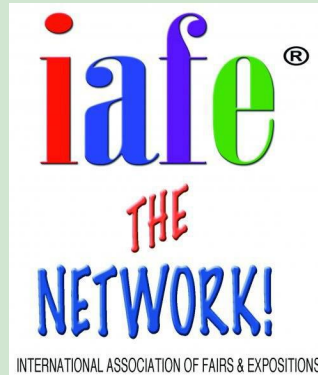




# MAAF NEWSLETTER

JULY 2024

Issue #4



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE BARRY W. NORRIS

First, I'd like to welcome Kayla Jones to our fair family. You'll read more about Kayla in this newsletter.

Well, another fair season has started, and we're off for 2024. I had the opportunity to attend Springfield, Pittston and Monmouth Fairs, and must say you all did an outstanding job getting your facilities ready for the fair season. I know the rest of the fairs are working tirelessly to have their facilities ready in the upcoming weeks. Thanks to the many volunteers that make that happen. Your fair goers really appreciate all your hard work. As you read this, I urge you to attend the upcoming fairs. We all have busy schedules, but this summer is dedicated to "Meet Our Farmers," and farmers will be at your local fairs to share what life as a farmer is all about.

Exciting this year, Bangor Fair is bringing back harness racing to the fair. July 25th at 5PM. I invite you to join me on the 25th to celebrate this historic event.



Darcy Winslow, Junia and I attended the May 2024 Zone 1 meeting in Springfield, Massachusetts. While there, we listened to speakers sharing timely information on many fair topics. A highlight of the weekend was as the Zone gathering raised approximately \$10,000 for the Fairchick Fund. "Established by the IAFE Education Foundation, this fund will provide travel grants for IAFE members to attend the annual convention, ensuring that Marla's dedication and passion are recognized for many years to come." This fund is in place in recognition of Marla's unwavering commitment and dedication to our industry. Take a moment and pencil in May 1-4, 2025 for the Zone 1 meeting next spring. Co-hosting with New Hampshire, and held in Concord, this event will share information on a wide variety of topics. Darcy Winslow will be posting updates in our upcoming newsletters.

Your board is in the midst of planning the 2025 Annual Conference to be held at Sable Oaks in South Portland, and, to use a phrase we all may be familiar with, we'll be "moving the pickles." We hope you enjoy what we have planned. Save the dates January 24th - 26th.

Thank you to Junia and Rachel for making this newsletter a huge success, and I encourage you to pass it along to your friends.

Thank you to all of our fair families for your hard work and commitment to showcasing agriculture at your fairs. Please when you see a farmer at your fair (or anywhere else), thank them for what they do. Thanks also to the many youth who continue to present agriculture at our fairs and events.

In ending, I'd like to recognize the group from Maine that recently traveled to Ohio for the "Battle of the Belts" - Belted Galloway Junior Nationals - this past weekend. Congratulations

on your accomplishments, and a special thank you to the truckers, parents and supporters.  
Job well done !! - Barry

## THESE SHOES WILL BE HARD TO FILL THE MAINE STATE GRANGE

The origins of the Grange in Maine extend back to the Farmers' Clubs, which were organized in the 1850's. Each club debated agricultural and household issues while both men and women had their separate gatherings. The clubs began to decline after the Civil War and soon were merged into another movement that would attract many of Maine's rural population.

The Grange (officially known as the Patrons of Husbandry) was organized in Washington, D.C. in 1867. It grew slowly during its early years but arrived in Maine by 1873. The following year, the Maine State Grange was organized in Lewiston. By the end of 1874, there were sixty-four Granges and approximately 2,000 members. From the beginning, there was great interest in cooperative activities including offering insurance, advocating railroad and banking regulation, and promoting group purchasing. In 1876, the Order had grown to 228 Granges and 12,000 members.

The Grange began to take strong leadership positions on legislative issues and educational reform. Libraries were encouraged in Grange Halls as well as debates on a multitude of topics of interest to members.

In the 1880's, Pomona Granges (county level) came into being. Funds were raised for a Grange Cottage at the Good Will Farm in Hinckley. This connection remains to the present.

In 1945, the Maine State Grange purchased a state headquarters in Augusta. In the 1960's the Grange took an active role in supporting the Maine Conservation Camp at Bryant Pond. While the Order is still a factor in many Maine towns and its halls are one of the icons of the State's landscape, the number of Granges has dropped to about 180 and membership is now approximately 8,000. Many efforts are being made to revive interest in the Grange and encourage membership development with enhanced programming and membership benefits as incentives.

