



Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

Common Ground Country Fair

January 6, 2012

Dear Craftsperson,

The Common Ground Country Fair is now accepting applications from Maine artisans for the Crafts Area at the 2012 Fair.

The Common Ground Country Fair is sponsored by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), the largest such state organization in the USA promoting organic agriculture. In 2011 close to 60,000 people attended the Common Ground Country Fair. The Crafts Area is open to the individual craftsperson who resides in Maine and who makes high-quality work that is original in design and concept. We especially seek crafts that use non-polluting, organic materials and processes.

The online application is available on the Crafts page in the Fair section of MOFGA's website, www.mofga.org. If you need a paper application, contact the MOFGA office.

Calendar

January 6, 2012	Applications posted online
February 3, 2012	Deadline for postmarking or submitting online applications
February 27, 2012	Applicants notified of acceptance, waitlist or rejection
March 14, 2012	Contracts, electricity forms and payment due in MOFGA office
September 20, 2012	Set-up day
September 21-23 th	2012 COMMON GROUND COUNTRY FAIR!

Read all of the guidelines and application instructions carefully. The answers to most questions are more often than not in the material provided, though not always where you expect it. So please read everything carefully before contacting me, though I am happy to help if you can't figure it out.

Why not fill out the application NOW? **Late applications WILL NOT be accepted. The application postmark deadline is firm: Friday, February 3, 2012.** This gives you about a month to get your application in.

Thank you for your interest in the Common Ground Country Fair and good luck,

Tim Reimensnyder
926-3557
reimensnyder@gmail.com

2012 Common Ground Country Fair

Instructions for CRAFTS AREA Application

Who May Apply:

The Crafts Area is open to individual craftspeople that reside in Maine and who make high-quality work that is original in design and concept. As an organization dedicated to protecting the environment by promoting organic agricultural practices, MOFGA is especially attracted to crafts that use non-polluting, organic materials and processes whenever possible.

How To Apply:

Submit a completed application with four (4) digital images of your work and a **\$10.00** processing fee by the **postmark deadline, Friday, February 3, 2012**. The 2012 Crafts Area application is online. If you do not have access to a reliable internet connection contact the MOFGA office to request a paper application.

Items You Wish to Sell:

It is not necessary to list every specific item you wish to sell. For example, if you are a potter, you can say "tableware" for plates, bowls, cups. But if you are a potter and you have been experimenting with woodcarving, you will not be allowed to sell those items unless they are listed on your application. This is to protect other vendors and prevent the introduction of low quality, non-juried products (see #3 under Selection Criteria below).

Digital Images:

You must submit with your application four (4) high-resolution digital images of your work. These images must be representative of the type of work you plan to sell. Please include images that represent the full range of your products.

Regardless of your Craft, if you wish sell jewelry as part of your booth, you must include an image of it.

We will be projecting the images four at a time on a screen. Images should be approximately **4" x 6"** or **1200 x 1800** pixels in **size**. Within that size, scan your images at the highest resolution dpi (dots per inch) possible. Reduce the resolution, not size, if the image file is greater than 1.8MB. Format the image files as JPEG (JPG) files. **No TIFF files please.**

"Recognized Craftspeople" do not have to send images, since their work is not juried.

Image Tips. We want to see the work, up close and against a non-distracting background. Shots taken against outdoor props, such as the woodpile, generally don't work. Remember, a great photo is totally different from a great slide for jurying.

Booth Sizes and Demonstrations:

All booths are 10' x 10', whether inside or outside, straight or corner. Frontage of booths is accurate, especially inside the tents. You have 10 feet of frontage. We have allowed only a few inches to spare. As far as depth, you will have a few feet behind your booth for storage.

Wide booths have been left off the application because they will no longer be offered except to the few Recognized Vendors who already have them.

Demonstration space has been left off the application as well. If you wish to demonstrate from an outside booth or a tent space that is on an outside corner you are free to do so, as long as you do not need additional electricity and do not cause congestion in the aisles. Demonstrations that require electricity must be cleared by the Crafts and Electrical Coordinators.

