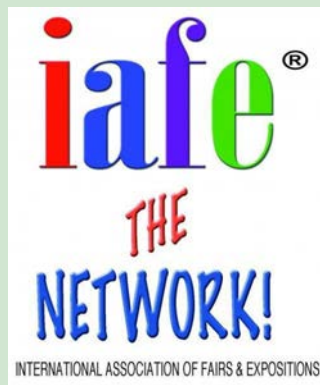




MAAF NEWSLETTER

**JANUARY
2025
ISSUE #1**



MAAF CONFERENCE PROGRAM 2025 JANUARY 24 - 26 SHERATON SABLE OAKS SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE



Thursday January 23

The MAAF Board arrives at site

3:00-7:00 pm
Trade Show set up
Casco Bay Ball Rm

7:00 pm
MAAF Board Meeting
Portland/SO Portland Rm

Join in some Fair, Fun and Games
after the Board Meeting

Friday, January 24

6:30-8:30am
Breakfast Buffet

7:00-8:30am
Trade Show set up
Casco Bay Ball Rm

9:00am
Registration Opens
Follow signs to the Trade Show Area

9:00am
Trade Show Opens
Casco Bay Ball Rm
Auction items will be on display
All proceeds will benefit the MAAF Foundation.

9:30-10:30am
Race Directors Meeting
Moderated by William McFarland and Michelle Harden
Salon A
Open to all that are interested in Harness Racing

9:30-11:00am Livestock Superintendents MTG
Salon B&C
State Vet.

10:30-11:30am
Exhibition Hall
Salons D&E
Moderator: Junia Norris

11:30-1:00pm
Registration Desk Closed for lunch
Will re-open at 12:30pm until 2:00pm

11:30 - 1:00pm
Lunch Break
Food Trucks outside the Hotel Lobby

1:15-2:30pm
HOT TOPIC: Insurance and Your Fair
Salons D&E
With Andrew Vandepopulier, Hass & Wilkerson &
Dan Foster, American National

Andrew is a producer in the Specialty Programs division at Haas & Wilkerson with over a decade of insurance experience. With his background in claims and sales, Andrew supports clients representing fairs, festivals, rodeos, and other special events around the country, helping to build great programs and mitigate large exposures. He serves on committees and boards to facilitate the continued expansion of strong risk management practices. He's an active participant in the IAFE Young Professionals Initiative, as well as an annual contributor to fair and festival speakers' panels. Andrew also serves as the sponsorship chair for the American Royal Rodeo committee and assists with the annual rodeo. He's completed the Institute of Fair Management through the IAFE and is wrapping up his CFE through the IFEA. Andrew graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a degree in Business Education. He played three years of college baseball at Maple Woods Community College and Truman State, and continues to be active in all outdoor sports.

12:30-2:30pm
Pulling Superintendents & Affiliate Groups
Salons B&C

1:15-2:30pm
Fairs Helping Fairs -Resources
Portland/SO Portland Rd
Moderator: Erik Fitch, Blue Hill Fair, MAAF Director
Bring your resources to share!!
Where do you source printed material, poster, flyers, signage.
How about ribbons, trophies, awards?
What about Burlap Bags for pig scramble, sawdust/shavings etc. etc.!!

2:30-4:00pm
Annual Meeting
Salons D&E
Welcome: President G. David Byras Jr.
Agenda to be posted and available prior to the meeting

4:15-5:30pm
IAFE and Zone 1???!! What is all the Fuss?!!
Salons D&E
Panel Discussion
Join us and find out what IAFE and Zone 1 are, see how to navigate all the resources and information of the website, hear about the IAFE Convention and Zone 1 Meeting
What, When, Where.
Moderator: Barry W. Norris

5:00pm

Trade Show Closes.
A Night of Fun

6:00-7:00pm
Variety Show
Salons D&E

7:30pm
Auction – MAAF Foundation
Salons D&E
Proceeds go the MAAF Foundation

9:00pm
Music by “Six Ways til Sunday”
Salons D&E
Band starts after the Auction



Saturday, January 25

6:30-8:30am
Breakfast Buffet

7:30-8:45am
Fair President's Breakfast
Portland Rm

9:00-12:00am
Registration Desk Open Follow Signage

9:00-9:30am
Opening Remarks: President Byras
Salons D&E
Representative of Department of Agriculture

