Common Ground Country Fair
September 20, 21, & 22, 2019

Guidelines for Low Impact Forestry Exhibitors

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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.
THE MAINE ORGANIC FARMERS AND GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

Mission: The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association is a broad-based community that educates about and advocates for organic agriculture, illuminating its interdependence with a healthy environment, local food production, and thriving communities.

Vision: MOFGA envisions a future of healthy ecosystems, communities, people and economies sustained by the practices of organic agriculture.

Values: MOFGA believes in our responsibility as an innovator, leader, collaborator and visionary to support:

- Organic farming and gardening
- Organic food for all
- The integrity of organic standards
- Practical forms of education
- An economically viable market for producers, processors, consumers and communities
- Human health, environmental health, local food production and thriving communities
- Economic, environmental and social justice for all Maine
- The sustainable use of resources
- Volunteerism
- MOFGA members, staff and land in carrying out our mission
- Ethical decisions grounded in science based information
- Education as the foundation for effective advocacy
- Transparent, inclusive decision making
- Partnering with all farmers on issues of common ground
- A geographically, socially and demographically diverse MOFGA community, growing in membership
- Work that builds a healthy planet
- Our leadership at the local, state and national level in organic agriculture, environmental protection, volunteerism and the consumer’s right to know
- The value of Maine’s pioneers, past, present and future who create a healthy world and just food system for all Maine

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.
Coordinators: Tim Libby and Peter Hagerty

Purpose: The Low Impact Forestry (LIF) Area is open to individuals, organizations and businesses promoting sustainable forestry practices and strengthening rural communities. The emphasis is on teaching and demonstrating LIF skills, strengthening rural economies and communities, and organization building and networking.

Goals:

1. To promote forestry practices that are environmentally sound and sustainable.
2. To provide an opportunity for groups working toward sustainable forestry to present ideas and information.
3. To provide a forum for scheduled presentations for these groups.

Guidelines:

1. The Low-Impact Forestry area is an educational, not commercial, venue. Sales of goods and equipment are not permitted in the area.
2. Booth displays should be educational, conveying the group’s message in an appropriate manner.
3. Organization-building activities such as mailing list sign-ups are permitted. Free literature may be distributed. Donations may be accepted but active fund-raising schemes are not acceptable.
4. Participants are divided into two categories: 1) those who are on hand primarily to promote their organization and its programs, although they may also engage in some educational activities; and 2) those who attend primarily to demonstrate or educate people in specific forestry skills, although they may also represent an organization.
5. There are no booth fees or stipends for those participating, except for those giving scheduled talks.
6. Exhibitors primarily promoting organizations will receive up to 9 complimentary passes (as needed) to the Fair/booth, but not the volunteer benefits of t-shirts and meal passes.
7. Volunteer speakers and demonstrators receive CGCF Volunteer benefits, including meals and a t-shirt.
8. Area coordinators shall determine into which category each exhibitor fits.
9. Area coordinators will consider applications from commercial services provided that: the business demonstrates a commitment to sustainable forestry practices; and the business has an established location in Maine.
10. In the event of space shortage, preference will go to those actively educating and/or demonstrating forestry skills.
11. All tables should be tended during all Fair hours all three days. The area coordinator will permit exceptions with good cause.
12. Any individual who operates a chainsaw during a MOFGA-sponsored forestry event will protect himself or herself with, at a minimum: chainsaw chaps, safety helmet with screen and ear protection, steel-toed boots, and leather work gloves.
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 supports Maine laws regarding public drinking of alcohol and use of controlled substances 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 deterring 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. All non-certified organic garlic sold at the CGCF should be labeled not certified organic garlic.

5. The CGCF prohibits raffles on the fairgrounds.

6. Food and meals served by the Common Kitchen are for use by current CGCF volunteers only.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Vendors assume all risk for their property. Neither the CGCF nor MOFGA will be responsible for any loss or damage from any cause.

10. 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
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 light-emitting diode (LED) lights 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 and take the waste to the CGCF recycling area daily, not public Resource Recovery Stations.
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, zip ties 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.
4. Vendors that leave trash in their area risk non-acceptance at future Fairs.

**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.
MOFGA Food Policy As of
October 23, 2016

The food offered at all MOFGA events embraces MOFGA’s mission “The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association is a broad-based community that educates about and advocates for organic agriculture, illuminating its interdependence with a healthy environment, local food production, and thriving communities.” *

The food offered emphasizes seasonally available ingredients. Whenever possible, the ingredients are produced organically in Maine. Ingredients not subject to organic guidelines are produced or harvested sustainably. Ingredients produced or grown outside of Maine reflect MOFGA’s commitment to support “sustainable, organic farming regardless of geographic boundaries. MOFGA is committed to building relationships, when appropriate, with farmers and movements who share our mission.” **

* Statement of Purpose, MOFGA Bylaws. January 2018
** Policy adopted by the MOFGA Board at the June 2007 meeting.

**Decision Tree:** When considering the use of any ingredient in your menu item or food product, ask these questions to determine if that ingredient may be used.

1. Is the ingredient/item organic and produced in Maine? If so, use it.
2. If not, is there a reasonable substitute that is organic and produced in Maine? If so, use it.
3. If not, is the ingredient grown or harvested sustainably in Maine? If so, use it.
4. If not, do farmers who share our mission produce the ingredient/item organically outside of Maine? If so, use it.
5. If not, do farmers who share our mission produce the ingredient/item sustainably outside of Maine? If so, use it.
6. If not, don’t use it.

We define a sustainable food and agriculture system as one wherein: ***

- fertility of our soil is maintained and improved through the use of natural organic materials, such as compost, and through the addition of organic minerals
- toxic substances, such as sewage and industrial by-waste, are not used in any aspect of food production
- seeds and plants or animals derived through the use of genetic engineering are not used in any aspect of food production, including livestock feed
- availability and quality of water are protected and enhanced
- practices are safe and healthful for workers, communities, and consumers
- practices protect the diversity of both plants and animals and the welfare of farmed and wild species
- livestock have access to the outdoors are able to express natural animal behaviors and movement. They are not given growth hormones, antibiotics, or other synthetics for disease prevention or growth except upon veterinarian diagnosis for worming (this also pertains to fish)
- practices do not include the use of synthetic fertilizers or pesticides
- practices conserve the flow of energy and the discharge of waste
- practices enable us to produce healthful food without compromising future generations’ ability to do the same

***Definition adopted by the MOFGA Board at the October 2016 meeting.
Guidelines for 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.