Selection Criteria

To help you get accepted, we offer the following. All things being equal:

1. The person who has **more hands-on** involvement in the creation of his/her craft from start to finish will be chosen over the person who has less. Here are some examples of whom we will choose in certain categories:

Basketry: the person who gathers, splits or otherwise processes the materials they weave over the person who buys the materials;

Ceramics: the person who throws, or uses the slab or coil technique, over the person who slip casts and only decorates;

Fiber: the person who spins, and/or weaves or knits over the one who purchases yarn; 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 fiber over the one who only uses synthetic fiber;

Jewelry: the one who creates the piece over the one who assembles purchased components.

Photography: Until recently a photographer took photos, developed, printed and sold them. We choose the one who did his own developing and printing over the one who sent his film out. Now there are many ways to reproduce a photo taken with film and you can even take pictures without film. We do reject new technology just because it is not a traditional craft. But the same criteria apply: the more hands-on, the higher the craftperson's score. For example, the person who makes his own reproductions on his own computer in his studio will be chosen over the person whose work is reproduced by offset or computer by others outside his control. Original photographs or original hand-painted photographs **must** be available for sale.

Fine Arts & Graphics: Applicant must offer original paintings, drawings, or prints. The person whose small pieces (cards, postcards, etc.) are also made by them (screen prints, block prints, mixed media etc.) is chosen over the person who has their work offset or computer reproduced by others.

2. The person who offers a **range of items** from very expensive one-of-a-kind museum quality work to small, inexpensive production work, will be chosen over a person who only or mostly offers very high end work. This is a criterion that is different from those of other shows and it may be why certain very good crafts people are sometimes not accepted to Common Ground. The Fair Steering Committee (FSC) feels strongly that it wants fairgoers to be able to afford the crafts. However, all items must be made with the same attention to craftsmanship.

3. The person who concentrates on one medium usually fares better in the jury process than someone who works in several media. Perhaps it implies professionalism or seriousness about developing skill in one's chosen medium.

4. The person who uses non-polluting, organic, Maine materials and/or processes will be chosen over the one who does not.

5. **Recognized Craftspeople** - In 1997, the FSC revisited the issue of automatically accepting certain long time vendors in the Crafts area. After **much** discussion the Committee decided to continue to have unjuried vendors for the sake of loyalty to those vendors. In 2006 this issues was again addressed by the FSC and the guidelines have again been adjusted to slow the increase of recognized vendors. Please read the guidelines carefully.

Application Checklist:

___ **Completed Application**

___ **Four high-resolution digital images 4" x 6" or 1200 x 1800 pixels in size**

___ **\$10.00 Application Fee**

Don't forget, the application must be **submitted online** (or postmarked if mailed) **no later than Friday, February 3, 2012.**

Questions or Comments:

Call or email Crafts Area Coordinator, Tim Reimensnyder, 207-926-3557, reimensnyder@gmail.com.

For general information about the Common Ground Country Fair contact MOFGA:

Phone: 207-568-4142

Email: commonground@mofga.org



Common Ground Country Fair September 21, 22 & 23, 2012

Guidelines for Crafts Area

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The Common Ground Country Fair has the right to close any exhibit or booth, or require the removal of any item from an exhibit or booth, that fails to comply with the guidelines set forth. Please familiarize yourself with these. Thank you.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE MAINE ORGANIC FARMERS AND GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

MOFGA, formed in 1971, is the oldest and largest state organic organization in the country. The purpose of the Association is to help farmers and gardeners grow organic food, protect the environment, recycle natural resources, increase local food production, support rural communities, and illuminate for consumers the connection between healthful food and environmentally sound farming practices. MOFGA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that welcomes financial contributions and volunteer participation.

