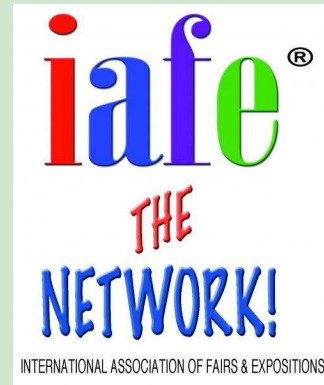




**MAAF
NEWSLETTER
JULY/AUGUST
2022**

Issue #5



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE
by BARRY W. NORRIS**

Another exciting fair season has kicked off with the successful opening of the Monmouth Fair. Shout out to all those who made it possible for them to have such a successful fair. Everyone has commented about what a great fair this was from fairgoers, volunteers and vendors.

Our Maine agricultural fairs continue to post all of their upcoming fair dates and programs on their fair Facebook pages and websites as well as other social media sites. MAAF will continue to sell the Maine State Fair passes on-line at mainefair.org, and the deadline for purchase is August 1st.

I am very excited to see many fair members supporting each other by attending fairs in their geographic area. Congratulations to the Cumberland Fair on their outstanding 150th birthday celebration. Read about it later on in this newsletter, and enjoy the pictures that showcase all their hard work. Another congratulatory message goes out to the new president at Houlton Fair. Colby Dunn has moved up from his seat as first vice president and we wish him all the best.

As a reminder, the MAAF conference committee will be meeting throughout this summer to insure that our 2023 conference will be another outstanding event for everyone in our fair family. We anticipate posting the conference schedule of events in the November-December MAAF newsletter, and on the MAAF website. Mark your calendar to save the last weekend in January 2023 when we will be returning to the Sheraton at Sable Oaks in South Portland.

I encourage all of you to support our Maine agricultural fairs and look forward to seeing you at the fair this summer as I will be attending all 25 of our Maine fairs.

SPRINGFIELD FAIR PRESENTS LONESTAR

Springfield's night of county music is coming to rock the fairgrounds on Saturday, August 6th!

Lonestar will bring their big sounds center stage following an opening performance by a local favorite Adam Curtis.

Guests will enjoy a venue unlike any other, BIG LIGHTS AND VIDEO BOARDS, fair style concessions, and

free camping onsite. Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 at the gate.

[More Information](#)



Springfield, Maine

LONESTAR
AUGUST 6th, LIVE

MAINE FAIRS - SCHEDULE

Up to the minute information can be found on the [MAAF](#) website!

Houlton Agricultural Fair - July 3 - 4
Ossipee Valley Fair - July 7 - 10
Waterford Worlds Fair - July 15 - 17
Pittston Fair - July 21 - 24
Union Fair - July 27 - July 31
Northern Maine Fair - Aug 7 - Aug 9
Topsham Fair - August 9 - 14
Skowhegan State Fair - August 11 - 20
Acton Fair - August 25 - 28
Piscataquis Valley Fair - August 25 - 28
Washington County Fair - August 27 - 28
Windsor Fair - August 28 - September 5
Blue Hill Fair - September 1 - 5
Harmony Free Fair - September 2 - 5
Springfield Fair - September 3
Clinton Lions Agricultural Fair - September 8 - 11
Litchfield Fair - September 9 - 11
Oxford Fair - September 14 - 17
New Portland Lions Fair - September 16 - 18
Farmington Fair - September 18 - 24
Common Ground Country Fair - September 23 - 25
Cumberland Fair - September 25 - October 1
Fryeburg Fair - October 2 - 9

WOODSMEN'S DAY EVENTS AT MAINE FAIRS

If your Fair has a Woodsmen's Field Day, please send pictures, contact person with email and phone number to [Junia](#). She is putting together a display to celebrate these wonderful events!

