopeful that this commitment will continue well into the future with his sons and other family members who are currently involved.

As a young man, Tom earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in animal husbandry from the University of Maine. Those who know Tom are keenly aware of his strong interest and overwhelming desire to promote Ag

education and sustainability of agriculture in the State of Maine.

After the passing of Tom's father in 1969, Tom was asked to become a Trustee of the fair to replace his dad, and he accepted. That same year, Tom along with his wife Karen (Dowling) Foster of Augusta, started their family with the birth of their first son. He also began what would become a successful insurance agency (Farm Family Insurance Agency) focused on serving the agricultural community. Tom and Karen would add three more sons to their family in the next five years.

In the 80s, Tom was asked once again to serve the Windsor Fair this time in the role of 2nd Vice President. He was later elevated to 1st Vice President, and then, in 1992, he was elected by the trustees to serve as the President of the Fair. Tom is currently entering his 31st year as the fairs' president.

When asked about what he feels has made Windsor Fair successful, he always credits the many people that have been involved in the fair over the years. Throughout his leadership, his main focus and mission is for the fair to always remain a showcase for agriculture. This mission is often communicated to the trustees and the hundreds of volunteers that support the fair. Tom believes that if everyone is on board with the mission they will likely do their jobs with enthusiasm.

In the early 90's Tom was part of the leadership group that put together a long-term plan for Windsor fair. He feels that the vision of this long-term planning committee, which included new construction and other goals, have been a big reason why the fair has been successful. The long-term planning committee who put together the plan, continues to set goals and work to achieve them. This commitment to Windsor Fair has led to what the fair has become today.

Tom is a humble leader, and has always given credit to the trustees and volunteers that make the fair happen. However, if you were to ask any volunteer "What has made Windsor fair successful", most will credit Tom's leadership as one of the biggest reasons. Tom will put good people in positions of authority and let them do their job. He allows people to run their area of the fair as they see fit and in turn supports them 100%.

Since the early 90s, under Tom's leadership, every aspect of the Windsor Fair has grown. The annual attendance has tripled since then which means that more of the fair going public in central Maine get to experience and support agriculture in a meaningful way. Tom was grateful to be honored by the Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs in January of 2023 for his lifetime of achievement in the agricultural fair industry in Maine.

Tom Foster's work on behalf of Windsor Fair and Maine agriculture statewide continues to touch the lives of many folks who have known for a long time that "These Shoes Will Be Hard To Fill."





## RESOURCES FOR YOUR FAIR

Ag organizations in Maine

Maine Young Farmers and Ranchers

Stasha Baldwin, Chair of Young Farmers & Ranchers  
(207) 530-6520

Fields Fields Blueberries

Best Farm-To-Table Food Vendor - CGCF 2023

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY NAMES DR. STEFANIE BOLAS AS NEW STATE VETERINARIAN

Augusta, ME - The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's (DACF) Animal and Plant Health Division announced Dr. Stefanie Bolas as Maine State Veterinarian. Dr. Bolas earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at Oklahoma State University. Most recently, she worked with the National Park Service, focusing on zoonotic and vector-borne diseases. She served in the United States Air Force as a public health officer and in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, performing key roles in the United States COVID-19 response and recovery. She is originally from Buffalo, NY, where she earned a Master of Science degree in Epidemiology. Dr. Bolas will lead the DACF's Animal Health program, safeguarding the health of Maine's agricultural resources and ensuring public health.



# EXHIBITION HALL WORKSHOP IN JANUARY 2024



Thank you to all of you who attended our Exhibition Hall Workshop during the January MAAF Conference in Portland. Everyone who provided an email address has been sent a copy of the notes taken by Rayma, Lynn and myself. Attendees who provided a mailing address received a copy in the mail. If you are reading this and wish to receive a copy, please notify [Junia](#) and we will send it to you. As requested by those present, the MAAF 2024 Conference Committee has included in the schedule an opportunity for those interested to gather and review their exhibition hall challenges, success or requests. This will be brief but an opportunity to reconnect around issues covered in 2023. As we get closer to the conference, a specific time and location will be announced.



# FAIR EVALUATOR MEETING & UPDATE

The 2024 Maine Fair Evaluators met recently to discuss their experiences visiting all of our 2023 Maine agricultural fairs. Some of the comments focused on the importance of fair boards to send their evaluator any and all information about their fair, and to encourage evaluators to attend on specific dates to view specific events that a fair wishes to highlight. Evaluators reflected that the more persons that they can speak to on a fairgrounds the better the complete picture becomes. Not just board members, but vendors and exhibitors as well. Another suggestion for fairs would be that everyone involved in fair programs have an opportunity to look over the evaluation form in order to learn how the overall evaluation is reached. All evaluators agreed that they have learned a lot about Maine's fairs as they traveled to evaluate and look forward to the upcoming 2023 fair season.

The 2024 Maine Agricultural Fairs Evaluation team:

Rayma Ashby - Litchfield

Linda Baker - Topsham

Erik Fitch - Blue Hill

Bill Jones - Ossipee Valley

Junia Norris - Union

## MEET EMILY DOUGHTY - FFA LIAISON



Emily Doughty is the CTE Natural Resource Specialist and FFA Liaison for the state of Maine. A proud alumni of the FFA and a graduate of CTE, Emily is eager to support students and work closely with advocates of agriculture. In this new role, Emily supports the Maine FFA Association, which comprises of over 350 student members. This student-led organization is driven by a motto to develop student potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. This spring, the Maine FFA will be holding its' 92<sup>nd</sup> annual State Convention, which provides students with opportunities to showcase their experiences, engage in workshops, demonstrate skills through Career and Leadership Development Events and much more.

Emily earned undergraduate degrees Agriculture and Natural Resources and Agricultural Education from the University of Delaware and holds a Master's in Educational Leadership from Thomas College. Emily began her career as an Agricultural Education and Technology Education instructor at Southern High School in Davidsonville, Maryland. Following this experience, she served as an Agriculture Specialist through AmeriCorps' Great Strides Rural

Education Program. Her most recent classroom experience was as a science instructor at the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences in Hinckley where she integrated aquaponics, gardening, and environmental sciences into the classroom.

To learn more about Maine FFA or to connect with Emily please contact [Emily.doughty@maine.gov](mailto:Emily.doughty@maine.gov) or call at 207-592-0314.

## IAFE ZONE 1 MEETING, ALBANY, NY MAY 4-6, 2023 - JOIN US!

All the details are [here!](#)

## UPCOMING FAIRS - SPRINGFIELD FIRST OF THE FAIR SEASON! NOTE NEW DATES! JUNE 15 THRU JUNE 18

Check out this article - "[New Year, New Owners. One Last Goodbye.](#)"





## UPCOMING FAIRS - MONMOUTH JUNE 21 THRU JUNE 24



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