

Maine Fiber Farms Area Guidelines

Common Ground Country Fair September 20, 21 & 22, 2013

Coordinators: Michelle DeLucia

Purpose: The purpose of the Maine Fiber Farms area is to provide a venue for family farms to market goods produced on their farms from animals they raise, as well as to educate the public about the connections between the animals and their products.

General Guidelines for all Maine Fiber Farms Exhibitors

1. Applicants must read and abide by the general guidelines for the Common Ground Country Fair.
2. All vendors must raise and harvest materials from their own animals. Preference is given to vendors who farm in Maine. If a particular animal product is not available in Maine, or Maine producers choose not to participate in the Fair, the coordinator may solicit out-of-state vendors.
3. At least 75% of the goods displayed (as determined by size of the exhibit) must be farm produced. Wherever possible, auxiliary materials used in these goods should be produced in Maine. Any off-site processed goods are at the discretion of the Area Coordinator.
4. Up to 25% of the goods offered for sale may originate from off-farm sources. These are limited to: educational materials, accessories, and tools directly related to the animals and Maine Fiber Farms the participating farm has produced.
5. All goods offered for sale must be listed on the application for vendor space, and approved by the Area Coordinator. Include details regarding where the goods are processed and any off-farm materials included in the product. Also, indicate which value-added processes occur on your farm. Orders may be taken at the Fair only for those products approved for exhibit and sale.
6. Goods offered for sale may not be imported, unless there are no domestically produced equivalents. To the extent possible, goods should be manufactured from natural materials.
7. Animal feeds/grains of any kind for sale at the Fair must be certified organic, or made with certified organic ingredients.
8. Food products offered in the Maine Fiber Farms area are intended for off-site consumption, must comply with the MOFGA's Food Policy, and are subject the Area Coordinator approval.
9. Maine Fiber Farms will devote no more than 10% of the total number of booths to any single product. Any current imbalance will be adjusted through attrition.

10. A Maine Fiber Farm area exhibitor is required to have a display featuring their farm. The vendor must be knowledgeable about the display items, the production process and the animals from which the products are derived.
11. In light of increasing ecological concerns involving genetic engineering, agriculture, and the environment, the CGCF strongly encourages Maine Fiber Farms vendors to raise their animals on grain free of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Guidelines for Maine Fiber Farms Vendors Selling Items Made with Animal Fiber

Statement of Purpose: The animal fiber at the Common Ground Country Fair emphasizes Maine-grown/raised animal fiber. Whenever possible, animal fiber is to be grown/raised and processed by the vendor.

Statement of Preference: The person who spins, and/or weaves or knits over the one who purchases yarn; the one who uses natural dyes from native & cultivated plants over synthetic; the one who uses unbleached fiber over the one who uses bleached fibers; the one who weaves or hand paints over the one who sews with purchased material; the one who prints on clothing they made over the one who prints on ready-made clothing; the one who uses natural fibers over the one who only uses synthetic fiber.

Fiber Guidelines

1. Applicants are required to name their fiber & processing sources, and if requested by the CGCF, to provide written verification (ex. receipts).
2. Participants are required to label animal fiber items for sale for fiber content and origin. Labelling can be individual labels on each item or signage for product displays.
3. Chemically treated animal fiber, such as Superwash, is not allowed. Incorporating synthetic glitz into animal fiber items is not allowed.
4. At least 75% of the fiber in each item is grown/raised on the applicant's farm in Maine.
5. 100% of the animal fiber in each item must be from Maine.
6. Processed or value-added on the applicant's farm or at a Maine fiber mill is preferred.

Guidelines for Maine Fiber Farms' Livestock Exhibitors

1. Vendors are encouraged, but not required, to exhibit their own animals to the Fair. If a vendor brings more than one type of animal, they will receive one payment for the highest premium among the animals brought. These premiums will be paid after the fair.

We will pay exhibiting premiums as follows:

Rabbits:	\$45
Pen of Goats or Sheep:	\$75
Llamas and Alpacas:	\$100

2. Demonstrators must own the animals they display. At the discretion of the Maine Fiber Farms and Livestock coordinators, demonstrators may borrow demonstration animals from The Livestock Area of the Fair.
3. Breeding jacks, stallions, bulls or studs are not permitted on the fairgrounds
4. Vendors must pay a 10% commission to the CGCF for any livestock sales that occur during the Fair.
5. Insurance coverage of at least \$ 500,000 is mandatory for all animals at the CGCF. Vendors must submit proof of insurance to the CGCF office. **A photocopy of the insurance policy or proof of membership to the Maine Association of Livestock Exhibitors are acceptable forms of proof of insurance.**
6. State veterinarians and Fair officials have the right to examine all animals on the fairgrounds for disease at any time, regardless of whether the owner or attendant is present. Animals must have appropriate health certificates, available for inspection by Fair officials. This would include proof of rabies vaccination for all animals that have a species-specific vaccine: horses, cattle, sheep and dogs. Administration by a veterinarian of rabies vaccine, which is approved for other species, is recommended for animals for which there are no currently approved vaccines, including goats, camelids, and wolf hybrids.
7. The CGCF provides an exhibitor tent for Maine Fiber Farms participants. Animal exhibitors must bring their own gates, fences, and cover. All equipment must in place and approved by the Area Coordinator before 8:00 AM the Friday of the Fair. The CGCF does provide potable water, but does not provide electricity, tables, chairs or outside cover.
8. The Maine Fiber Farms and Livestock Area Coordinators must approve all proposed animal exhibits, rides, demonstrations and activities.
9. Participants exhibit animals and property at their own risk. Neither the CGCF nor MOFGA will be responsible for any loss or damage from any cause.

In the event of a dispute, the decision of the CGCF officials will be accepted as final.