



Thank you for your interest in sponsoring the Maine Hay Contest and the Maine Forage Conference. Maine has more than 150 hay producers, on whom the livestock, horse, and dairy industries 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 2025, 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 will also receive a commemorative plaque that will be presented along with the prizes at the Maine Forage Conference, which will be held in Waterville, ME, in November 2025. 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 an excellent opportunity to exchange information 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, providing an excellent opportunity for the hay industry to come together, learn from subject matter experts, and attend a trade show. The agenda is expected to include featured speakers, the Maine Hay Contest award ceremony, and space for sponsor recognition, trade show, and socialization. Lunch and refreshments will be provided to registered attendees.

In the second 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 Forage 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 and on the sponsor banner at the event. They can also have a 20-minute presentation on the agenda and will be 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