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Ag Day at the Legislature

Ag Day at the Legislature is set for March 31st this year from 8 am to 1 pm. MBPA will have a booth and distribute beef meatballs donated by Pineland Farms. Ag Day provides a great opportunity for members to meet their Representatives and Senators and stress the importance of the beef industry to Maine's overall economy. This is an ideal chance to share stories of how Maine laws and/or regulations impact your ability to conduct business. Are your needs being met or are there problems that make it more challenging for you to succeed? Come let your voice be heard.

Calves 4 Kids Applications Due April 1st

The deadline for this year's Calves 4 Kids Program is April 1st. The application forms are available on both the MBPA and NELE websites or by contacting Pam Harnden, Executive Director at info@mainebeefproducersassociation.org or 645-2568. The completed applications may be e-mailed, using the previous e-mail address or sent through the mail to Pam Harnden, Executive Director, PO Box 216, Dryden, ME 04225.

Spring Feeder Calf Sale

The Maine Beef Producers Association (MBPA) will be holding a Feeder Calf Sale on May 22nd as part of the Northeast Livestock Expo held at the Windsor Fairgrounds. A preconditioning protocol has been established for this sale to help both buyers and sellers at the sale. The vaccinations help reduce outbreaks of communicable diseases, while weaning and other requirements help reduce stress for the animals. Thus, buyers are more assured of purchasing cattle that will thrive and gain weight easily, thereby increasing profitability. As a result, sale prices tend to be higher.

There is an important change to the protocol this spring. Veterinarian Dr. Pete Caradonna saw a significant increase in the incidence of Pasteurella in Maine cattle last fall, so at his recommendation, **two vaccinations for Pasteurella will**

be required to meet the preconditioning standards this spring. Dr. Caradonna feels that the booster for this particular disease is needed to increase protection, thus reducing the possibility of additional outbreaks.

Cattle entered in the sale must also receive a series of 2 modified live respiratory complex vaccinations given 21 to 28 days apart. The booster must be given no later than 14 days prior to the sale. The respiratory complex vaccine must provide protection from IBR, PI₃, BVD I & II, and BRSV. Cattle must also receive a 7-way Clostridial plus Pinkeye vaccination. There are a number of vaccines available but not all of them cover the diseases listed above. For information on suggested products, check the MBPA website: www.mainebeefproducersassociation.org; contact Sale Manager, Pete Dusoe, at 948-3233 or pbdusoe@uninets.net; or ask any of the MBPA Directors (contact information available on the website).

In addition to the vaccinations listed above, calves entered in the sale must have been weaned at least 45 days prior to the sale and been treated for both internal and external parasites. Horned animals must have been dehorned, with the wounds healed prior to the sale. Castration of bull calves is required and must also have had time to heal before sale date.

Yearlings to be sold in this sale require boosters if protocol was followed as calves, otherwise they need to follow the time schedule and receive both an initial vaccination and a booster for the respiratory complex and Pasteurella. They will also need the 7-way Clostridial plus Pinkeye vaccination.

Cattle not meeting the preconditioning protocol listed above will be separated and sold as nonconforming cattle.

Please Note: Animals for the Feeder Calf Sale will be processed on Friday, May 21st. All animals must be checked in and weighed before 5 pm Friday.

20th Annual Purebred Beef Sale

The 20th Annual MBPA Purebred Sale will also take place at NELE on Saturday May 22nd following the Feeder Calf Sale. Consignments are being sought for this sale which has over the years featured some of Maine's outstanding cattle herds. Angus, Belted Galloway, Hereford, and Simmental are just some of the breeds that have been represented in prior sales. Internet bidding will be available again this year making this sale a great way to promote your herd. **Consignments will be accepted through the end of this month.** For further information, please contact Sale Manager, Ed Carter, at miniaces1@myfairpoint.net or 207-737-2872.

Maine Rural Rehabilitation Fund Scholarship 2010-2011

The Maine Department of Agriculture has the following information to share about the 2010-2011 Maine Rural Rehabilitation Fund Scholarship, for which applications are now being accepted.

The Maine Rural Rehabilitation Fund holds funds remaining from a federal grant made to the State of Maine. Interest income from this fund is available to the Commissioner of Agriculture to use in keeping with the original intent of the grant. The Commissioner of Agriculture has determined these funds may be used to provide educational grants to Maine students seeking an agricultural education.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE TYPED

Requirements of Eligibility:

1. The applicant must reside in the State of Maine;
2. The applicant must be enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, by a University or College offering an agricultural degree;
3. An applicant enrolled in a post-secondary educational program must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.7, or greater, or have a minimum GPA of 3.0, or greater, for the most recent semester or quarter;

4. An applicant must demonstrate that an unmet financial need exists that must be overcome to pursue a higher education; and
5. The applicant must be enrolled in a full-time course load leading to a two-year, four-year or an advanced degree in agriculture.