**IAFE THE NETWORK
INDIANAPOLIS CONFERENCE**

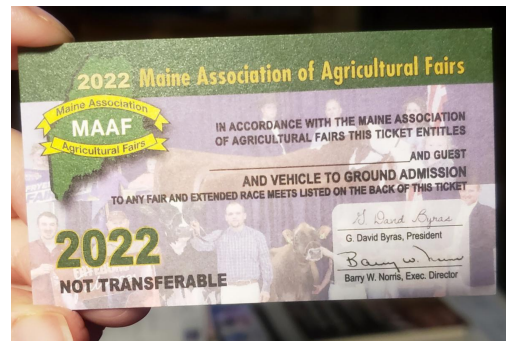
Join with other Maine fair members to attend the 2022 IAFE Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana! The theme this year is Fairs United, and will offer content to fit the needs of fairs of all sizes – from the smallest to the largest. The IAFE website has a schedule available now, and the exact content of all workshops and sessions will be updated throughout the summer. The spectacular highlight of this program will be a “fair for fair people” held on Sunday night, November 27th, inside the Indiana State Fair Fairgrounds Coliseum. There will be carnival rides, food, drink, entertainment and loads of fun for everyone.

A very special offering will be the hands-on, interactive showcase of Ag Education projects, programming, and exhibits from fairs all across the country. This will be an opportunity for IAFE members to experience Ag Education programming and ask questions.

Many Maine fairs are IAFE members, and several MAAF board members have been to previous conventions. If you are interested in more information, look on the IAFE website or ask Barry Norris. Kathryn Hunter, Missy Jordan or MAAF President David Byras. They are among many who have first-hand experience attending the IAFE convention. Look forward to seeing you in Indianapolis November 27 – 30 !

MAINE STATE FAIR PASS SALE ENDS AUGUST 1ST

Acting on a vote taken by the fair presidents during their annual conference breakfast meeting, the MAAF board is announcing the opportunity for interested persons to purchase a 2022 Maine State Fair Pass. The purchase price is \$200, and there will be 100 passes offered. Look for a special notice from the MAAF as to the exact date (third week in May), and how to access the online address and any other specifics that you will need to take advantage of this unique opportunity.



2022 MAAF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The MAAF scholarship Committee received eight applications for scholarships in 2022. After reviewing and scoring all of the applications, two recipients were chosen.



Lydia Andrews lives in Fryeburg, Maine, and graduated from Fryeburg Academy. Lydia has participated in 4-H for the past 10 years, breeding, raising and showing

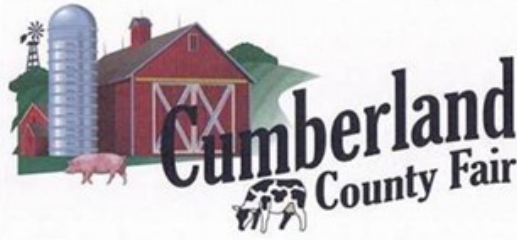
sheep. She also participates in riding dressage. Lydia plans to complete a degree in Biomedical Science: Medical



Owen Brown lives in Exeter, Maine, and graduated from Dexter Regional High School. Owen has been very active in 4-H and showing livestock for 10 years. He plans to complete a bachelor's degree in Agribusiness with a minor in Pre-Law, working towards a law school degree in

and Veterinary Sciences with the plan to attend a post-grad professional school. Agricultural Law.

CUMBERLAND FAIR GRANT FROM MAINE AG IN THE CLASSROOM



**Join us in 2022 for the
150th Annual
Cumberland County Fair!
September 25- October 1, 2022**

2022 will be an exciting year for Cumberland Farmers Club, as we will be celebrating our 150th agricultural fair.

From the very beginning, the focus of Cumberland Fair has been all things agriculture, and has continued to be ever since. Nowadays, people have developed a keen interest and curiosity about the sources of their food, building materials and clothing. With the pandemic materializing the past couple of years, many folks have started their own food development by planting their own gardens, and even raising chickens in their back yards. An increase in various cooking shows on TV has intensified that interest as well. Many schools have created gardens on their properties, and some use the produce to supplement their food services.

