



MAINE HAY CONTEST

Thank you for your interest in sponsoring the Maine Hay Contest. Maine has more than 150 hay producers, in which the livestock, horse, and dairy industries within the state highly depend. All producers strive year after year to produce excellent quality hay, and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension firmly believes these efforts should be rewarded and recognized.

Therefore, the first Maine Hay Contest will be hosted in 2024, where producers will submit their best quality hay produced in the year. First place will receive \$500, second place \$250, and third place \$100. They also will receive a commemorative plaque that will be presented along with the prizes at the Maine Forage Conference, to be held in Waterville, ME, in November 2024. Additionally, all participants will receive a farm visit from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Forage Specialist, Dr. Jaime Garzon, who will carry out the hay sampling, shipping to a certified laboratory for quality analysis, and the selection of winners. These visits will be a great opportunity for information exchange about forage production and question-solving. The main objective of the overall program is to help Maine producers to produce better hay.

Additionally, the Maine Forage Conference is expected to become an annual event, to provide an excellent opportunity to come together as a hay industry, learn from subject matter experts, and attend a trade show. In the agenda, it is expected the participation of three featured speakers, the Maine Hay Contest award ceremony, and a space for sponsor recognition, trade show, and socialization. Lunch and refreshments will be provided to registered attendees.

In the first year of the Maine Hay Contest, it is expected the participation of 15 hay producers in the contest and 50 attendees in the Annual Maine Hay Meeting. Then, \$1000 will be required for the farm visits, sample collection, shipping, and lab processing, \$1,400 for the Annual Maine Forage Conference, \$1000 for the awards, and \$100 for outreach, totaling \$3,500 for the entire program.

For sponsoring, the program offers three tiers with different benefits.

Gold \$1000+: Gold sponsors receive logo placement in the printed handout and presentations, on a large backdrop at the event, can have a 30-minute presentation in the agenda, and are verbally thanked during the event.

Silver \$500+: Sponsors receive logo placement in the printed handout and presentations and are verbally thanked during the event.

Bronze \$150+: Sponsors receive logo placement in the printed handout.

Others.

All sponsors are allowed to bring a display to set up and exhibit during the trade show, with prior confirmation. The University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Maine hay industry appreciate your support.

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Maine's Land Grant and Sea Grant University