

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## CULTIVATING INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION



Photos by Edwin Remsburg and University of Maine

### Letter from the Dean

With a presence in each of Maine's sixteen counties, Extension connects people to science-based information to improve their lives, their homes, their businesses and their communities. Our staff develop practical tools and resources founded on university research and focused on issues and needs identified by Maine's communities and industries. Here are just a few statewide highlights.

In 2024, our integrated pest management (IPM) program saved the state's potato industry more than \$6 million in losses avoided, yield increases and decreased pesticide use.

The innovative Building Ag Literacy through Immersive Culinary Arts Experience project reached 650 students and 26 instructors in Maine's CTE culinary arts programs. The effort enhanced agricultural literacy and promoted the use of Maine-grown foods to support the local economy.

Our tick lab received nearly 5,000 samples for identification and testing, and our 4-H Tick Project engaged more than 560 youth in 13 counties in tick education.

Speaking of 4-H, with help from more than 620 volunteers, our 4-H camp, club and learning programs reached more than 15,000 Maine youth.

UMaine Extension is determined to make a positive difference for the people of Maine. Visit a county office, contact any member of our enthusiastic workforce, or explore our website at [extension.umaine.edu](https://extension.umaine.edu) to learn more.

Hannah Carter, Dean, University of Maine Cooperative Extension





# Youth Development in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc counties



4-H is the positive youth development program of UMaine Extension. In 2024, Androscoggin/Sagadahoc County 4-H served hundreds of youth through programs like public speaking, teen leadership, workforce development, aquaculture, STEM, and Youth Have a Voice.

The Community Central program engaged high school students from Lewiston and Portland in leadership opportunities, strengthened workforce and college/career readiness skills, and built social capital. Between 2019 and 2024, the program reached over 1600 youth.

4-H Summer of Science uses hands-on learning activities to mitigate summer learning loss and engage youth in science. In 2024, Androscoggin/Sagadahoc counties provided programming at 11 sites with over 400 4th-6th graders in Auburn, Livermore Falls, Lewiston, Lisbon, Sabattus, Bath, and Topsham.

Oh Yea! 4-H Grows True Leaders, in partnership with the Somali Bantu community, prepared 76 youth for food system careers and effective community leadership by fostering skills in communication, collaboration, cooking, and gardening.

# Agriculture and Horticulture in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc counties



Working with southern Maine vegetable farmers, sustainable ag researchers investigated the practice of seeding cover crops over standing cash crops. Results underscored the practical and logistical considerations of this practice, including positive effects on soil moisture, weed competition, and crop growth.



Delivered 5 farm and tractor safety programs to 55 individuals, enhancing employability and alleviating the ever increasing farm labor shortage. Participants learn common sources of farm and tractor accidents and how to avoid them; the basics of equipment maintenance; emergency preparedness; and equipment operation skills and experience.



Master Gardener Volunteers provided nearly 3,000 hours of community service, working on more than 50 projects that support school and community gardens, distribute seeds and onion plants, provide education for children and adults, and answer pest and soil questions. In 2024, volunteers donated nearly 26,500 pounds of produce to the Harvest for Program.

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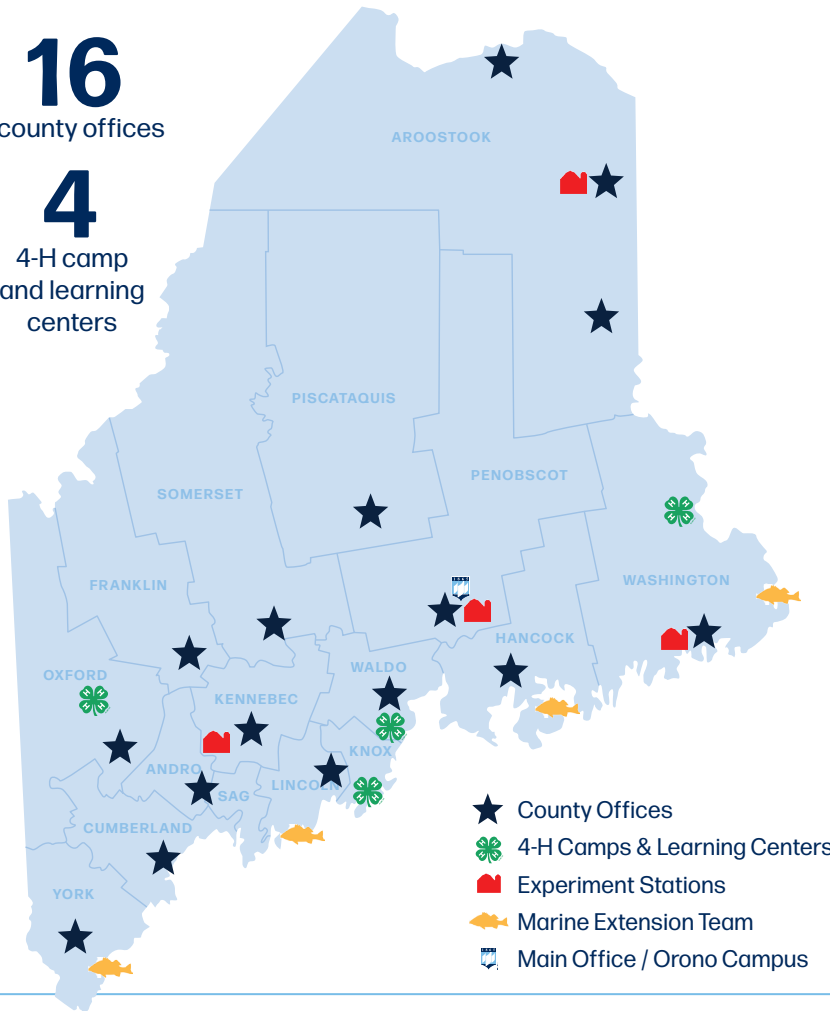
## OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

