

**To the Commission of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry &  
The Treasurer of the State of Maine**



**Name of Fair Licensee**

<b>ANNUAL REPORT CHECKLIST</b>	
These items must be completed and included for stipend report to be considered complete	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREMIUMS PAID BREAKDOWN
<input type="checkbox"/>	PROFIT/LOSS STATEMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TO AGRICULTURAL FAIR FACILITIES REPORT
<input type="checkbox"/>	FAIR CONTACT SHEET FOR 2027
<input type="checkbox"/>	PREMIUM BOOK & SCHEDULE - in hard copy/or emailed not a link

<b>FAIR ATTENDANCE &amp; OPERATION ESTIMATES</b>	
NUMBER OF DAYS FAIR OPERATED	
TOTAL ATTENDANCE	
NUMBER OF PAID ADMISSIONS	
FREE PASS ATTENDANCE	
VENDOR ATTENDANCE	
ATTENDANCE UNDER LOCAL CAMPGROUND PASS	

I \_\_\_\_\_ The Treasurer of the above-named Agricultural Fair Licensee do hereby apply for bounty in aid of said Agricultural Fair Licensee, as granted by law and being duly sworn, do say that the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$ \_\_\_\_\_ ) has been raised and paid in good faith into the treasury of said Agriculture Fair Licensee during the past year, that sum of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$ \_\_\_\_\_ ) has been paid in premiums offered and paid by an Agricultural Fair for competitions. This had been done in conformity with the law, and no premiums are offered or paid by a licensee at any competition held other than during the period at which its annual fair is held, and that no premiums have been offered or paid on unneutered male animals over 6 months of age that are not recorded in the books of record for their respective breeds as recognized by the commissioner.

	<b>Treasurer</b>	
Signature	Title	Date

**On behalf of the above-named Agricultural Fair Licensee, we submit the following statement of the amount spent to pay fair premiums and make capital improvements to fairground facilities directly related to its operations and activities.**

	<b>Secretary</b>	
Signature	Title	Date

	<b>President</b>	
Signature	Title	Date

	<b>Notary</b>	
Signature	Title	Date

Notary Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

*One fair signature is required in the presence of a notary.*

**TABLE I - QUALIFIED COMPETITIONS**



Displays and exhibits that do not pay a premium are **NOT** to be reported on this form

Submit a premium book, which can be sent at any time throughout the fair season. Please include a specific list of competition classes and what premiums/prizes are available for each competition.

<b>LIVESTOCK &amp; POULTRY (4-H/YOUTH &amp; OPEN)</b>						
<b>QUALIFIED COMPETITIONS</b>	<b>NUMBER EXHIBITED</b>		<b>Number of Exhibitors Placed for Prizes</b>	<b>MONETARY PREMIUMS PAID</b> "Premium" means a ribbon, trophy, or monetary amount, or a service or object with monetary value awarded as a prize in a competition. Title 7 Chapter 4 § 81(10)	<b>COST OF RIBBONS, TROPHIES &amp; NON-MONETARY PRIZES AWARDED</b> (actual awarded to placing participants)	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>4-H/Youth</b>	<b>Open</b>				
Beef Cattle						\$ -
Calf Scramble						\$ -
Dairy Cattle						\$ -
Fowl (Ducks, geese, etc.)						\$ -
Goats (Dairy or Meat)						\$ -
Horse Shows (Any horse classes, not pulling)						\$ -
Llamas & Alpacas						\$ -
Mutton Bustin'						\$ -
Poultry						\$ -
Pig Scramble						\$ -
Rabbits						\$ -
Sheep						\$ -
Show Steers & Oxen (Any non-pulling classes)						\$ -
Swine						\$ -
<b>LIVESTOCK &amp; POULTRY TOTAL</b>						<b>\$ -</b>
<b>VEGETABLES, GRAINS, FRUITS &amp; FLOWERS</b>						
<b>QUALIFIED COMPETITIONS</b>	<b>NUMBER EXHIBITED</b>		<b>Number of Exhibitors Placed for Prizes</b>	<b>MONETARY PREMIUMS PAID</b> "Premium" means a ribbon, trophy, or monetary amount, or a service or object with monetary value awarded as a prize in a competition. Title 7 Chapter 4 § 81(10)	<b>COST OF RIBBONS, TROPHIES &amp; NON-MONETARY PRIZES AWARDED</b> (actual awarded to placing participants)	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>4-H/Youth</b>	<b>Open</b>				
Floriculture						\$ -
Fruits (fresh & dried, not canned)						\$ -
Vegetables (fresh & dried, not canned)						\$ -
Grain						\$ -
Hay						\$ -
<b>VEGETABLES, GRAINS, FRUITS &amp; FLOWERS TOTAL</b>						<b>\$ -</b>
<b>PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM LIVESTOCK &amp; DAIRY PRODUCTS</b>						
<b>QUALIFIED COMPETITIONS</b>	<b>NUMBER EXHIBITED</b>		<b>Number of Exhibitors Placed for Prizes</b>	<b>MONETARY PREMIUMS PAID</b> "Premium" means a ribbon, trophy, or monetary amount, or a service or object with monetary value awarded as a prize in a competition. Title 7 Chapter 4 § 81(10)	<b>COST OF RIBBONS, TROPHIES &amp; NON-MONETARY PRIZES AWARDED</b> (actual awarded to placing participants)	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>4-H/Youth</b>	<b>Open</b>				
Dairy Products						\$ -
Poultry Products						\$ -
Wool/Fleece Products						\$ -
<b>PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM LIVESTOCK TOTAL</b>						<b>\$ -</b>

