Dear Friends of the Maine 4-H Foundation,

Our chosen word for 2021 is innovation. Upon reflection, the 4-H Foundation board saw a year of not only unprecedented change, but also great opportunity, creativity, and yes — innovation!

As a 4-H community, we have:

- Received an incredible donation of the 2.97 million dollar Magic Lantern to create the Magic Lantern Innovation Lab and Learning Center in Bridgton Maine.

- Provided funding to support our statewide 4-H Youth Development programs, our 4-H Camp and Learning Centers, and creative new educational programs statewide.

- Provided scholarship support for higher educational opportunities for our Maine youth.

- Reinforced our dedication to raising cultural awareness and providing opportunities for all youth across Maine.

- Enhanced our educational enrichment programs to include virtual classes and research for K-12 students, teachers, and administrators.

Our mission is now more important than ever, and we would like to thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Susan Jennings                          Carla Lafayette
Executive Director                    President

MAINE 4-H FOUNDATION
Our Mission
The Maine 4-H Foundation cultivates, promotes and secures financial resources to support the 4-H Youth Development program statewide.
The University of Maine Cooperative Extension operates the 4-H Youth Development program in Maine.

Our Vision
We support a 4-H program that provides opportunities for all Maine youth. We seek to create and enhance program and recognition opportunities for 4-H members and volunteers, that they may develop the value and characteristics of successful citizens with responsibility, leadership, and integrity.

Core Beliefs and Values:
The Maine 4-H Foundation believes and supports the following:

• Preserving the strong 4-H traditions
• Valuing opportunities for all Maine youth
• Valuing the personal growth and life skills development that long-term 4-H club participation brings
• Valuing active participation, volunteers, and cultivating development
• Supporting innovative 4-H STEM (Science, Technology, engineering, Math) programming, environmental sustainability education, healthy living, leadership, arts and service
• Supporting a Youth Trustees in Philanthropy and Youth Involvement in Development
The Maine 4-H Foundation has grown tremendously over the past few years, supporting an equally creative and expanding 4-H program across Maine. 2021 proved to be another challenging year, but UMaine Extension and Maine 4-H lived up to the challenge and created new ways to teach, educate, support, and empower Maine youth.

“Bringing 4-H and the University of Maine to the Magic Lantern and Bridgton will provide new opportunities for everyone. We built the center to bring community together and are really excited to see the new programs beginning.” - Frank Howell, Bridgton

“UMaine Extension conducts the most successful out-of-school youth educational program in Maine through 4-H.” – Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy, University of Maine President 2021.

“Showing gratitude and encouraging creativity are two of my deeply held values, I am grateful for all of the incredible and exciting work that Extension and Maine 4-H has accomplished over the year,” - Dr. Hannah Carter, Dean UMaine Extension 2021.

“The Maine 4-H Foundation is excited to welcome the gift of the Magic Lantern Innovation Lab and Learning Center. This new center joins our network to host 4-H programs across Maine.” - Carla Lafayette, President 2021.

Maine 4-H is open to all youth Ages 5-19 nationwide! There are more than 6 million 4-H members! There are almost 30,000 4-H youth in Maine.
Maine 4-H Aquaponics has created and developed amazing new experiences for youth in 2020 and 2021. One of our amazing 4-H educational experiences included live virtual lessons on aquaponics where young people grow their plants above their own fish tanks. Learning includes taking care of living fish, understanding the nutrients needed to grow the plants and how the two work together.

New Maine 4-H Virtual Learning Hub
Maine 4-H Virtual Learning is a hands-on, virtual learning program for youth ages 5-18. Workshops will be organized by age and topic. Topics include engineering, science, animals and agriculture, teen leadership, and more. Workshops will range from single-time events to short-term programs (typically four to six sessions). Participants will engage in hands-on activities, interact with other 4-Hers, and be positive adult role models.

No prior experience with 4-H is required to participate. This is a great way for those who are interested to learn more about 4-H.