Though primarily considered an urban area because of the proximity to Maine's largest city, Portland, there are still numerous farms in Cumberland County; there are Maine maple syrup farms, pig farms, beef farms, goat farms, llama and alpaca farms, dairy farms, berry farms and apple orchards. Cumberland Fair developed a program several years ago entitled "Maine Ag Day at Cumberland Fair" in order to educate students about local farming and agriculture. In May, the coordinator of the program communicates with schools, mostly in Cumberland County, inviting them to attend the program, which is the Monday of the Fair from 10:00 to 1:00. Students from ages 5 through and including 12 from public schools, private schools, parochial schools, life skills programs, home schoolers, and preschools, embracing 11 to 15 schools attend this program. The number of visitors has varied over the years, but has averaged 1,000. On our first year we hosted 2300!! Age-appropriate scavenger hunts are sent to the participating classes whereby students, teachers, chaperones and even bus drivers, with clipboards and pencils in hand seek out the answers at the different posts on the grounds. Participants are guided by the scavenger hunts to several locations on the fairgrounds where they find the answers to the questions. Some answers are provided by members of the Fair, some answers are posted on display stands. In the Exhibition Hall, they may encounter the Maine State Horticulturist judging the large display of home grown fruits and vegetables, or can view the Cooperative Extension, Grange and school garden displays that are on exhibit. Demonstrations by spinners, quilters, crafters and knitters include interaction with the students. Volunteers from Cooperative Extension have healthy snack offerings to hand out.

Some examples of alignment to Maine Standards are provided by visiting the museum, the railroad station, the newly-acquired 1927 sawmill, the blacksmith shop, and the farrier shed. These posts furnish students with Maine and community history; the way farming was done 150 years ago in this local area. The massive oxen and draft horses provide an awareness of what power was used before tractors were invented. The maple syrup sugar house incorporates math and science by demonstrating the sap-to-syrup process and the ratio of sap to syrup. There, too, they can get a taste of Maine maple syrup with the sugar-on-snow samples. That's a very tasty answer to the scavenger hunt!

Each classroom will receive the book "Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table." Many classes use the scavenger hunts as lessons and discussion groups when they return to their schools, providing an assessment of what they all learned. This hands-on visit to

Maine Ag Day at Cumberland Fair gives them the opportunity to relate their experiences with the answers to the scavenger hunts. We at Cumberland Fair feel honored to be a part of that education!

by Carolyn F. Small, Coordinator, ME Ag Day at Cumberland Fair



On June 4 & 5, Cumberland Fair held a pre-Celebration of our upcoming milestone- the 150th Fair!!! While the actual 150th Fair will be held September 25 - October 1, 2022, we enjoyed a weekend celebrating this landmark occasion by going back in time! We enjoyed a Fireman's muster, ox plowing, cooking at the museum, (bean hole beans!!) lumberjack demonstrations, old time kids games, evening barn dance, turn of the century baseball and so much more!! As always, agriculture and ag history was the star of the show.

It was a wonderful, fun filled weekend - we are so grateful to our members, volunteers, sponsors, supporters and friends of the Fair who joined us!





MONMOUTH FAIR

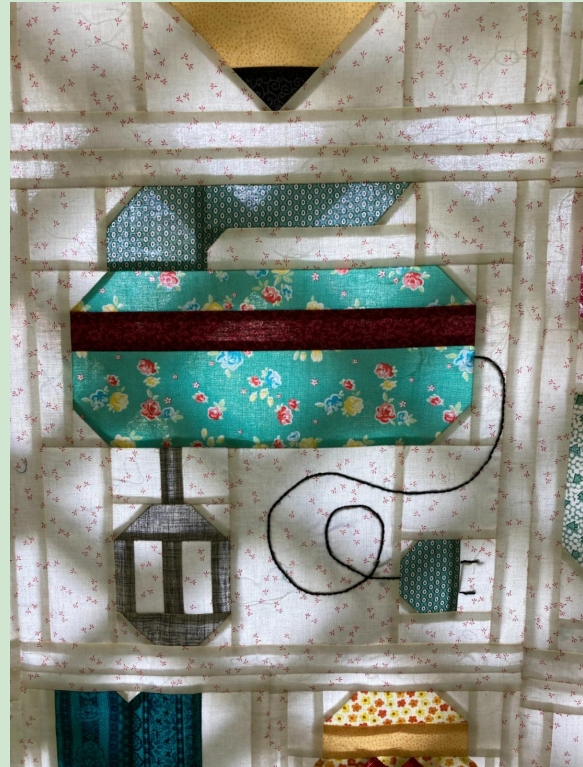
Monmouth Fair started the 2022 Agricultural Fair season on June 22-25. Monmouth Fair built a new stage this year, and while it needs finishing touches there were many positive comments about this improvement to the grounds. Motor Booty Affair was welcomed to the new stage on the first night of the fair drawing a great crowd. The 4x4 Off Road Truck Crawl brought record crowds on Friday night.