**HOMEMADE GOODS (Not Commercially Produced)**

QUALIFIED COMPETITIONS	NUMBER EXHIBITED		Number of Exhibitors Placed for Prizes	MONETARY PREMIUMS PAID "Premium" means a ribbon, trophy, or monetary amount, or a service or object with monetary value awarded as a prize in a competition. Title 7 Chapter 4 § 81(10)	COST OF RIBBONS, TROPHIES & NON-MONETARY PRIZES  AWARDED <i>(actual awarded to placing participants)</i>	TOTAL
	4-H/Youth	Open				
Home-Baked Foods						\$ -
Home Canned Foods						\$ -
Home-Cooked Foods <i>(e.g. vinegar, maple, honey)</i>						\$ -
<b>HOMEMADE GOODS TOTAL</b>						<b>\$ -</b>

**ARTS & CRAFTS PRODUCED IN THE HOME (Not Commercially Produced)**

QUALIFIED COMPETITIONS	NUMBER EXHIBITED		Number of Exhibitors Placed for Prizes	MONETARY PREMIUMS PAID "Premium" means a ribbon, trophy, or monetary amount, or a service or object with monetary value awarded as a prize in a competition. Title 7 Chapter 4 § 81(10)	COST OF RIBBONS, TROPHIES & NON-MONETARY PRIZES  AWARDED <i>(actual awarded to placing participants)</i>	TOTAL
	4-H/Youth	Open				
Sewing & Needlework <i>(not listed in another line)</i>						\$ -
Quilting						\$ -
Crochet						\$ -
Knitting						\$ -
Photography						\$ -
Painting						\$ -
Other Arts & Crafts						\$ -
<b>ARTS &amp; CRAFTS PRODUCED IN THE HOME TOTAL</b>						<b>\$ -</b>

**GRANGE AND FARM EXHIBITS**

QUALIFIED COMPETITIONS	NUMBER EXHIBITED		Number of Exhibitors Placed for Prizes	MONETARY PREMIUMS PAID "Premium" means a ribbon, trophy, or monetary amount, or a service or object with monetary value awarded as a prize in a competition. Title 7 Chapter 4 § 81(10)	COST OF RIBBONS, TROPHIES & NON-MONETARY PRIZES  AWARDED <i>(actual awarded to placing participants)</i>	TOTAL
	4-H/Youth	Open				
Farm Exhibits <i>(Not entered in another category)</i>						\$ -
Grange Exhibits						\$ -
<b>GRANGE &amp; FARM EXHIBITS TOTAL</b>						<b>\$ -</b>