Maine State Grange annual session: October 18 & 19, 2024  
State Officers: Master/President: Sherry Harriman  
Overseer/Vice-President: Adrian Griffin

For more information: Maine State Grange

The pictures that are included in this article are from a variety of Grange functions and events. They represent Grange leaders from across the state of Maine - at meetings, fair displays and public suppers.





## MEET OUR FARMERS



Where can you meet a wide variety of farmers?  
At a Farmers' Market !!

National Farmers' Market Week  
August 4-10, 2024

“Going to the farmers’ market is one of life’s great pleasures, a pleasure that’s at the root of the Maine experience. The Maine Federation of Farmers’ Markets (MFFM) cultivates that root and keeps it strong. MFFM is grassroots, farmer-focused and committed to guaranteeing that wholesome Maine food can be enjoyed by all. Our statewide programs help sustain Maine farms, connect market farmers, strengthen farmers markets and widen access to locally-grown food for all...Our core

programs include the annual farmers market convention, Maine Harvest Bucks, Bumper Crop, fiscal services for markets and technical support.”

To find a farmers’ market near you, [mainefarmersmarket.org](http://mainefarmersmarket.org) or [director@mffm.org](mailto:director@mffm.org)

Pictures in this section represent a wide variety of Farmers’ Markets. Bridgeton, Buckfield, Hampden, Somerville, Farm Rockport, United Farmers’ Market (Belfast).





## MAAF FOUNDATION 2024 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS



Following a blind judging format, similar to the IAFE, the MAAF Foundation chose the following students to receive the 2024 scholarships:

Elizabeth Graustein, Fryeburg Fair, Kennett High School, No. Conway, New Hampshire. Liza will be attending the University of Findlay in Ohio, where she will be studying Animal Science/Nutrition.

Jayden Kimball, Cumberland Fair, Windham High School, Windham, Maine. Jayden will be attending the University of New England where she will be studying Animal Behavior/Pre Vet.

The MAAF Foundation received several exemplary applications and is pleased to be awarding the 2024 scholarships to these young women.

## INTRODUCING MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY AGRICULTURE PROMOTION COORDINATOR: KAYLA JONES



"Hello, my name is Kayla Jones, and I am excited to introduce myself as the new Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Agricultural Promotional Coordinator. My background is firmly rooted in agriculture. I started in the 4-H and FFA programs, was active on my family's beef cattle operation, exhibited multiple species at the county state and national level, served as a local 4-H Advisor, worked as a crop insurance specialist, and in a farm equipment dealership. My husband J.T., and I along with our two children Johnny (4) and Lucille (1) have relocated to Maine from southwest Ohio, and we are so excited to be here. J.T. has taken a job as a service technician with United Ag and Turf working in the Fairfield location, so be sure to say hello to him if you are in the shop starting July 15th. As we get settled into our lives as new residence of Maine, we look forward to visiting with all of you at the fairs. Please, if you see me around introduce yourself, it will take me a while, but I will put names and faces together. If you have questions, or just want to

introduce yourselves please feel free to reach out to me on my direct line: (207)592-2126 or via email at [kayla.jones@maine.gov](mailto:kayla.jones@maine.gov). I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful fair season!"

## HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR MID-SUMMER FAIRS

Union Fair - July 7-14. Maine Wild Blueberry Festival and Union Fair Sunday - Wednesday Complimentary Admission. Steer shows, ox and horse pulling, dairy, Meet a blueberry farmer.

Ossipee Valley Fair - July 11-14. Sanctioned Sheep Dog trials and Saturday Baked Bean Supper (Don't miss this meal !)

Waterford World's Fair - July 19-21. Meet Your Farmers talks, Q and A, and Farmers' Market on Sunday.

Houlton Fair - July 19-21. Check out the Houlton Fair poster and Challenge Coin. Designed by Lindsey Bartman , it highlights "Meet Our Farmers." Get your coin asap!

Bangor Fair - July 25 - 28, break, August 01 - 03. So many new and exciting fun things this year. Bass Park Beer Garden, group ticket options, Axe Women plus weekend 1 has beef and dairy, while weekend 2 has sheep and goats. Don't miss the second of the summer Youth Market Show and Sale.

Northern Maine Fair - July 31 - August 04. If your family has "gamers" you will love this fair. From Monopoly to chess to Warhammer. All week long.

Topsham Fair - August 06 - 11. The "chicks" are back! They will be there to meet you and their "farmers" will answer your poultry questions while you check out the "chicks."

Skowhegan Fair - August 08 - 17. Did you miss it at Bangor Fair? Not to worry! The Third Youth Market Show and Sale of the summer is scheduled for Skowhegan Fair. Support the youth and know where your food really comes from.