• Check out the upcoming 4-H Virtual Learning Programs we have planned in the coming months: Visit: https://extension.umaine.edu/4h/virtual-learning-hub/
• Learn which virtual event registrations are open:
• Interested in becoming a Volunteer Presenter?
• Visit the page for more information and to complete an interest form.
• Read what 4-H Parents, Youth, and Teachers have to say about these 4-H Virtual Learning offerings on our site.
4-H Education in 2021

4-H Health and Nutrition

The Maine 4-H programs work with our agriculture and food and nutrition staff to add formal health and nutrition education into the 4-H program statewide. Our county programs as well as our 4-H Camp and Learning Centers all have nutrition and health and wellness programs for Maine youth.

Check out our videos on line at
https://extension.umaine.edu/4h/learn-at-home/4-h-friday-fun-videos/
2021 has certainly been another challenging year for UMaine 4-H Camp and Learning Centers. Our camps held successful, but much smaller camp sessions due to COVID 19.

The good news is that local schools were able to depend on our 4-H Learning Centers for incredible virtual researched based STEM and outdoor environmental education and when possible, in-person learning. Our learning centers became critical science classrooms for the year. This continues today!

The exciting news is that we are moving ahead with active summer programs again this year for Maine youth. Residential camps and summer school programs will be able to explore the outdoors, learn about Maine's Lakes and rivers, wildlife and our magnificent environment.

Our 4-H Camp and Learning Centers typically have over 10,000 youth attend our programs. This year, once again we will host as many young people as possible and continue with our virtual live streamed education coupled with hands-on learning kits for our kids.

Our sincere hope is to welcome all of our Maine youth back by fall of 2022! Thank you to everyone who has supported our 4-H Learning Centers. You are a part of our 4-H community and making a difference for our Maine children and teens.
Animal science in person programs once again began being held in person during 2021 with some Maine fairs holding in person 4-H shows and events. We anticipate more hands-on 4-H animal science programs later in 2022. Our clubs and 4-H education focused on animal husbandry, veterinary science, nutrition, grooming, training, and showmanship all continue to support our 4-H members.  

Photo Credit: Allison Merriman

Maine State Virtual Fair 2021

Participation in the Maine State Virtual Fair was an opportunity for 4-H members to be recognized for their efforts on projects they had completed and skills they had gained over the past 4-H year. Club members and independent 4-Hers from Maine were eligible and welcomed to submit entries to the Exhibit Hall.
The Solar Sprint is a fun, interactive way to teach principles of renewable energy and the engineering design process; as students create solar-powered model cars. The top cars from each participating school/site are invited to attend the state race where they are raced for top speed and judged on innovation, design, craftsmanship, and other categories. This program strives to increase youth interest in STEM-related topics and careers. Supported by RLC Engineering - Plans are in place to bring Solar Sprint back in the fall of 2022.

Maine Virtual Teen Science Cafés, a great place to learn new science skills and be connected to other teens across Maine. The Cafés and Summer Learning Series, as well as other virtual teaching programs were initiated due to COVID 19, but have been so successful that 4-H will continue the virtual programs to support and reach many more Maine young people.

Maine 4-H has a library of recorded science education for all.
Citizenship and Leadership

Citizenship Washington Focus
Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) is a 4-H leadership program for high school youth, ages 14-18, from across the country. Take your 4-H experience to another level through Citizenship Washington Focus, a six-day intensive summer citizenship program for youth. CWF delegates learn about the democratic process and their role as citizens while they experience our nation’s capital. Get the inside scoop about how government really works from prominent guest speakers to interacting with Maine’s State senators and representatives and/or their staffers.

National 4-H Congress and National 4-H Conference are flagship events of the 4-H program supported by the Maine 4-H Foundation.

4-H Congress offers youth ages 14-18 a quality, educational, and cross-cultural experience that exceeds what any state independently provides. Congress focuses on issues and trends in agriculture, cultural diversity, group dynamics, and community service. The program is designed to help young people develop the knowledge base and leadership skills to positively affect change in our world.