**MECHANICAL ARTS**

QUALIFIED COMPETITIONS	NUMBER EXHIBITED		Number of Exhibitors Placed for Prizes	MONETARY PREMIUMS PAID "Premium" means a ribbon, trophy, or monetary amount, or a service or object with monetary value awarded as a prize in a competition. Title 7 Chapter 4 § 81(10)	COST OF RIBBONS, TROPHIES & NON-MONETARY PRIZES  AWARDED <i>(actual awarded to placing participants)</i>	TOTAL
	4-H/Youth	Open				
Small Engine Mechanics & Restoration						\$ -
STEM <i>(e.g., composting, legos, robotics)</i>						\$ -
Tractor Restoration						\$ -
Tractor/Farm Safety						\$ -
Welding/Metalwork						\$ -
Woodworking						\$ -
<b>MECHANICAL ARTS TOTAL</b>						<b>\$ -</b>

**PULLING COMPETITIONS**

<b>QUALIFIED COMPETITIONS</b>	<b>NUMBER EXHIBITED</b>		<b>Number of Exhibitors Placed for Prizes</b>	<b>MONETARY PREMIUMS PAID</b> "Premium" means a ribbon, trophy, or monetary amount, or a service or object with monetary value awarded as a prize in a competition. Title 7 Chapter 4 § 81(10)	<b>COST OF RIBBONS, TROPHIES &amp; NON-MONETARY PRIZES</b>  <b>AWARDED</b> <i>(actual awarded to placing participants)</i>	<b>TOTAL</b>
	<b>4-H/Youth</b>	<b>Open</b>				
Farm Tractor Pulling						\$ -
Pickup Truck Pulling						\$ -
Pulling Horses						\$ -
Pulling Oxen						\$ -
<b>PULLING COMPETITION TOTAL</b>						<b>\$ -</b>

<b>TOTAL QUALIFIED COMPETITIONS</b>						<b>\$ -</b>
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**TABLE V - PROFIT/LOSS**

This may **NOT** be replaced with a printout. Supporting documentation can be included, but the form **MUST** be completed, or stipend payment will be rejected.

**RECEIPTS**

Cash on hand	_____
Prior year stipend payment	_____
Number of members	_____
Receipts from members	_____
Receipts from entry fees - racehorses	_____
Receipts from entry fees - pulling animals	_____
Receipts from entry fees - other	_____
Gate Receipts	_____
Receipts other than the above ( <i>ground rent</i> )	_____
<b>TOTAL RECEIPT</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**EXPENDITURES**

Commissioner requested facility improvements ( <i>\$0 if not applicable</i> )	_____
Capital improvements to fairground facilities ( <i>must match total on Table IV - Capital improvements</i> )	_____
Capital acquisitions ( <i>i.e., land and equipment purchases</i> )	_____
Amount expended - race purses	_____
Maintenance	_____
Operating expenses of the fair	_____
Labor during the fair	_____
Police/security	_____
Amount expended for other fair purposes	_____
Cost of insurance	_____
Dividends	_____
Premiums paid ( <i>totals for table I, II, and III</i> )	_____
Official salaries ( <i>judges and officials</i> )	_____
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**ASSETS**

Cash on hand	_____
Accounts receivable	_____
Other financial assets	_____
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**LIABILITIES**

Accounts payable	_____
Notes of mortgages	_____
Other (describe) financial obligations	_____
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>



## FAIR CONTACT SHEET

*Please list staff for the **upcoming** fair year.*

*If you have not determined staff for the upcoming year, this section may be submitted separately, by no later than March 1*

**Fair Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Website:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**President:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### DIRECTORS & SUPERINTENDENTS

**Harness Racing** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibition Hall** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Livestock** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Animal Pulling** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Mechanical Pulling** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 2026 Annual Report Schedule

Annual Reports are requested to be submitted to the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry by the dates listed below. Annual Reports should be completed using the current form, which may be downloaded from the Agricultural Resource Development Division Agricultural Fair Program web page. Annual Reports should be completed for the current calendar year, and all premiums paid (including those that are not stipend eligible) should be accounted for. Should a fair have expenditures that occurred after the previous year's Annual Report submission, they may be included in this year's report.

