

## COMMUNICATING 1

Commissioner Beal and the Bureau of Agriculture continue conversations with ag sector stakeholders. Discussions include food system, challenges, and solutions

Includes check-ins with dairy, wild blueberry and potato industries, as well as small and mid-size producers across the state.

DACF is also facilitating ongoing, bi-weekly calls with ag service providers and staff from all of the federal delegation and chairs of ACF Committee.



## COLLABORATING 2



Bureau of Agriculture is organizing efforts to begin distributing cloth masks to agricultural partners.

The masks, created at the Maine State Prison, will be provided at no charge. A total of 4,000 have been ordered.

## MONITORING 4



Daily updates to the Bureau's COVID-19 Resource web pages

DACF web pages provide information including links to federal and state guidance and DACF-specific tools for owners and employers and the public, about the evolving COVID-19. Content is constantly updated and reflects the status of current situation.



- Parks and Lands webpage
- Bureau of Agriculture webpage
- Maine Forest Service



## COORDINATING 3

DACF is assisting with the distribution of potatoes originally intended for institutions, such as schools, that are not properly packaged or fit for retail sales.



- Department of Corrections purchased 45,000 pounds of potatoes.

- Working with local gleaning groups and statewide food pantries to ensure everyone has access to potatoes.



## NETWORKING 5

Commissioner Beal and BPL Director Cutko joining conference calls with New England states to discuss State Park management approaches.



Additionally the Commissioner's Office is participating in weekly National Association of State Directors of Agriculture calls.



## LISTENING 6



DACF survey focused on ag and forest sector owners impacted by COVID-19.

Owners are using this opportunity to share feedback directly with the Department. Staff is following up directly with those who reach out.

To date, over 120 comments/reports.



## ADVOCATING 7



Commissioner Beal is advocating for more support

Working with all four offices of the Maine congressional delegation to advocate for farms, forestry and conservation programs and funding. Most recently, she called the USDA FSIS to temporarily lift rules preventing state inspected meat from crossing state lines.