9:00am
Trade Show Opens
Casco Bay Ball Rm

9:30-11:30am
Safety and Security at Your Fairs
Salons D&E
Presenter: Cliff Hedges, Safety and Security director, Eastern States Exposition
Chairman IAFE Safety Committee
Retired FBI Agent

9:30-11:30am
Maine Assoc. of Livestock Exhibitors
Salons A&B

11:30-1:30pm
Lunch Break – Food Trucks outside Lobby

1:00-2:00pm
Big Strategies for Small Budgets
Salons D&E
Presented By: Dakota Romine of Fairs.com
Learn how to apply big-fair strategies on a small budget to boost attendance, streamline operations, and enhance your fair's presence without breaking the bank

2:30-4:00pm
Bridging the Gap at Maine Fairs

TBA

Dialogue, Knowledge, Collaboration, and Stereotypes of Generational Transformation
A conversation between young and old, experienced and inexperienced. Learn from
Generations of Fair People

2:00pm

Trade Show Closes

Banquet

Start taking tickets at 4:30

Grand Ballroom

Upon entrance to the Banquet Hallway you will be able to grab a
cocktail, socialize and relax

Banquet Room Doors open approx 5:15pm.

5:30pm

Special Presentations

MAAF Contest Awards

Rising Star Award

Catherine Damren Distinguished Service Award

Presenter: Junia Norris

7:30pm

Closing and adjourn

8:00pm

Music by the “Midnight Rose”

Sunday, January 28

6:30-9:00am

Breakfast Buffet with Fair Queens & Princesses (8-10am)

10:00am

Conference Committee Meeting

Cape Elizabeth Rm.

Thank you for attending the 2025 Conference

See you next year

Save these dates

2025 Zone 1 Meeting May 1-3, 2025

MAAF Annual Conference January 23-25, 2026



FINAL INFORMATION FOR THE MAAF 2025 CONFERENCE ALL INFO IS ON THE MAAF WEBSITE

- There are openings on the MAAF Board of Directors. 2nd VP & two 3-year directors. If you are interested, please note the deadlines for the applications. All necessary information can be found on the MAAF website. Here is the nomination form. FMI: Missy Jordan nova95263@yahoo.com
- Here is the Rising Star application. FMI: bwnorrismainefairs.net
- There will be tables available for fair displays. FMI: Darcy Winslow hvfbelgians@gmail.com
- For information on Breakfast with the Queens - Sunday morning - contact Liz Chaisson. FMI: lizard3303@aol.com
- All fair group photos will be taken by Rachel Andrews Damon. PLEASE contact Rachel during the conference at the Sheraton Sable Oaks to set up a time for your fair.

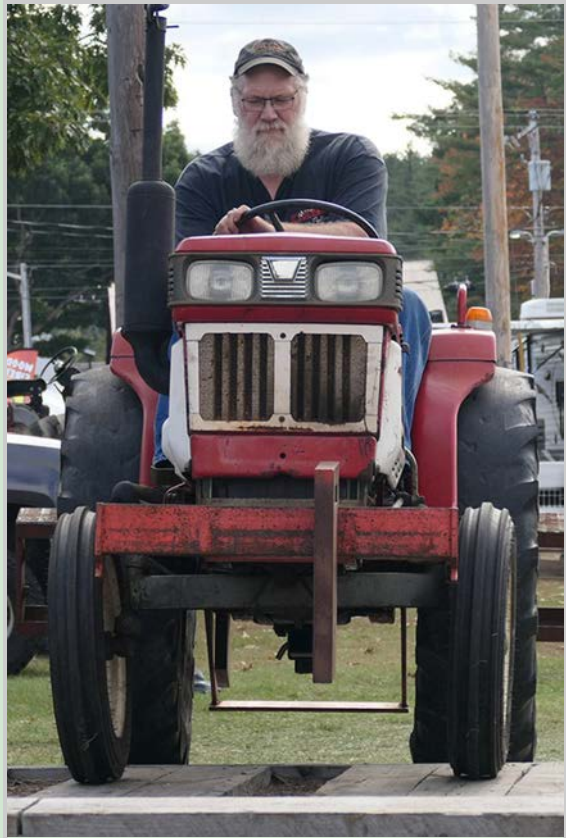




SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!! WOODSMEN'S FIELD DAYS & MECHANICAL PULLS AT OUR FAIRS

Junia is collecting photos from all Fairs of your Woodsmen's Field Day and Mechanical Pulls. Please email a few to her ASAP at junianorris@gmail.com. Thank you for participating.







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