Fair Dates	Fair	Annual Report Due Date
June 11 – 14, 2026	Springfield Fair	September 17, 2026
June 18 – 21, 2026	Pittston Fair	September 21, 2026
June 24 – 27, 2026	Monmouth Fair	September 27, 2026
July 9 – 12, 2026	Ossipee Valley Fair	October 12, 2026
July 10 – 12, 2026	Houlton Fair	October 13, 2026
July 17 – 19, 2025	Waterford World's Fair	October 19, 2026
July 30 – August 8, 2026	Bangor State Fair	November 8, 2026
August 5 – 9, 2026	Union Fair	November 9, 2026
August 5 – 9, 2026	Northern Maine Fair	November 9, 2026
August 9 – 16, 2026	Topsham Fair	November 16, 2026
August 13 - 22, 2026	Skowhegan State Fair	November 22, 2026
August 27 – 30, 2026	Acton Fair	November 30, 2026
August 27 – 30, 2026	Piscataquis Valley Fair	November 30, 2026
August 29 – 30, 2026	Washington County Fair	November 30, 2026
September 3 – 7, 2026	Blue Hill Fair	December 1, 2026
August 29 – September 7, 2026	Windsor Fair	December 1, 2026
September 4 – 7, 2026	Harmony Free Fair	December 1, 2026
September 10 – 13, 2026	Clinton Lions Agricultural Fair	December 1, 2026
September 10 – 13, 2026	Litchfield Fair	December 1, 2026
September 16 – 19, 2026	Oxford County Fair	December 1, 2026
September 18 - 20, 2026	New Portland Lion's Fair	December 1, 2026
September 20 – 26, 2026	Farmington Fair	December 1, 2026
September 24 – 27, 2026	Common Ground Country Fair	December 1, 2026
September 27 – October 3, 2026	Cumberland Fair	December 1, 2026
October 4 – 11, 2026	Fryeburg Fair	December 1, 2026



# Agricultural Fair Stipend Fund Guide

2026



Term	Definition	Details
Stipend eligible educational agricultural talks, workshops, and demonstrations	<p>Educational agricultural talks, workshops, and demonstrations must be designed to educate fairgoers about Maine’s agricultural history and/or current practices, such as the work of farmers, food producers, and foresters. Eligible educational activities must be scheduled to occur at a specific and limited time and be listed in the fair’s schedule to encourage fairgoer attendance. Talks, workshops, and demonstrations must be facilitated by a person(s) knowledgeable on the topic and must include explaining and/or showing fairgoers a particular skill, technique, or expertise.</p> <p>Qualifying educational agricultural talks, workshops, and demonstrations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Are easy to find on the fair schedule</li> <li>•Inform fairgoers about an agricultural skill, technique, and/or expertise</li> <li>•Occur in spaces that promote learning</li> <li>•Are not limited to youth but may be designed to engage youth and/or may be facilitated by youth</li> <li>•Are designed to give the audience a tangible skill and/or a greater appreciation for agriculture</li> </ul> <p>Allowances will not be made for activities that are not listed at a specific time in the fair’s schedule or that are not available for fairgoer attendance. Payments, fees, gratuities, and/or honorariums paid to vendors or exhibitors for fair attendance or livestock or product display are not eligible for Stipend Fund allowance.</p>	<p>Educational competitions or events may offer a stipend-eligible premium.</p> <p>Examples of qualifying educational competitions and events include sheepdog trials, judged educational displays, judged speeches or debates on an agricultural topic, competitive woodsman and other agriculture-related contests and trials.</p> <p>Examples of potentially qualifying non-competitive educational activities include horse or tractor logging demonstrations, draft horse, oxen, and teamster demonstrations, fruit, vegetable, livestock, farming, or forestry talks, fiber dyeing, weaving, or knitting workshops, cooking, canning, or food processing workshops, and sawmill and forestry demonstrations.</p>
Event	"Event" means a pulling competition or livestock exhibition.	
Livestock	"Livestock" means cattle, equines, goats, members of the genus Lama, rabbits, sheep and swine.	
Poultry	"Poultry" means domesticated fowl and domesticated waterfowl.	
Premium	"Premium" means a ribbon, trophy, or monetary amount, or a service or object with monetary value, awarded as a prize in a competition or event.	