4-H Conference explores how our democratic government system works. National 4-H Conference is designed to provide an opportunity for youth, adult volunteer leaders, and Extension staff to work together in addressing the issues of youth. Program plans are focused on how the 4-H Youth Development program can best meet the needs of youth at the local, state, and national levels through educational programming.

National Youth Agri-Science and Healthy Living Summit
The Agri-Science and Healthy Living Summits will be held in Washington D.C. in early 2022. Attendees will learn more about their area of interest by attending career panels, interactive workshops, and visiting related agencies throughout D.C. The Summits were created to empower youth to be well-informed citizens, expand engineering and agriculture experience, and increase connections to living a healthy lifestyle, all while being actively engaged in their communities.

The 4-H Foundation provides support and scholarships to 4-H members attending all of our 4-H leadership programs.
Our 4-H Clubs and 4-H Camp and Learning Centers provide learning opportunities in all educational subject areas including nature exploration, music and the arts, engineering and STEM, health and nutrition, career, leadership and citizenship programs, along with workforce development. The Magic Lantern Innovation Lab and Learning Center will become home to a new and exciting program with a focus on STEM and the visual and performing arts for Maine youth.
Innovation and Creativity

4-H is an amazing program teaching young people to take action, invent, learn, explore, and to set goals. 4-H encourages young people to be dedicated, to appreciate opportunities, and to be creative while developing confidence and resiliency.

Today, 4-H provides opportunity for every young person, through clubs, community programs, 4-H Camp and Learning Centers, 4-H in the classroom, early college and so much more. The Maine 4-H Foundation is working hard to support creative, fun, and educational learning experiences.
4-H Looking Forward to 2022!

4-H is growing and expanding across our state. Our 4-H Learning Centers are open and steadily reaching more Maine youth with creative programs. UMaine Cooperative Extension and 4-H are very proud of the work we are doing to reach and educate Maine youth. The pandemic has been a challenge, and also an opportunity for our hard working 4-H staff to implement and deliver much needed experiential programs. The Maine 4-H Foundation has funded many new programs and invested once again in our 4-H Learning Center network across Maine. The new Magic Lantern Innovation Lab and Learning Center will host 4-H and will be a great addition to our statewide network reaching across Maine.

Green: 4-H Camp and Learning Centers
Blue: County Cooperative Extension Offices
Black: University of Maine Campus

The University of Maine staff.

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Maine 4-H Foundation Board

Officers:

President:
(2022) Carla Lafayette: Hampden ME
Vice-President:
(2022) Sean Cameron: Rumford ME
Secretary:
(2022) John (Jay) Nutting: Vassalboro ME
Treasurer:
(2022) Lynn Gallagher: Gray, ME

Trustees:
(2021-1) Bob Heinrich: Auburn, ME
(2025-2) Molly Stifter: Brookline, MA
(2021-1) Katherine Kugelman: North Bridgton, ME
(2022-2) Deb Chase: Farmington ME
(2025-2) Karen Hatch Gagne: Sidney, ME
(2025-2) Jon Olson: Mount Vernon, ME
(2022-1) George Conant Scarborough, ME
(2022-1) Mike Sawyer: Augusta, ME
(2022-1) Lavon Bartel: Steuben, ME
(2022-2) Taylor Mudge: Camden ME
(2023-1) Devora Stager: Belfast, ME
(2023-1) Jason Judd: Portland, ME
(2023-1) Sherri Thornton: Burnham, ME
(2023-1) John Knuerr, Tenants Harbor, ME
(2024-1) Jacob Mitchell, Youth Trustee Representative
(2024-1) Maddie Gray, Youth Trustee Representative

Honorary Members

Lincoln Merrill, Yarmouth, ME
Scott Johnson, Bangor, ME
Dean Hannah Carter, Orono, ME
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