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BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Annual Report to Maine State Legislature And Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System

January 18, 2018

Joint Standing Committee On Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04330

University of Maine System Board of Trustees
Mr. James R. Erwin, Chair
Board of Trustees Office
15 Estabrooke Dr.
Orono, ME 04469

CC: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
James H. Page, Chancellor, University of Maine System
Susan J. Hunter, President, University of Maine

Dear Senator Davis, Representative Dunphy and Distinguished Committee Members, and Chair Erwin and Board of Trustees,

As Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Agriculture it is our pleasure to provide the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the University of Maine Board of Trustees, as required under Title 7, section 125, subsection 6, our annual report on the activities of the Board. As many of you know the Board was established in 1998 during a time of shrinking budgets and of extreme pressure on the University of Maine System in its efforts to maintain agricultural research and teaching functions, which given its Land Grant status, should be integral to its mission. The Board's mandate is to advise the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the University of Maine at Orono on

matters concerning the operation and management of agricultural research conducted by the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station and University farm based programs. The Board's duties are limited to agriculture related issues. The full statute is attached for your convenience.

The Board met three times in 2017; January, March and November. At the January meeting reports were presented by Dr. Servello on the University budget situation including updates on faculty positions and hires; reports by Extension Executive Director John Rebar emphasizing positive budget developments for the first time in years and updates on the Plant, Animal and Insect Diagnostic Lab. Discussion included reviewing faculty positions filled and those still open from the Board's priority list. The March meeting was held in Augusta at the State House with a lunch reception for the Legislators. The discussion again revolved around budget and faculty positions with updates on the Governor's budget, infrastructure investments in the University system and funding mechanisms for infrastructure improvements including a bond issue. The November meeting was held in Orono with updates from Dean Servello, President Hunter and Executive Director Rebar. The Board discussed current faculty hires and expressed interest in working across Colleges within the University to include an agricultural engineer position on the Board's list of priority positions, with an emphasis on extension. A fee for service model was discussed as a way to help fund in-field work and perhaps a technician appointment. The Cooperative Extension agreed to develop and disseminate a questionnaire to end users about the need for an extension engineer position with the results of the poll ready for the next Board meeting. The Board toured the new Plant, Animal and Insect Diagnostic Lab and were briefed on progress toward opening day.

The work of the Board is to encourage, to support and to advise the University of Maine at Orono and the Cooperative Extension. The three stated priorities of the Board since 2014 have been:

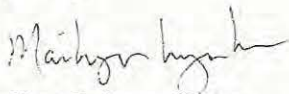
1. Retain key agricultural, aquaculture and value added faculty positions.
2. Work with the University to fill critical positions where expertise is lacking or demand for services exceeds capacity.
3. Work with the University in transition from long term faculty to new hires, with the goal of passing on institutional knowledge.

Of these three priorities the Board can report that there has been forward movement in all three areas. The University has been able to hire some new faculty; a plant pathologist, a food scientist and an animal disease specialist to name a few. These positions fill or retain faculty positions that the Board identified as critical to the mission of the University. The conversations about retirements has been ongoing, with the goal of retaining faculty through a transition period in order to pass valuable industry knowledge from one person to the next.

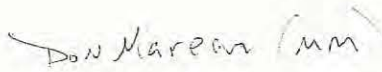
The Board appreciates the efforts of the University to address the positions listed in our 2014 priority lists and we look forward to working closely with the Chancellor, the President and the Executive Director to further the goals of the Land Grant University: teaching, research and formal public outreach.

The resources appropriated by the Legislature to the University of Maine help support the efforts of Maine farmers and food processors in their efforts to grow, process and distribute Maine food to Maine people, and to people beyond our borders. Maine is well situated to expand agriculture and aquaculture well beyond where we are now. The University with support from the Legislature can be a leading force in our efforts.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Meyerhans
Chair



Don Marean
Vice Chair

Maine Revised Statutes

Title 7: AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS

Part 1: ADMINISTRATION

Chapter 5: BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND MAINE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