Stipend Fund Eligible Categories	Preapproved (Examples, not all-inclusive)	2025 Submitted by Fairs for Commissioner Review and Approved for 2026 Stipend Allowance
<b><u>Categories A - J are limited to premiums offered as prizes in a competition or event.</u></b>		
<b>A. Livestock and poultry;</b>	Cattle, oxen, equine, goat, llama, rabbit, sheep, and swine competitions	Judged goat or livestock display, pig scramble, mutton busting
<b>B. Vegetables, grains, fruits, and flowers;</b>	Flower, fresh or dried fruit and vegetables, grain, and hay competitions.	Judged the largest vegetable, veg. oddity, most unusual fruit
<b>C. Products derived from livestock and dairy products;</b>	Milk, ice cream, cheese, milkshake, eggs, fiber, and meat competitions.	Judged fleece show
<b>D. Home-canned, home-cooked, and home-baked goods;</b>	Food products (jam, pickles, honey, syrup, vinegar) made in the home (not at a commercial facility)	Non-commercially produced honey and maple, homebrew
<b>E. Grange and farm exhibits;</b>	Judged grange exhibits	Judged farm tractor show
<b>F-1. Youth agriculture events</b>	Livestock and pulling competitions are limited to youth entries, e.g., 4H dairy or goat show	4H pig race
<b>G. Mechanical arts exhibits;</b>	Judged robotics, engineering, Legos, woodworking, STEM, compost, mechanics, tractor safety posters, welding, and metal work exhibits	Lego contest
<b>H. Arts and crafts produced in the home;</b>	Competitions for needle and fiber arts, crochet, homemade clothing, photography, painting, and other arts and crafts not produced by a commercial artist.	Youth poster contest, mobile contest, youth food package design contest, scarecrow contest
<b>I. Pulling contests for equines and oxen;</b>	Draft horse and oxen pulls	
<b>J. Pulling contests for farm tractors and pickup trucks;</b>	Farm tractor and pickup truck pulls	

**Category K. Qualifying non-competitive educational agricultural talks, workshops, and demonstrations will be eligible for a Stipend Fund allowance.**

<p><b>K. Educational agricultural talks, workshops, and demonstrations;</b></p>	<p>Goat demonstration, sheep dog demonstration, sheepdog trial, woodsman contest, compost demonstration, horse or tractor logging demonstration, draft horse, oxen, and teamster demonstrations, fruit, vegetable, livestock, farming, or forestry talks, fiber dyeing, weaving, or knitting workshops, cooking, canning, or food processing workshops, agriculture related energy and livestock shelter demonstrations, stoneworker, sawmill and forestry demonstrations, and farmer health and wellbeing talks and demos.</p>
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**Agricultural events approved by the Commissioner not listed above**

<p><b>L. Any other agricultural event approved by the commissioner.</b></p>	<p>All 2025 requests approved by the Commissioner fit within one of the above categories.</p>
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## Activities Not Eligible for Stipend Fund Allowance