Volunteer leadership, the dedication and idealism of our members, and a grass-roots approach to carrying out education and change underlie the success of our programs:

- * Organic certification
- * Farm apprenticeship
- * Technical assistance (phone, mail, on-site visits, publications)
- * Common Ground Country Fair
- * Farmer to Farmer Conference, farm and garden tours, other outreach events
- * Local Chapters
- * Public Policy (initiatives in food safety and environmentally sound agriculture)

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMON GROUND COUNTRY FAIR

Goal: The Common Ground Country Fair (CGCF) serves to encourage the revival of agriculturally-based rural communities.

Objectives: The volunteers and staff of the CGCF work toward this goal by:

1. Prominently promoting MOFGA, its goals and objectives, and its role as sponsor of the Fair.
2. Designing and coordinating an educational, smoothly operating, attractive, and enjoyable fair that serves as a major fundraiser for MOFGA.
3. Promoting local, environmentally sound, and sustainable food production.
4. Promoting organically grown Maine produce and good nutrition.
5. Promoting a forum for alternative lifestyles.
6. Coordinating agricultural activities and demonstrations with like-minded groups.
7. Serving as a common ground for a wide variety of organizations and ethnic groups to explore shared values and possible areas for cooperation.
8. Contributing to maintaining and improving the quality of rural life, particularly by creating an awareness of the human and physical resources in Maine.
9. Actively encouraging fairgoer participation in CGCF activities.
10. Having fun during all CGCF activities, while encouraging learning about, enthusiasm for, and enjoyment of our environment.

Crafts Area Guidelines

Common Ground Country Fair

Coordinator: Tim Reimensnyder

The purposes of the Crafts Area are:

1. to contribute to the quality of rural life for Maine craftspeople by giving them a place to sell their work, and
2. to encourage craftspeople to use Maine resources in ways creatively compatible with the goals and objectives of MOFGA.

General Guidelines for Crafts

1. The CGCF will not accept applications, which include images, postmarked or submitted after the deadline specified in the Crafts Area application packets. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
2. Applicants must read and abide by the general guidelines for the Common Ground Country Fair.
3. Applicants must reside in Maine. The CGCF may require proof of Maine residency.
4. Applicants must design and make the crafts they wish to sell.
5. Applicants must make their craft in Maine.
6. Applicants' work must be original in design and concept.
7. Applicants may only sell work included in their application.
8. The CGCF accepts crafts in the following categories: basketry, ceramics, fiber, fine arts, glass, graphics, handmade paper, jewelry, leather, metal, mixed media, photography, and wood.
9. The CGCF will not accept vendors in the following categories: cosmetics, dried flowers, embellished objects, foodstuffs, herbs, toiletries, and works made from kits.

Jurying Process For Crafts Area

The Crafts Area at the Common Ground Country Fair is a juried show. All exhibitors must submit an application and be accepted to participate.

1. The Crafts Area Coordinator appoints the jury.
2. The jury consists of an odd number of people with knowledge of crafts and a connection to MOFGA. The jury may include former CGCF crafts vendors, other craftspeople, or crafts shop owners.
3. Jurors can serve for two years. The Crafts Area Coordinator maintains continuity by replacing members on a rotating basis.
4. The CGCF makes public the names of the jurors.
5. The applicants' images are anonymous to the jury and identified only by a number.
6. Jurors view images by category and at a pace slow enough to allow comments and questions.
7. The CGCF will not return images of accepted and waitlisted vendors until the Fair.

Applications are scored on three criteria: answers to the application questions; images of the crafter's work; and on-site observations.

1. Questions:

- a. The CGCF asks applicants a series of questions about their residency, where their work is made, the items they intend to sell, the price range of their items, their intended customer interaction, (e.g., demonstrations, educational displays, commission work entertainment, staffing), sources of their raw materials, their means of production, other craftspeople involved in making their product, etc.
- b. The Crafts Area Coordinator and a person involved in MOFGA and the CGCF will review the answers to the application questions.

