



January 27, 2026

Good afternoon, Senator Talbot-Ross, Representative Pluecker, and distinguished members of the Agricultural, Conservation and Forestry Committee. My name is Barry W. Norris, and I'm the Executive Director of the Maine Association of Agriculture Fairs, which represents the 25 licensed agricultural fairs in the State of Maine.

I stand here before you today representing our Agriculture Fairs in opposition to LD 2096. On Saturday January 24, 2026 at the annual MAAF conference 24 of our fair's representatives were in attendance, with the 25th out due to illness, voted unanimously not to support this bill.

The bill title "An Act Regarding Scheduling of Agricultural Fairs and Pulling" does not seem to represent the body of the bill. Only when one reads the summary on page 2, you then see in the first sentence -changes the definition of Agricultural Fairs and prohibits. If one did not read the bill in its entirety, one would not have realized the impact the bill would have on the fair community.

At the meeting all the fair representatives were vehemently opposed to the language, specifically on page 1 of the bill, Sec.1. MRSA 81 Sub§1 lines 11-26, inclusive, and on page 2 of the bill 5. Exception, as LD 2026 as amended allows for 48 hours prior with exceptions.

They voted that they were neither for or against the remainder of the bill. We have here today, either live or on the web representatives of the fairs to show their opposition to LD 2096. I believe that an amendment maybe offered at the workshop and I'll make myself available along with our Fair Presidents to respond to any friendly amendment. Thank you for your time, consideration and support for our fair

Barry W. Norris, Executive Director, Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs
barrywnorrismainefairs@gmail.com 1-207-462-0857

FAIRS IN MAINE

afe, the NETWORK! Economic Data from the 2024 Economic Impact Study conducted by the International Association of Fairs and Expositions.

Total Economic Impact



\$262,999,738 YEAR ROUND

\$167,173,411 FAIRS ALONE

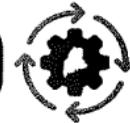


Full-time Jobs Sustained

1,981 JOBS SUSTAINED

\$89,729,962 TO ME FAMILIES

Maine State Tax Revenue



\$6,519,939 YEAR ROUND

\$4,182,273 FAIRS ALONE



Total Annual Direct Spend

\$118,759,395

ECONOMIC IMPACT

**\$14,805,151.55
YEAR ROUND**

**\$24,891,077.70
FAIR ONLY**

**1,648
JOBS SUSTAINED**

Acton Fair
Cumberland County Fair
Litchfield Fair
Topsham Fair
Union Fair/ Maine Wild Blueberry Fest.
Waterford World's Fair

**\$218,173,710.46
YEAR ROUND**

**\$142,282,323.30
FAIR ONLY**

**1648
JOBS SUSTAINED**

Bangor State Fair
Blue Hill Fair
Common Ground Country Fair
Fryeburg Fair
Harmony Free Fair
Houlton Fair Association
Monmouth Fair Association
Northern Maine Fair
Ossipee Valley Fair
Oxford Country Agricultural Society
Piscataquis Valley Fair Association
Skowhegan State Fair
The Springfield Fairgrounds, LLC.
Washington Country Fair
Windsor Fair

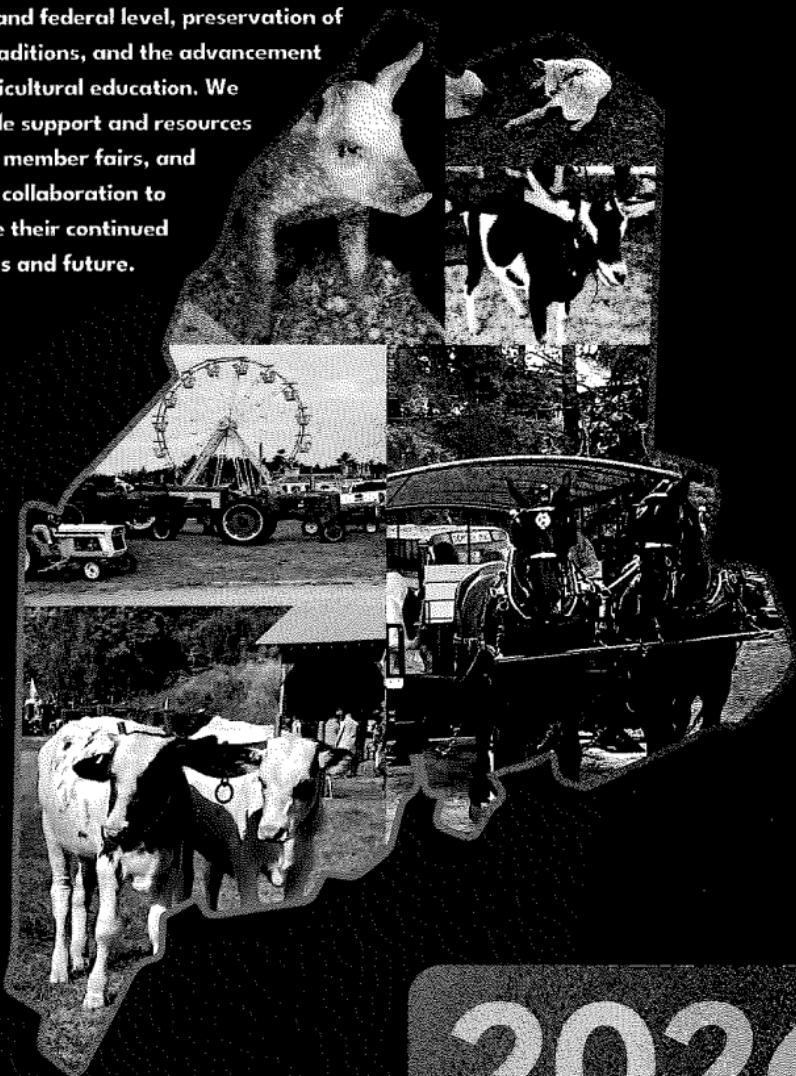


MAINE ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL FAIRS



Mission Statement:

The Maine Association of Agricultural Fair's (MAAF) is dedicated to representing and promoting the licensed Agricultural Fairs of the State of Maine through advocacy at the state and federal level, preservation of fair traditions, and the advancement of agricultural education. We provide support and resources to our member fairs, and foster collaboration to ensure their continued success and future.



2026



*Advocating for Maine's
Agricultural Fairs since 1912*

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www.mainefairs.net