Activity	Examples
Animals	Animal Show not separated by species (may include pets, poultry, and fowl), petting zoos, payments for animals other than competition and event prize premiums, and pet contests
Auto & Motor Sports	ATV, UTV, lawn mower, garden tractor, trike pulls, car shows, car engine failure, demo derby, tough truck, ATV contests, mud runs
Awards and Giveaways	Citizenship Award, Drivers Education Giveaway
Bulk Supplies	Bulk ribbons and trophies not assigned to a specific qualifying competition or event, Carnival prizes, prize booths, Craft tables, and craft supplies at the fair (not arts and crafts produced at home)
Eating Contests	Eating and/or drinking competitions (watermelon, hot dog, pie, moxie, etc.)
Exhibitor, Vendor, and Volunteer Compensation	Born on Fairgrounds, Livestock exhibitor compensation for being on site, Oxen Weekly Exhibitor Stipend & Oxen & Steer Week Pay, Sow & Litter Exhibitor fee for bringing x# pigs, volunteer and vendor compensation, food vouchers for fair staff, volunteers, exhibitors; volunteer hours
Exhibits that don't fit into eligible categories	Exhibits that don't fit into a statute listed category, school exhibition hall entries that don't fit into a statute listed category
Fair promotional items	Fair posters, banners, swag; uniforms, auction t-shirts, clothing not awarded as a premium prize for a competition or event.
Games of Chance	Raffles, bingo, drawings, including non-specified raffles, Bossie bingo, cow chip bingo, bike raffles
Human contests and games	Arm wrestling, tough man, bed racing, back seat driver, frozen t-shirt contest, He-Man/She-Woman competitions, kissudoko, penny scramble, Connect4, cribbage, board and card games, talent contest, farmer olympics
Music & Entertainment	Battle of the bands, musician showcase, comedy, magic show, horse-drawn wagon rides
Non-Ag Demonstrations	Civil War historical re-enactment or demonstrations, Railroad Displays & Demonstrations
Non-competitive Displays	Hay bales for display, non-judged tractor displays; educational displays (not judged, no prize, not a talk, workshop, or demonstration)
Non-livestock	5K Races, stick horse races, cannabis,
Pageants and beauty contests	Baby and toddler contests, doll dress-up contest, costume contest
Parades & Scavenger Hunts	Scavenger Hunts, escape rooms, parades
Toss/Throw contests	Corn hole, skillet toss, hay bale toss, hammer throw, horseshoes, keg toss, manure pitch
	<i>Last Revised: 5/20/2026</i>

# Checklist of Requirements to Receive a Stipend Fund Distribution Payment

*All listed requirements must be met to receive Stipend Fund payment.*

- 1. **Hold an agricultural fair license that is valid for the year for which the stipend is calculated per 7 M.R.S. §86(6)**
- 2. **Must meet the definition of Agricultural fair in accordance with [7 M.R.S. §81\(1\)](#):**  
"Agricultural fair" or "fair" means an exhibition that is designed to promote education and encourage improvement in agriculture and that includes, but is not limited to, the following:  
The awarding of premiums for livestock competitions; [PL 2005, 563, §3 ]  
The display of and awarding of premiums for horticultural products; [PL 2005, 563, §3],  
The display and presentation of agricultural activities and projects undertaken by youth organizations. [PL 2005, §3]
- 3. **Must adhere to all requirements of [7 M.R.S Chapter 4](#):**  
Agricultural Fairs and Pulling Events in accordance with [7 M.R.S. §82 \(4\)](#).  
*Neglect or failure on the part of a licensee to adhere to the requirements of this chapter is sufficient cause for withholding that licensee's stipend.*
- 4. **All fairs must meet the standards for facility improvements set by the commissioner for that licensee in accordance with [7 M.R.S. §82 \(2-3\)](#).**
- 5. **Has submitted a complete and accurate Annual Report, "Annual Stipend Fund Report" in accordance with 7 M.R.S. [§82](#), [§88](#), and [§90](#).**
- 6. **Has demonstrated qualifying premiums and payments in accordance with [7 M.R.S. 86\(5\)](#).**
- 7. **Has demonstrated that the minimum premiums established in [7 M.R.S. 86\(7\)](#) have been paid**
- 8. **Has awarded premiums for livestock competitions in accordance with [7 M.R.S. 81\(1A\)](#).**
- 9. **Has awarded premiums for horticultural products in accordance with [7 M.R.S. 81\(1B\)](#).**
- 10. **Has displayed and presented agricultural activities and projects undertaken by youth organizations in accordance with [7 M.R.S. 81\(1C\)](#).**
- 11. **Through evaluation, it has demonstrated that exhibits of vegetables, fruits, grains, or dairy products are:**
  - Regularly displayed in an attractive manner upon the fairgrounds during the fair.
  - The products exhibited are representative of those produced in the county in which the fair is held.
  - The quality of the products is acceptable to the commissioner in accordance with [7 M.R.S. 86\(6B\)](#).
- 12. **Through evaluation, it has demonstrated that the fair is conducted in accordance with performance standards in accordance with [7 M.R.S. 86\(6D\)](#).**
- 13. **The health status of domestic animals shown or exhibited at the fair satisfies the health requirements established by the commissioner in accordance with [7 M.R.S. 86\(6C\)](#) and 7 [M.R.S. 1811](#) and [DACF Chapter 206 Rules: Prevention and Control of Certain Diseases of Domestic Animals and Poultry](#).**
- 14. **A licensee may not distribute profits as a primary purpose.**  
A licensee is not eligible for a stipend if the licensee is an entity with stockholders or members and the commissioner determines that the primary purpose of the licensed entity is the distribution of profits to its members or stockholders consistent with [7 M.R.S. 87\(1\)](#).
- 15. **Premiums on unregistered males prohibited.**  
A stipend may not be paid to any licensee offering or paying premiums on unneutered male animals over 6 months of age that are not recorded in the books of record for their respective breeds as recognized by the commissioner. The commissioner may make verification of breed records a required part of the sworn certificate and annual report in accordance with [7 M.R.S. 87\(2\)](#).