2. Images:

- a. Applicants must submit with their application four high-resolution digital images of their work to be reviewed by the jury. The size of each image should be roughly 4"x6" or 1200x1800 pixels. The maximum file size is 1.8 megabytes per image.
- b. The images must be representative of the range, both in price and originality, of the products the applicant intends to sell.
- c. Regardless of the applicant's Craft, if they wish to sell jewelry as part of their booth they must include an image if it.

3. On-Site Inspection:

On-site inspection inspects CGCF Crafts Area booths for quality and presentation of work, interaction with the public, educational content, and consistency with vendors' application and is done by the Craft Area Coordinator.

Acceptance to Crafts Area

1. The Crafts Area Coordinator accepts a predetermined number of applications with the highest scores. The Coordinator reserves the right to balance the categories if needed.
2. The Crafts Area Coordinator evaluates and accepts both traditional and contemporary (or innovative) work.

Recognized Craft Vendors

1. When the CGCF accepts a craftsperson for ten consecutive years, it will recognize that craftsperson for her/his commitment to the CGCF and for consistently producing quality work. The CGCF recognizes such a craftsperson by automatically accepting her/him into the Crafts Area the following years if she/he completes and submits an application that meets the guidelines by the established Crafts Area deadline. **NO IMAGES are NECESSARY.**
2. Recognized Crafters are subject to the On-Site Inspection part of the jury process.
3. When the recognized Craft Vendors reach 45% of all craft vendors, a waitlist will be established for recognized status. Applicants on the waitlist must continue to apply, with images, and submit to the jurying process. When a space opens up a name will be drawn from the waitlist in the order they were received. If there is more than one qualified vendor in a year a lottery will occur. This will occur in the MOFGA office with the Craft Area Coordinator and staff in attendance.

The Common Ground Country Fair has the right to close any exhibit or booth, or require the removal of any item from an exhibit or booth, that fails to comply with the guidelines set forth.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE COMMON GROUND COUNTRY FAIR

Each year, the Common Ground Country Fair (CGCF) takes place on the third weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) after Labor Day. The following guidelines apply to all people attending the Fair in any capacity.

1. Pets are not permitted on the fairgrounds or in the Fair parking areas. Animals tied to trees or cars, or left within vehicles (whether locked or not), may be removed by the local animal control officer.
2. Smoking is prohibited in the following areas of the Fair: the Children's Area; the shuttle and wagon rides; all food preparation, service and eating areas; all buildings, including barns and all tents; within 20 feet of any entrance or window to any enclosed area, including all buildings, barns and tents.
3. Fair participants may not build fires without written permission from the CGCF office.
4. The CGCF strictly enforces Maine laws prohibiting public drinking of alcohol and use of illegal drugs on the fairgrounds and in the Fair parking lots.
5. Audio and video devices audible to the general public are prohibited on the fairgrounds unless they are part of a CGCF-approved demonstration.
6. Do not feed livestock or other display animals unless tending to your own animals.
7. Skateboards, bicycles or other unauthorized wheeled vehicles are prohibited on the fairgrounds.
8. The CGCF office assumes no liability for damage to or loss of personal property.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL DEMONSTRATORS, EXHIBITORS AND VENDORS

Henceforth, the words "vendor" and "vendors" refer to "demonstrator(s)" and "exhibitor(s)" as well.

