



Craig V. Hickman
Senator, District 14

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Craig V. Hickman introducing

LD 1213, An Act to Allow the Premiums and Gratuities Paid for Any Agricultural Events Approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Be Considered in Apportionment of Stipends to Agricultural Fairs

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Tuesday, April 1, 2025*

Senator Talbot Ross, Representative Pluecker, and honorable members of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, my name is Craig Hickman, and I am proud to represent Senate District 14, twelve municipalities in southern Kennebec County, including my beloved hometown of Winthrop. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce LD 1213, “An Act to Allow the Premiums and Gratuities Paid for Any Agricultural Events Approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Be Considered in Apportionment of Stipends to Agricultural Fairs,” to the Committee today.

As a farmer, I am proud to be a part of Maine’s rich agricultural history and culture. This extends to a robust schedule of agricultural fairs, with events from sheep judging to harness racing to oxen pulls. These fairs and events are currently supported by the Agricultural Fairs and Pulling Events Stipend Fund.

Farmers and food producers are innovative, creative, and competitive. We enjoy showing our wares, demonstrating our skills, showing off our livestock, producing the best food and food products you’d ever want to eat, and winning the top prize. We might envision a new competition, exhibit, or event for an agricultural fair that is not contemplated by current statute.

LD 1213 ensures that any other agricultural competition not explicitly listed in Title 7, section 86 but that is approved beforehand by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry may be considered in the apportionment of stipends to the relevant agricultural fairs.

Thank you for your time, and I ask that you vote to pass this important bill to support our farmers and agricultural fairs.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Craig V. Hickman
State Senator, District 14