**In addition, Pari-Mutuel Fairs must:**

- 16. Pari-mutuel fairs must conduct racing in conjunction with a licensed fair in accordance with [7 M.R.S. §89](#).
- 17. Pari-mutuel fairs must host at least one racing meet during its licensed fair dates in accordance with [7 M.R.S. §89](#).
- 18. Pari-mutuel fairs must keep fair exhibits in an attractive display for a minimum of 3 consecutive days in accordance with [7 M.R.S. §89](#).
- 19. Pari-mutuel fairs must demonstrate that the total premium payments for fair exhibits must be An amount equal to or greater than the premiums paid for pulling contests at the fair and race meet, and not less than 25% of the premiums paid for harness horse races conducted during the licensed agricultural fair in accordance with [7 M.R.S. §89](#).
- 20. Pari-mutuel fairs must demonstrate improvements to racing facilities in accordance with [7 M.R.S. §82 \(2\)](#).

## **Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation**

### **2026 Agricultural Fair Facility Improvements**

#### **2026 Facility Improvements set by the Commissioner: Signage**

Per Maine law, distribution of Stipend Funds to fair licensees must be divided into amounts in proportion to the sums expended for premiums to each licensee that has met the standards for facility improvements set by the commissioner for that licensee. A licensee that has not complied with the improvement standards set by the commissioner for a given year is not eligible for reimbursement under this subsection for that year. [7. M.R.S.A. §86. PL 2005, c. 563, §3]

The Commissioner has determined that the 2026 facility-improvement standards for all Maine agricultural fair licensees will focus on signage. Signage is important to safety and risk management. There are three signage categories that agricultural fair evaluators assess: “egress signage,” “inherent risk signage,” and “safety signage.” While multiple fairs received “very good” scores in one of these categories, few fairs received “very good” in all three signage categories.

While it is important for fairs to have sufficient signage to inform fairgoers and exhibitors of dangers, hazards, and safety instructions, this does not necessarily mean you need to install new signs in every space. It is requested that all fairs inspect their fairgrounds and identify where the highest likelihood of exposure to potential dangers, hazards, and inherent risks exists, and where emergency, fire, and safety instructions are needed, as well as handwashing locations. During the fair self-inspection, fairs should document where signs may need to be updated or installed, and plan to complete signage improvements before the start of their licensed fair. All fairs will be required to inform the Department of the signage improvements made in their 2026 Annual Stipend Report. Signage improvements do not need to create an undue expense for the fairs. In some cases, signage may be better positioned, refreshed, printed on a home or office printer or purchased inexpensively.

# Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation

## 2026 Agricultural Fair Facility Improvements

### 2026 Evaluation Standards: Signage

Fair signage is important to warn about hazards, set clear expectations, and encourage safety among fairgoers and exhibitors.

#### Egress Signage:

- Entrances and Exits are well-marked and identifiable to accommodate both exhibitors and fairgoers.
- Scoring: 1 (Poor), 2 (Adequate), 3 (Very Good)

#### Inherent Risk Signage:

- [Signs](#) remind fairgoers of the inherent risks of agritourism and [equine](#) (as applicable) activities.
- Scoring: 1 (Poor), 2 (Adequate), 3 (Very Good)

#### Safety Signage:

- Signage informs fairgoers of potential danger and/or hazards and informs of emergency, fire, and safety instructions, and handwashing locations.
- Scoring: 1 (Poor), 2 (Adequate), 3 (Very Good)

### Signage: Materials and Wording

**Sign Materials.** All signs should have rounded or blunt corners and must be free from sharp edges, burrs, splinters, or other sharp projections. The ends or heads of bolts or other fastening devices must be located in such a way that they do not create a hazard.