**16**

county offices

**4**

4-H camp  
and learning  
centers



**72,362**

individuals reached through online and  
in-person programs, presentations, training  
and consultations in UMFY2024

**3.6 M**

pageviews in  
CY2024

**1.1M**

people reached through  
social media in CY2024

**15,164**

youth participated in 4-H camps, clubs  
and learning programs in FedFY2024

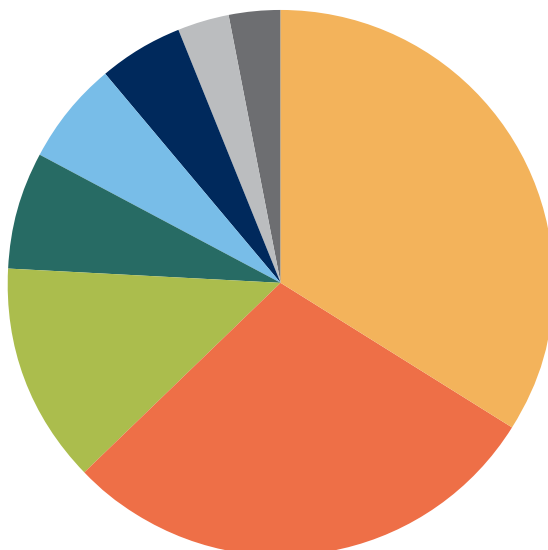
**1,328**

educational videos  
on YouTube received

**1.15 M**

views in CY2024

## Funding Sources



Grants [34%]	- \$7,085,819
UMaine [29%]	- \$6,043,787
Federal [13%]	- \$2,709,284
4-H Camps [7%]	- \$1,458,845
Programming [6%]	- \$1,250,439
State [5%]	- \$1,042,032
Counties [3%]	- 625,219
Philanthropy [3%]	- 625,219



# HELPING PEOPLE THRIVE IN ANDROSCOGGIN/SAGadahoc COUNTIES

## ENGAGING YOUTH IN POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT



**90**

youth participated in 4-H clubs, projects, camps, afterschool and school-based programs in FedFY2024



**96%**

of 4-H teens that have graduated from high school have gone on to higher education since 2008



**400**

youth participated in 4-H Summer of Science programming developed and delivered by 15 teen teachers in FedFY2024

## FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



**508**

soil tests in CY2024



**43**

submissions to the plant lab in UMFY2024



**21**

requests for identification from the insect lab in UMFY2024



**200+**

individuals hosted at the North American Maple Syrup Conference in October 2024

## BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



**57**

Master Gardener Volunteers donated **2,992 hours** to community projects in CY2024



**26,494**

pounds of fresh food from 81 sites was donated to 37 redistribution sites through the Harvest for Hunger program in CY2024, **valued at \$52,194**



**328**

ticks submitted for identification and testing in CY2024

*UMFY: University of Maine Fiscal Year  
Jul 1, 2023 - Jun 30, 2024*

*FedFY: Federal Fiscal Year  
Oct 1, 2023 - Sep 30, 2024*

*CY2024: Calendar Year  
Jan 1, 2024 - Dec 1, 2024*