*Eligible programs include:

Agricultural Business	Plant Science
Agricultural Engineering	Soil Science
Animal Science	Sustainable Agriculture

*Students in a non-agricultural course of study need to persuasively indicate on the Autobiography page how the selected course of study relates to a career in agriculture.

Applications must be returned to: Maine Rural Rehabilitation Fund Scholarship Selection Committee, 28 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0028, no later than the close of business (5:00pm) on Friday, June 30, 2010. For more information, contact Judy Blaisdell at (207) 287-3702 or e-mail: judy.blaisdell@maine.gov. The application is posted on-line at <http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/co/ruralrehab.html>. To receive an application, please contact Judy.

What Does MBPA Do For You?

Every once in a while it is good to ask questions such as this. Just what does the Maine Beef Producers Association do for you and is it worth the \$35 membership fee? There are several benefits that are available to members. MBPA is instrumental in sponsoring the Spring and Fall Feeder Calf Sales. These sales were begun decades ago when producers were having a hard time marketing their calves. Buyers weren't always aware of who had calves to sell and the producers didn't know who might be interested in purchasing calves. By bringing buyers and sellers together twice a year this dilemma was resolved to the mutual satisfaction of all. The preconditioning protocol now required for the Feeder Calf Sales has meant that buyers are more confident that animals bought will acclimate with greater ease, thus increasing their profitability. This has in turn meant that producers have been able to obtain a higher price for their animals, thus improving their profitability as well. The success of the Feeder Calf Sales in bringing buyers and sellers together has helped strengthened Maine's beef industry.

Other marketing benefits for members are the Annual Purebred Sale and Club Calf Sale. These sales give purebred producers opportunities to showcase and sell breeding stock in a setting that they might not otherwise have access to. The Club Calf Sale also provides a place for 4-H members to study several animals in one place, thus helping them to select animal(s) for their next year's 4-H project(s).

Educational programs are another benefit provided by MBPA. MBPA was responsible for beginning the Annual Beef Conference, which brings nationally known speakers to Maine each fall to address issues related to beef production. The Association still supports the Conference financially, even though Cooperative Extension is now responsible for putting the Conference together. Educational programs are also held at the Ag Trade Show each year.

MBPA was also instrumental in bringing Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training to Maine. This national program provides producers with information that helps them reduce stress for the cattle herd. Housing, handling, health care and nutrition can all have an impact on stress in the herd. By optimizing nutrition and health while also putting more emphasis on how cattle are housed or handled, producers can ultimately decrease costs and increase profitability. BQA materials can also be used to provide consumers with the confidence to know that farmers are concerned about how their animals are cared for, thus increasing beef sales.

Being a member of MBPA also gives you a discount on the subscription to *Country Folks New England*. Members pay just \$19 per year, which is taken out of the \$35 annual MBPA dues. Non-members must pay \$45. There are also discounts at Skowhegan Electric and RS Osgood's for members.

MBPA has published numerous newsletters in the last two years to keep you informed about sales, educational opportunities and other items that might be of interest to Maine beef producers. Until recently, those newsletters were sent to anyone known to be associated with the beef industry. MBPA has updated its website and has developed a member directory which is posted on the site or available in print form. Over 125 directories were distributed during the Ag Trade Show in January. Most of them went to people interested in purchasing meat or animals from local producers. Updated copies will also be available at Ag Day at the Legislature.

MBPA also provides the Calves 4 Kids Program for youth interested in learning more about raising a beef animal. Over the past three years, nine youth have been exposed to the challenges and commitment that accompany beef production. Applications are now being accepted for this year.

As you can see by the length of this article, MBPA offers a variety of services and benefits for its members. If you have ideas or suggestions to add to these, please contact the Executive Director at 645-2568 or info@mainebeefproducersassociation.org.

MBPA Needs Your Help

SARE Grant funds helped pay for the hiring of a part-time Executive Director for the Association, but those funds have been expended so other sources must now be used to retain this position. MBPA has spent considerable funds on newsletters in the past 20 months to keep all Maine beef producers informed of educational opportunities, sales and other events related to Maine's beef industry. This is a critical time for the Association as funds have been expended faster than they have come in and the treasury has become much smaller as a result.

Currently, \$19 from each \$35 membership goes to a subscription for *Country Folks New England*, which leaves just \$16 to help support the Association. There are currently about 130 members even though there are about 500 known beef producers in Maine. If more of the state's beef producers became MBPA members, this would help. Please talk to producers you know and encourage them to join. If new members aren't forthcoming, some things might need to change to maintain current programs and the Directors would like your input on how to proceed.

One option is to do away with the *Country Folks New England* benefit for members. This would mean that all \$35 of each membership would be used to support Association activities. Another possibility is to raise dues and retain *Country Folks New England*. A third alternative would be to raise dues and do away with *Country Folks New England*.

MBPA needs your opinions. Which of the three options listed above do you favor? Do you have other suggestions for ways to increase funds for the Association? Please e-mail info@mainebeefproducersassociation.org or call 645-2568 to share your thoughts.

