

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Board of Agriculture
2023 Annual Report to the Maine Legislature
&
Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System

January 19, 2024

Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair

Representative William Pluecker, Chair

Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

100 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Patricia (Trish) A. Riley, Chair

University of Maine System Board of Trustees

15 Estabrooke Drive, Office 251

Orono, ME 04469

Cc: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Daniel Malloy, Chancellor, University of Maine System

Joan Ferrini-Mundy, President, University of Maine

Diane Rowland, Dean, College of Earth, Life, and Health Sciences and Director, Maine
Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station

Amanda Oullette, Library Associate, Law and Legislative Reference Library

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, Distinguished Committee members and
Chair Riley and the Board of Trustees,

The Board of Agriculture thanks you for your support of its work in 2023. As Chair and Vice
Chair of the Board of Agriculture, we are pleased to provide the Joint Standing Committee of
Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry and the Board of Trustees with our 2023 annual report.

The Board met 4 times in 2023, twice in March, once in October, and once in December.

At the March 3 meeting, 11 Board members, 6 invited guests and 2 members of board administration were present. The board elected Bruce Hall, Director of Agroecology at Wyman's, as Vice Chair. The Dean of the College and Director of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, Diane Rowland, and the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost and Dean of Cooperative Extension, Hanna Carter, briefed the board on vacant positions - six in the Experiment Station and five in Cooperative Extension. The board **was asked to craft critical issues for 2024's plan of work. They also discussed material to be** presented at the Governor's meeting.

At the March 23 meeting, 13 Board members, 5 University administrators, and 2 guests were in attendance. The Board met in the Maine Capitol building with Maine Governor Janet Mills. The **Board expressed gratitude for continuing support for Maine's agricultural industry**, the University of Maine Agriculture and Forest Experiment Station, and Cooperative Extension. The discussion with the governor included the topics of lack of faculty and programs, PFAS and **the state's response, Maine grown food and the need** for economic impact study of agriculture in Maine, incentivizing participation by the younger generation, and public private research and development partnerships.

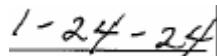
At the October 6 meeting there were 12 Board members, 5 University Administrators and 2 guests present. The board discussed possible revisions to the Board of Agriculture statute language. The Board also received updates on various capital projects and other University of Maine activities. It was suggested that a task force be established to help the Board and the University of Maine communicate on the budget.

The December 1 meeting had 14 members, 7 University administrators, and 1 guest present. The meeting included the election of Marge Kilkelley, Owner of Dragonfly Cove Farm, as Chair and Kevin Woltemath, Pineland Farms, as Vice Chair. The board approved moving forward with a statute revision process that modernizes some language and corrects the omission of aquaculture as an allowable subject area for the Board. It was also decided that the board would form a task force for participating in the University budgeting process, and had a discussion of that process. A tentative meeting schedule and topics for 2024 was formulated acknowledging that the calendar may change to coincide with when University budget decisions are being made and when legislative budget hearings are held.

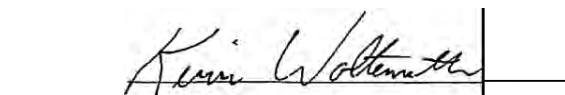
Sincerely,



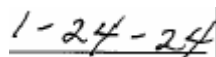
Marge Kilkelley, BOA Chair



Date



Kevin Woltemath, BOA Vice Chair



Date