Acton Fair - August 22 - 25. Farmers' Lil Helper returns to help children learn about the food that they eat and products that come from our Maine fairs. Hands-on and perfect for children of all ages! Open until 8pm daily.

Piscataquis Fair - August 22 - 25. Miss Maple Pageant returns on August 24th. Miss Maple winners are invited to join with other ag fair winners to meet our MAAF conference goers in January at "Breakfast With the Queens" on Sunday morning.

Washington County Fair - August 24 - 25. When you travel to Pembroke for the fair, notice that they have a new t-shirt design. This logo will be featured throughout their merch, as well as any publicity from the fair.

Windsor Fair - August 24 - September 02. Saturday morning, August 24th, at 9:15 am, Windsor Fair holds the weigh-ins for the Giant Pumpkin/Squash Contest. Woodsmen's Day follows on Monday and later in the week is Senior Citizens/Veterans Day on Thursday. Yet another Youth Market Sale - Labor Day, 9/2/24.

Blue Hill Fair - August 29 - September 02. This summer make it a priority to travel to the Blue Hill Fair to meet Charlotte, Wilbur and, of course, Templeton. These are the "stars" of the award winning Charlotte's Web exhibit. Located in Zuckerman's Barn, the web says it all - "Some pig!"

Harmony Free Fair - August 30 - September 02. Free admission. Free parking. Animal shows, exhibition hall and an awesome food booth run by the Patriarchs Club - the folks who plan all year and then put on this *genuine* New England agricultural fair .

## MEET OUR FARMERS CONTEST 2024!

For 2024, "Meet Our Farmers" will introduce your fairgoers to the next step in our Ag Education Challenge. We have brought the agriculture of Maine with "Maine GROWS" - sharing both familiar and unfamiliar produce across our state. In 2023, through "Maine On My Plate," we expanded what is grown and where to find it, how to use it and how many options are available year round, for more ag information - cookbooks, 4-H, Internet, UMO.



"Meet Our Farmer" brings the "stars" of the Maine ag scene. Who grows our food, who markets it and who knows the most about Maine agriculture? Our Maine farmers. Seasonally, our maple farmers are front and center in the spring, while the pumpkins are harvested and displayed at our fall farm stands. Invite your local farmers to visit your fairgrounds and share their history, their successes and struggles - consider designing a Meet Our Farmers logo for your fair to direct fairgoers to all the farmers who will answer questions and share information. Use the MDACF donated video monitors from the past to show commodity videos of Maine farmers - potatoes, blueberries, Gulf of Maine fisheries, etc. Don't have them? I can direct you to where to get these! Collaborate with local schools to create a "Foxfire" type project and interview farmers. Have fun with this year's Ag Challenge - [MEET OUR FARMERS CONTEST 2024!](#)

Category 1 – Agricultural experiences designed for children. These experiences will include information, demonstrations, and appropriate hands on activities which introduce children to Maine foods on their plates.

Category 2 - Agricultural experiences for ALL fairgoers that educate fairgoers about Maine's

vibrant and diverse food scene. This can be a one day program or ongoing throughout your fair.

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

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

FMI - [Junia Norris](#)

## MAINE 2024 FAIR PHOTOGRAPHY & FAIR POSTER CONTEST

Introducing two new opportunities for Maine fairs to share the uniqueness of their programs.

Category #1: Promotional/Advertising Poster

Description: Annual campaign/theme poster, entertainment line-up poster, promotional poster. Maximum of two posters per fair



Judging criteria:

Overall achievement - left to judges' discretion (50 points)

Representation of the fair (25 points)

Indicative of Creative Excellence (25 points)

Posters may be submitted at any time during the summer fair season; Deadline for acceptance: October 12, 2024; Send posters to: MAAF, Box 3, Union, Maine 04862 or hand carry to Erik Fitch or Junia Norris.

Category #2: Best Fair Photo - Single Photo

Description: A photo that shows an informative, interesting or unique scene from your fair. Captions are required (limit of 30 words per photo).

Maximum of 3 photos per fair.

Judging criteria:

Originality and creativity (50 points)

General appearance (30 points)

Caption (20 points)

Entries may be submitted in black and white or color. All photos must be submitted in a digital format. There will be one (1) color winner and one (1) black and white winner.

Photographs may be submitted at any time during the summer fair season; deadline for submitting: October 12, 2024; Email photographs to: [junianorris@gmail.com](mailto:junianorris@gmail.com)

FMI: Contact [Erik Fitch](#)

## IMPORTANT FAIR DATES!

January 24-26 - 2025 [MAAF](#) Annual Meeting

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