Application Process

1. A non-refundable application fee must accompany each application (with the exception of Youth Enterprise Zone applications) for booth space in commercial areas.
2. Area Coordinators determine application deadlines for respective areas. The Crafts Area Coordinators do not accept applications postmarked after their established deadline. Other Area Coordinators process timely applications before late applications, allocating space first to timely applicants. Late applicants receive space if available.
3. A late fee may be applied to late applications.
4. Area Coordinators review vendor applications each year, and give preference to vendors in good standing who meet respective area guidelines. The "vendor in good standing" guideline does not apply to areas where juries review applications for quality.
5. Failure to meet application and/or contract fee deadlines will result in forfeiture of booth location and/or booth space.
6. Area Coordinators, in consultation with the Fair Steering Committee, may refuse to accept any vendor who does not meet the Guidelines of MOFGA, the CGCF, or the Area itself.
7. The CGCF office does not grant vendors exclusive rights to sell any particular item.
8. 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 are not yet available from a Maine-based business or organization.
9. Area Coordinators give preference to applicants who make their products with sustainably harvested, natural resources from Maine. When a product made in Maine depends upon materials or components from elsewhere, its approval will depend upon the need it fills, the value added by the Maine worker who makes it, and the source of the materials or components. Examples of products not made in Maine but acceptable if they contribute to the quality of rural living are: books; farming and gardening tools; cotton fabric; soil supplements; hardware; animal feeds; home heating units for renewable energy sources; tractors, rototillers, and accessories. Examples of unacceptable products not made in Maine are: those making no essential contribution to the quality of rural living; those detracting from Maine's becoming more self-sufficient; or those which exploit producers or consumers.
10. Vendors must list on their application all items and services that they wish to sell. Items and services listed on the application must relate directly to the area to which the vendor applies. Vendors serving or selling

any food item must submit an Ingredient Form with their application. The CGCF will not permit the sale of items not listed or approved on the applications. The CGCF requires vendors to remove such items from booths immediately. Vendors may not take orders for display items that are not approved for sale.

11. Vendors may sell their own business T-shirts, but may not sell T-shirts of other businesses or organizations. The CGCF restricts sales of other promotional products.
12. Vendors may not share booth space. Each business or organization must apply for booth space separately.
13. Vendors needing any amount of electricity must fill out electricity request forms and return them to the CGCF office by the contract deadline. Vendors needing electricity in excess of an amount designated by the CGCF Electrical Coordinator must pay for it. Payment is due by the respective area contract deadline.
14. Vendors wishing to be listed in the directory of Fair participants must fulfill contract or registration obligations by respective area deadlines.
15. Applicants must answer all questions on their area application forms. Area coordinators may ask applicants for clarification on questions answered unclearly. Area coordinators reserve the right to reject applicants who fail to provide requested clarification.
16. The CGCF does not accept applications from network or multi-level marketing businesses.

Participation in the Fair

1. Vendors agree to make no misrepresentations, implicit or explicit, about the nature of their businesses, the nature of their products and services offered, or their ethnic and/or cultural backgrounds.
2. All MOFGA-certified growers and processors are eligible to receive a \$10/day reduction in vendor booth fees for all areas of the CGCF.
3. All food or ingestibles served or sold at the CGCF, even free samples, must adhere to the MOFGA Food Policy.
4. The CGCF prohibits raffles on the fairgrounds.
5. Food and meals served by the Common Kitchen are for use by current CGCF volunteers only.
6. Vendors who camp in their booths must contact the Fair office to get a permission form and must attach the form to the outside of their booths for the evening. Vendors may not camp elsewhere on the fairgrounds.
7. The State of Maine requires the CGCF to send a list of commercial vendors and their tax ID numbers to the state tax office. Vendors are responsible for reporting earnings and workers' pay to the IRS and the State of Maine.
8. Vendors assume all risk for their property. Neither the CGCF nor MOFGA will be responsible for any loss or damage from any cause.
9. MOFGA, doing business as the CGCF, disclaims any authority of control over the operation of vendors. Vendors assume all rights and responsibilities for the conduct of their operations including, but not limited to: obtaining liability and general coverage insurance for vendor-related activities; and adhering to all local and state ordinances and regulations. MOFGA does not have separate vendor coverage under any insurance it may maintain.
10. In the event of a dispute, the decision of the CGCF officials will be accepted as final.

Passes / Admission Tickets

All vendors and personnel are required to have a gate ticket for admission to the Fair. The CGCF provides a limited number of admission tickets for vendors. Vendors may purchase additional tickets in advance from the Fair office. Vendors and personnel without tickets will be charged for admission to the Fair.