**Wording.** Signs should describe the hazard and ways to avoid a hazard. A single symbol, picture, or word rarely does both. The wording of any sign should be easily read and concise. Sign wording should make a positive rather than a negative suggestion and be accurate in informing readers. Text should be readable at a minimum distance of five feet.

**Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation**  
**2026 Agricultural Fair Facility Improvements**

**Signage: Types**

- **Caution signs.** Caution signs warn of potential hazards and indicate that an injury may occur if the hazard is not avoided. The sign should be yellow or predominantly yellow and include “CAUTION.” Safety symbols must precede the signal words and lettering on the signs. Text should be black. **Examples:**
  - **"Caution: Heavy Machinery Operating":** To warn visitors of tractors or equipment movement.
  - **"Caution: Manure Storage - Authorized Personnel Only":** To prevent accidental falls or exposure.
  
- **Danger signs.** Danger signs indicate immediate danger and that special precautions are necessary. The sign must include “DANGER” in white letters on a red background. **Examples:**
  - **"Danger No Smoking"** signs should be placed in barns and hay and machinery storage areas where smoking poses an immediate extreme risk such as fire or explosion near flammable materials.
  
- **Emergency instruction signs.** provide instructions on an emergency process. (like first aid). They are often posters with a green upper panel with white lettering. Instructive text on the lower panel is in black lettering. **Examples:**
  - **"Emergency Assembly Point":** Clearly marked locations for evacuation.
  - **"First Aid Station":** Highly visible signs for medical assistance.
  
- **Exit signs.** show the direction to the nearest exit using an arrow. Do not use an arrow if the exit path continues straight on. Signs that show an arrow point in the direction of the exit in conjunction with a symbol of a person exiting should make sure the person and the arrow both exit in the same direction on the sign.
  
- **Fire and emergency signs.** point to fire extinguishing equipment, fire escapes and exits, gas shut-off valves, sprinkler drains and lifesaving equipment (like defibrillators). They have a signal word in white on a red background.

## Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation

### 2026 Agricultural Fair Facility Improvements

- **Safety Instruction signs.** provide notices about health, first aid, medical equipment, sanitation, housekeeping and general safety. The color should be white with black letters or green with white letters. **Examples:**
  - Signs that instruct visitors not to eat, drink, smoke/vape, touch or place their hands in their mouth, touch their eyes, or use bottles or pacifiers while in animal areas.
  - **"Wash Hands Immediately After Touching Animals":** Essential to prevent the spread of diseases like *E. coli* and *Salmonella*.
  - **"Sanitizer Station" or "Handwashing Station":** Prominently displayed near animal exhibits.
  - **"Do Not Eat or Drink in Animal Areas":** Crucial for avoiding accidental ingestion of bacteria.
  - **"Caution: Dangerous/Unpredictable Animal":** Placed on stalls, cages, or fences for specific, high-risk animals.
  - **"Keep Hands Outside Fence/Barrier":** Safety reminder for petting zoos and livestock pens.
  - **"No Smoking"** signs used to inform of a fair's general no-smoking policies or to designate non-hazardous smoke-free areas are not "danger" signs and may be black, white, green, or any other color and/or may be "prohibition signs" which display a red circle with a slash and can include things like No Entry, No Smoking, No Mobile Phone Use, etc.
- **Warning signs.** indicate a serious injury could occur if you don't avoid the hazard. The sign should be orange or predominantly orange and include "WARNING."

**Table Totals Page**

Table I Premiums Paid Total	\$0.00		
Table II Educational Talks, Workshops, and Demonstrations Total	\$0.00	0	
Table III Other Premiums Paid Total	\$0.00	0	0
Table IV Capital Improvements Total	\$0.00		