There were two other notable areas of improvement. The first being an expanded children's area. We have a new fair member who took what we had for children's activities and added more. This provided an area for children to do agriculture based activities. The other area was painting and new lighting in the "Beano Hall" section of Cochnewagon Hall. This area had 4-H exhibits and other vendors. Both these areas were well received by fair goers young and old alike.

Thank you to all who helped make Monmouth Fair a success and kick off the 2022 Agricultural Fair season.

MONMOUTH FAIR PHOTOS BY LYNN ANDERSON-SNOW





2022 MAAF CONTEST! “CREATING AN EXPERIENCE: MAINE GROWS” DETAILS

Category 1 – Agricultural experiences designed for **CHILDREN**. These experiences will include information, demonstrations, and hands on activities which introduce children to Maine agriculture.

Category 2 - Agricultural experiences for **ALL FAIRGOERS** that educate fairgoers about Maine’s agriculture. This can be a one day program or on going throughout your fair.

Division 1: Fairs operating for four concurrent days or less.

Division 2: Fairs operating for five concurrent days or more.

2022 MAAF Agricultural Award Judges are:

Kayla Bess, Sales and Marketing Manager, *Maine Grains*
Maine Grains, located in Skowhegan, is creating jobs, improving land use and providing healthy food for all while serving as a successful model for thriving local

economies. They manufacture locally grown stone-milled grains, a staple in the human diet. kayla@mainegrains.com

Aaron Englander, Farm Program Coordinator, Erickson Fields
Erickson Fields Preserve located in Rockport, Maine, is, among other things, home to the Teen Ag Program, where local high school students work planting, harvesting and distributing food to local hunger relief organizations. It also includes a community garden and Kids Can Grow, a program that teaches families about backyard gardening. aenglander@mcht.org

Jeannie M. Tapley, Director of Operations, Maine Potato Board
The mission of the Maine Potato Board is to provide a competitive environment for Maine potato growers, processors and dealers while promoting the economic importance to the state and quality of the product. You may be familiar with Spuddy, their mascot, who is the star of their children's informational booklet about Maine potatoes. jtapley@mainepotatoes.com

MAAF Award Application:

Please include the following five elements:

1. A brief description of your event(s) and the connection to Maine agriculture.
*Specifically, *Maine Grows*
2. Who was involved in the planning process? – i.e. individuals, community organizations, agencies, businesses, sponsors, etc. – and the roles they played
3. What challenges did you face and how did you address them?
4. How did the public react to your event? – i.e. personal feedback, hits on your website, survey monkey results, photos of interaction during your event
5. How was your event promoted? – i.e. newspapers, social media, posters, school and promotional programs prior to the event, etc.

*Each element will be evaluated on a scale of 1 – 4

- 1 = No evidence presented
- 2 = Minimal evidence of involvement presented
- 3 = Evidence of involvement is presented
- 4 = Evidence of involvement is thorough and comprehensive

Mail applications to: MAAF, P.O. Box 3, Union, ME 04862

Applications must be received by Friday, November 4, 2022.

*For further information, contact Barry W. Norris, barrywnorrismainefairs@gmail.com

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