Booth Operation

1. Vendors must set up booths and be ready for business by 8:45 a.m. each day of the Fair.
2. Vendors must staff their booths for the duration of the Fair—from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.
3. Vendors should bring an adequate amount of food or merchandise to last through the entire Fair.
4. The CGCF assigns booth spaces to vendors. Vendors may not change booth location or designated boundaries of any booth space. Vendors must place all supports within the boundaries of their assigned booth spaces.
5. Vendors must restrict their activities to their booth spaces. The CGCF prohibits hawking of wares.

6. Vendor contracts are for space only. The CGCF does not supply tables, chairs, etc... Vendors should prepare for dirt/grass floors in tents and outside vendor locations.
7. Vendors must make their booths as attractive as possible. Vendors may not use plastics (clear, colored and poly-tarps) in the construction of booths. The only exception to this is rip-stop nylon. Preferred materials include canvas, denim, and cotton. Vendors may cover booths with plastic tarps at night, but must remove them by 8:00 a.m. daily.
8. Be prepared for inclement weather.

Move-in/Move-out

1. Food Area Vendors may move-in beginning the Sunday prior to the Fair. All other Vendors and Exhibitors may begin move-in the Thursday before the Fair, or before 8:00 a.m. on Friday of the Fair. Vendors needing to set up before Thursday should make arrangements with their Area Coordinator.
2. The CGCF restricts vehicle movement on the fairgrounds. The CGCF prohibits vehicles from entering the fairgrounds after 8:00 a.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. All vehicles already on the fairgrounds must exit by 8:30 a.m. Vehicles may return to the fairgrounds at 9:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, on Sunday all Vendors must wait till the Fair Safety Coordinator gives permission to move onto the grounds when all Fairgoers have left.
3. Vendors must obtain permission from the MOFGA's Facilities Coordinator before digging any holes. Vendors must fill in holes before leaving the fairgrounds.

Utilities

Water and/or electricity are not available in all areas or booth locations on the fairgrounds.

Electricity

1. The CGCF provides electricity, where available, for a fee to vendors.
2. Vendors needing electricity must indicate such on their application and, if accepted, submit an electricity request form and payment with their contract.
3. Vendors must bring suitable panels, cords and outlet strips to meet their electrical needs.
4. The CGCF encourages electricity conservation. Using Compact Florescent Lights (CFL) will cut consumption dramatically.

Water

Vendors needing water must contact their area coordinator to determine whether the CGCF can meet their needs.

Cooking/Heating Equipment and Propane

1. Any vendor using cooking equipment must have a 40 BC-minimum fire extinguisher. Any vendor who serves food must have a 20 BC-minimum fire extinguisher. The CGCF encourages all vendors to obtain 40 BC-minimum extinguishers.
2. Per State of Maine regulations, propane tanks must be secured firmly on a hard, non-combustible surface, i.e. cement blocks, tin, etc... Vendors must supply their own surface on which to secure tanks—the ground alone does not suffice. The Fire Marshall will check for compliance.

Compost and Recycling

CGCF strives to produce Zero Waste. To that end, all waste at the Fair is sorted for compostable and recyclable materials by our Compost and Recycling volunteers. To assist in these efforts:

1. Vendors must separate all the trash they generate into compostable/non-compostable waste piles, and take the waste to the CGCF recycling area or the nearest Resource Recovery Station.
2. Vendors shall break down and clean cardboard boxes of tape, staples, etc., tie them in bundles, and take them to the CGCF recycling area, or take them home.
3. Vendors must take their entire booths -- including carpets, display racks, storage containers, and decorations -- home with them. All booths must be taken down by Monday night unless special arrangements have been made with the vendor's Area Coordinator.

Cancellation Policy

1. The CGCF makes no refunds for cancellations made after August 1.
2. The CGCF makes no refunds in the event of inclement weather.