

Maine Marketplace Area Guidelines

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

Coordinators: Patti Dowse, Laurah Brown, and Jeff Cotton

Purpose: The purpose of the Maine Marketplace area of the Common Ground Country Fair (CGCF) is to promote Maine-based businesses that support the goals and objectives of MOFGA. The Fair strives to improve the quality of rural Maine living by promoting the development and sale of goods and services produced by Maine people, in a sustainable way. Applicants must explain how their mission and business philosophies fit with MOFGA's. Bringing producers and consumers together helps stem the outflow of dollars, improve the local economy, and increase employment.

Vendors must reside in Maine, and represent Maine-based businesses or organizations. The CGCF accepts goods and services not made in Maine if they are important to the quality of rural living, and similar products are not yet available from a Maine-based business or organization.

All Common Ground Country Fair area coordinators are volunteers who work hard to make the fair successful. It is the responsibility of all vendors/exhibitors to respect the area guidelines, area coordinators, and their fellow vendors/exhibitors at all times. The success of our fair depends on us working together. Participation is a privilege, not a right.

Guidelines:

1. The CGCF gives preference to products made with sustainably-harvested, natural resources from Maine.
2. The CGCF allows products made from other resources not available in Maine when value is added by Maine workers. However, the business that uses non-polluting, organic, Maine materials and/or processes will be chosen over the ones who do not.
3. The CGCF recognizes the value of recycling, and therefore encourages the sale of goods made from recycled material.
4. Food products sold or offered as samples in the Maine Marketplace Area are subject to the same standards as food sold in the Food Area.
5. New This Year: All new applicants, ceramic vendors, and pottery vendors will need to submit images to complete their application.
6. New This Year: All Ceramic and Jewelry Vendors applying to the Maine Marketplace areas will be juried by the Crafts Jury.

7. Animal feeds/grains of any kind for sale at the Fair must be certified organic, or made with certified organic ingredients.
8. The quality of the finished product must meet Fair standards. Applicants may submit samples of their products and/or literature about their products.
9. The Maine Marketplace Area 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. Vendors must list on their application all items and services that they wish to sell.
11. Vendors may sell only items listed on their application and approved for sale by the Maine Marketplace Area Coordinators.
12. Vendors may not share booth space. Each business or organization must apply for booth space separately.

Guidelines for Maine Marketplace Vendors Selling Items Made with Animal Fiber

Statement of Purpose: The fiber at the Common Ground Country Fair emphasizes Maine-grown/raised fiber. Whenever possible, fiber is to be grown/raised and processed by the farmer. Unless otherwise noted in the specific area guidelines, all animal fiber must be from the state of Maine. Chemically treated fiber, such as Superwash, is not allowed. Incorporating synthetic glitz into fiber items is not allowed.

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

- Applicants are required to name their fiber & processing sources and must produce receipts upon request to verify their sourcing.
- Participants are required to label each group of animal fiber items for sale for fiber content and origin if any of the fiber content is not Maine raised, even if processed in Maine. Individual items need not be labelled.
- Participants are encouraged to include educational displays about their fiber's sources and processing.
- The animal fiber in any item (roving, kits, clothing, furnishings, accessories, etc.) must be Maine grown or processed in Maine.
- Specialty fibers that are not available from Maine farms or processors may be used in blends or accents. Synthetic glitz and superwash are not allowed.
- Items made from recycled or repurposed fiber are not subject to the Maine animal fiber and labeling requirements.

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