MBPA 2009 Service Award

MBPA's 2009 Service Award was presented to Kevin Woltemath at the Beef Conference. When you type Kevin Woltemath on Google, you quickly learn that he is making a substantial contribution to the Beef Industry here in Maine. Kevin grew up in Nebraska where he gained affection for livestock and the farm family. Kevin graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in Animal Science. Fortunately for all of us here in Maine, Kevin decided that this is where he would share his enthusiasm and perfect what he learned growing up in Nebraska.

Kevin has served on the Maine Beef Industry Council and was very supportive of the Maine Beef Quality Assurance program rollout. Due to Kevin's continued efforts, the BQA program in Maine has become widely adopted. Kevin has also been very active and supportive of the Maine Beef Producers Association, chairing feeder calf sales, educating producers and judging at livestock fairs throughout the state. Kevin's keen eye for picking out the best in class has been honed over the years by working at some of the most renowned purebred herds in the country including the legendary Belted Galloway herd at Aldemere Farm.

Kevin recognized the need to introduce bulls from genetically superior lineages to cow herds in Maine. He has sourced bulls from top purebred producers here in Maine and as far away as Wyoming. These efforts are beginning to

produce results that will ensure that cattle from Maine will compete on a national level. Kevin is helping to make Maine the NEXT BEEF STATE!!

MBPA 2009 Youth Award

The 2009 MBPA Youth Award was presented to Kimberly Caverly at the Agricultural Trade Show in January. Kimberly lives in Clinton, Maine, on the family farm with her parents Brian and Sally. She has two sisters Amy and Amanda. Kimberly went to Lawrence High School in Fairfield, Maine, where she was a high honors student and a member of the National Honor society. Kimberly is now a freshman at Thomas College majoring in Elementary Education. Kim has always loved working on the farm, working with the animals, and getting them ready for each show season. Kimberly always dedicates one hundred percent in helping out with the beef and dairy farm.

Throughout Kimberly's years in 4-H she has participated in many events. She is involved in the NELE youth show, has traveled to many Shorthorn Junior Nationals, goes to most of the local fairs, and has represented the Maine Beef Team at the Eastern States Exposition. When participating in these events Kimberly always tries to help younger youth members when needed, whether it is giving a helping hand in the show ring or just a few pointers outside the ring. She also volunteers to help out with other events that happen at the shows. Kimberly was also the 2008 Strawberry Queen at the Pittston Fair. She was able to represent the fair doing many community projects, participating in the 4th of July Parade, and going to the annual fair association banquet held in Portland.

Kimberly is a very enthusiastic, fun loving, hard working, and dedicated person. She never gives up and thrives to be all that she can be. Even when she succeeds at something, she always tries to figure out how to make it better. Kimberly's family and friends love working and being around such an amazing person and are proud of her accomplishments.

News to Use in Marketing Beef

There were two articles of interest in the January 11th issue of *Woman's World* that could be useful for producers marketing their own beef products. These articles provided information that can be used to encourage beef consumption based on scientific information emphasizing the nutritional benefits of eating beef. Given that more people are considering nutritive value and health concerns, sharing the information found in these articles could increase your sales.

The first article gives easy ways to boost the immune system and highlights the fact that red meat is a great source of the mineral zinc. Zinc is an essential mineral (one that must be obtained from food sources since it can't be produced in humans) that helps strengthen virus-fighting white blood cells. Researchers are now advising two 4-oz. servings of lean beef weekly for adults to ensure appropriate zinc levels.

The second article presented information on how to look young and stay healthy. Researchers have found that AGEs (advanced glycation end products) are small, sticky molecules that build up in the body. They trigger inflammation and tissue damage that has been linked to Alzheimer's, diabetes, heart disease and even wrinkles. Beef happens to be rich in carnosine, an anti-aging compound that helps stop sugars and proteins from binding to form AGEs. Another benefit of carnosine is that it stimulates "housecleaning" enzymes in the liver that break down and excrete AGEs from the body. This study recommends 4 ounces of beef two to three times weekly.

Two other recommendations from the anti-aging study: gentler heating methods such as stewing in a crockpot, steaming, boiling, simmering and braising reduce AGE formation by as much as 81% over broiling or roasting or other methods where food is cooked dry and at high temperatures (stir frying is virtually free of AGEs). Finally, preparing meals at home can cut AGE exposure by at least 51% since healthier fats and safer cooking temperatures are usually used when cooking at home.

Maine Department of Agriculture has New Website

The Maine Department of Agriculture has unveiled a new website for Get Real, Get Maine. We especially invite and encourage individual maple producers to visit this page- www.getrealmaine.com - and sign up for free promotion of your farm or agricultural product. This site will also afford all agricultural producers with the privilege of posting pictures, events and other specialty or farm products you may produce. If your farm or product was already posted on Get Real Maine your information would have been added to the new site; however, we strongly urge you to check out your information for any recent updates. For questions or comments regarding the new site, please contact Judy Blaisdell at judy.blaisdell@maine.gov or 287-3702.