§125. Board of Agriculture

1. **Establishment; duties.** The Board of Agriculture, referred to in this section as the "board," as established in Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 4-A, is created within the University of Maine System. The board shall advise the Chancellor of the University of Maine System and the President of the University of Maine at Orono on matters concerning the operation and management of agricultural research conducted by the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station and university farm-based programs, including those of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service. The board's duties are limited to advising the chancellor and the president on research and programs relating to agriculture. The board does not advise the Director of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station or have a role in the operation of research and programs within the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station that relate to forestry, wildlife, or fisheries and aquaculture. The board shall assist the chancellor and the president in articulating the mission of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station as it pertains to agriculture. The director, with the agreement of the board, shall develop a budget for the station. The board and the director shall seek agreement on all issues. In the event that agreement can not be reached, final authority rests with the director. The board may not interfere with funding and grants for commodity research programs brought to the University of Maine System directly or through the efforts of commodity groups. The board shall respect the expertise of the various commodity groups and shall maintain the integrity of the research being recommended and reviewed by specific commodity groups. The board shall assist in the coordination of activities with commodity groups interested in or

supporting agricultural research. The board shall consult with the following agricultural commodity advisory committees on agricultural research and extension priorities:

A. The University of Maine System Wild Blueberry Advisory Committee; and [1997, c. 711, §5 (NEW).]

B. The Maine Potato Board Research and Product Development Committee. [1997, c. 711, §5 (NEW).]

[1997, c. 711, §5 (NEW) .]

2. Membership. The board consists of the following 20 members:

A. A designee of the President of the University of Maine at Orono; [1997, c. 711, §5 (NEW).]

B. A designee of the Chancellor of the University of Maine System; [1997, c. 711, §5 (NEW).]

C. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the commissioner's designee; [1997, c. 711, §5 (NEW); 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV).]

D. The president of a statewide farm bureau or the president's designee; [2009, c. 393, §1 (AMD).]

E. The president of a statewide agricultural council or the president's designee; [2009, c. 393, §1 (AMD).]

F. Eight members representing the agricultural industry, one person designated by each of the following:

(1) The Maine Potato Board;

(2) The Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine;

(3) A statewide pomological society;

(4) A statewide vegetable and small fruit growers association;

(5) A statewide dairy industry association;

(6) A statewide landscape and nursery association;

(7) A statewide florist and growers association; and

(8) A statewide organic farmers and gardeners association;

[1997, c. 711, §5 (NEW).]

G. Two members of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters, one appointed by the

farming, chosen from a list of 3 nominees submitted by a statewide beef and sheep producers association, appointed by the Governor; [1997, c. 711, §5 (NEW) .]

I. Two research faculty members associated with agricultural research at the University of Maine at Orono, appointed by the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System; [2009, c. 393, §1 (AMD) .]

J. The Director of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service; and [2009, c. 393, §1 (AMD) .]

K. One member representing the aquaculture industry designated by a statewide aquaculture industry association. [2009, c. 393, §1 (NEW) .]

[2009, c. 393, §1 (AMD); 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV) .]

3. Terms. Each member serves a term of 5 years, except that the terms of legislative members expire the first Wednesday in December of even-numbered years. Vacancies must be filled by the appointing authority to complete the term of the preceding appointee.

[1997, c. 711, §5 (NEW) .]

4. Chair; secretary. The board shall select annually one of its members to serve as chair. The Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station shall serve as secretary to the board but the director is not a member of the board and has no vote.

[1997, c. 711, §5 (NEW) .]

5. Compensation. The board members are entitled to legislative per diem compensation for attendance at board meetings in accordance with Title 5, chapter 379.

[1997, c. 711, §5 (NEW) .]

6. Report. The Board of Agriculture shall report at least annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters and to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System. The report must include an accounting of meetings and actions of the Board of Agriculture, including agreements entered into, status of demonstration projects, research findings, informational activities and an

evaluation of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service programs, with recommendations regarding changes or improvements in the programs and the budget. The Board of Agriculture shall submit annually to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System proposals for additional funding for capital building projects at the research farms.

[1997, c. 711, §5 (NEW) .]

7. Long-range plan. By January 15, 2000, the board shall establish a long-range plan for operation of the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service programs that includes but is not limited to plans for each of the research farms, joint appointments for experiment station and extension faculty, better utilization of research farms and objectives for research for each agricultural commodity in the State. The plan developed by the board does not include operations, research and programs relating to forestry, wildlife, aquaculture and fisheries.

[1999, c. 72, §1 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1997, c. 711, §5 (NEW). 1999, c. 72, §1 (AMD). 2009, c. 393, §1 (AMD). 2011, c. 657, Pt. W, §6 (REV).

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