

Each sunrise paints the sky over our farms,

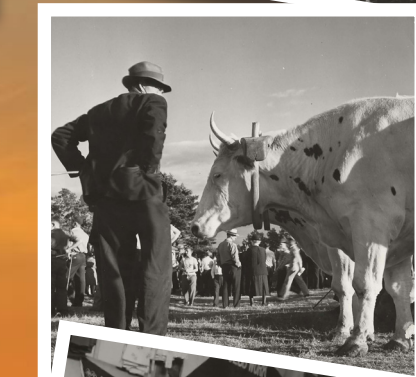
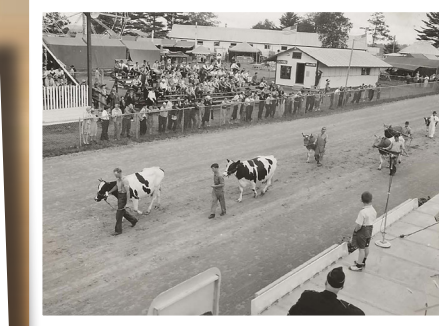
where generations have nurtured the land, growing not just crops but a deep connection to the earth. As we stand at a crossroads, the encroaching shadows of development threaten this precious landscape—our open spaces, our shared heritage, and our way of life.

Preserving the farming way of life isn't just about protecting farmland; it's about safeguarding our history, our wildlife, and our future. Imagine the laughter of children running through fields, the scent of fresh hay, and the peace that comes with knowing our natural beauty will endure for generations to come. It is in these spaces that our community finds its roots, its identity, and its strength. We must, not just for ourselves, but for the legacy we leave behind. Together, let's ensure that the spirit of Maine—its farms, its open spaces, and its heart—thrives for years to come.

Maine farmers are the stewards of 1.23 million acres of land operating 7,036 farms that contribute \$1.2 billion to our economy. Maine lost 564 farms and 82,567 acres of farmland since the last census in 2017. Maine farms also manage 700,000 acres of open space that attract tourists for hunting, fishing, hiking, and more.

Farms are dwindling in the State of Maine. Many families have had to abandon their farms, unable to earn a modest living through agriculture. Yet, we all depend on what our Maine farms provide—fresh, local foods that nourish our communities and keep unhealthy, ultra-processed foods off our plates. As our culture becomes more aware of how our food choices impact our health, we must act to support the very farms that sustain us.

With resurgence in interest in homesteading and new technologies making small-scale farming viable, it's crucial that families have access to the right information. This knowledge can mean the difference between a farm thriving or fading away. For those interested in beginning their journey into farming, there must be a means for them to receive education and support from those who have done the same for generations. To empower the next generation of farmers, we need a dedicated venue for agricultural education.



History of Organization

Founded in 1888, the Windsor Fair stands as one of Maine's premier agricultural events, drawing an average of 125,000 visitors each summer. This annual gathering celebrates the rich heritage of Maine's farming families and underscores the vital role agriculture plays in our state's culture and economy. Windsor Fair Agricultural Education Inc., was established in 2011 to showcase and educate the general public on the importance of Agriculture in Maine.

The new Agricultural Education Center will feature a perimeter of 12-14 livestock pens for cattle, horses, sheep and goats. The massive 8,600 square foot ground floor will provide area for various exhibitions, meetings, classroom spaces and a full kitchen. It will be fully equipped to support year-round educational programs. This will be a one of a kind facility in Maine, merging classroom learning with hands-on experience in a supportive environment. The building is also designed to accommodate a future second floor for additional classroom and meeting spaces.



The Windsor Fair Agricultural Education Committee, part of the Windsor Fair Agricultural Education Inc., is dedicated to preserving and revitalizing Maine’s agricultural heritage by supporting local farmers, promoting sustainable practices, and fostering community engagement. “Our mission is to combat the decline of farms in Maine by advocating for educational opportunities that support small-scale agriculture, providing resources and education to farmers, youth, and consumers in connecting with local food sources. Together, we aim to ensure a thriving agricultural landscape that benefits our economy, environment, and community well-being.” Our goal is to build a facility on the Windsor Fairgrounds where this mission can be fulfilled.

Cost to Complete

The total cost to construct the Education Center is estimated at \$2.2 million. We will approach funding incrementally, either through phased fundraising or by securing full funding before breaking ground. Annual operating costs are projected at \$25,000, which will be offset by revenue generated during the Windsor Fair.

Early Support

We have received enthusiastic early support from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Kennebec Savings Bank, Maine Farm Days and other personal donations.

The Windsor Fair Agricultural Education committee will be seeking additional support to complete the project.

Support the Agricultural Education Center

We need your support to make this vision a reality. Join us in building a facility that not only celebrates our agricultural heritage but also equips future generations with the knowledge to sustain Maine agriculture.

Every year, the Windsor Fairgrounds brings together approximately 125,000 people, uniting our community in support of Maine’s agricultural legacy. Now is the time to build a space that fosters learning and collaboration, ensuring that our farming traditions endure for years to come.

To learn more about how you can contribute to the Windsor Fair Agricultural Education Center visit our website <https://windsorfair.com/>



To empower the next generation of farmers, we need a dedicated venue for agricultural education. To address this urgent need, the Windsor Fair Trustees are committed to constructing an Agricultural Education Center on the Fairgrounds. Established in January 2011 as a 501(c)(3) organization, Windsor Fair Agricultural Education, Inc. aims to provide essential educational facilities for farmers, youth, and consumers.

WELCOME



Join us in building an education facility that not only celebrates our agricultural heritage but also equips future generations with the knowledge to sustain Maine agriculture.