

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
**AGRICULTURE
CONSERVATION
& FORESTRY**

Media Highlights

What they are saying about DACF

January 2022

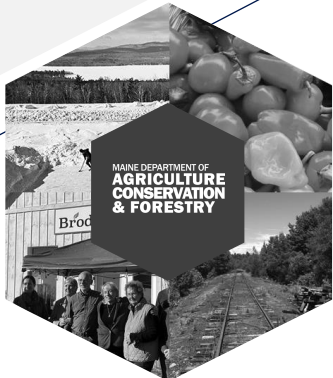
The New York Times

“Milk Companies Look West, Pressuring Northeast Dairy Farmers”

Amanda Beal, the commissioner of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, said she was concerned that larger organic farms in the West were not being held to the same standards as those in the Northeast. Two rules for organic certification set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture have long been bones of contention: those requiring that organic livestock have access to pasture, and the “origin of livestock” rule limiting the conversion of conventional cows to organic.

Ms. Beal said she would like to see the pasture rule more evenly enforced by organic certifiers nationwide. She said she also hoped that the U.S.D.A. would soon clarify the origin of livestock rule to eliminate loopholes used by larger dairies.

<https://www.nytimes.com>
2022/01/05



Portland Press Herald

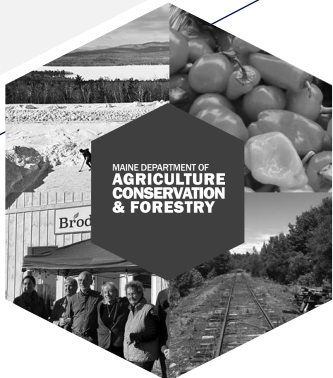


“Pandemic shows need for strong local food systems”

As the USDA said last year, COVID "exposed a food system that was rigid, consolidated, and fragile." Maine can play a big role in making it less so.

Under a plan to boost local food production — conceived in part by Amanda Beal, now Gov. Mills' agriculture commissioner — Maine would become the central producer in New England — something only our state has the acreage to do.

This vision has Maine supplying half the food to the region by 2060. In another effort, Maine's diet would be made up of 30% locally sourced foods by 2030.



EDITORIALS

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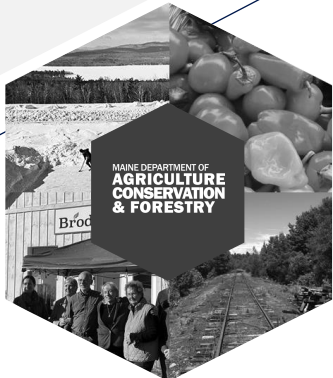
Mainebiz
MAINE'S BUSINESS NEWS SOURCE



“Maine state parks set all-time attendance record in 2021”

Attendance was up 8% over the previous all-time record set in 2020. That means more than 3.3 million visitors headed to the state’s 12 state park campgrounds and 48 parks and historic sites.

“It is great to see more people than ever enjoying our trails, campgrounds, beaches and ponds,” Commissioner Amanda Beal said in a press release. “Our beautiful state parks are go-to destinations for Maine residents and visitors as they look to find accessible and welcoming outdoor recreation opportunities.”



<https://www.wabi.tv>
2022/01/06

Portland
Press Herald

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SPECTRUM
NEWS

& WORLD REPORT
U.S. News



“Abandoned railroad corridor to become new multi-use trail”

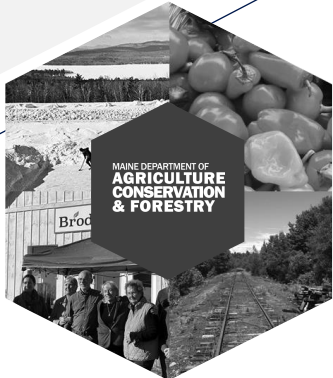
An abandoned railroad corridor in Central Maine is being converted to a new multi-use trail.

The trail, known as the Madison Branch, spans 32 miles across Kennebec and Somerset Counties.

The Mills administration announced Tuesday the trail it will become a major connector to the Maine Interconnected Trail System and Maine ATV Trail System.

The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry purchased it from Pan Am Railways for a little more than a million dollars.

[https://www.wabi.tv/2021/11/30/
abandoned-railroad-corridor-
become-new-multi-use-trail/
2021/11/30](https://www.wabi.tv/2021/11/30/abandoned-railroad-corridor-become-new-multi-use-trail/2021/11/30)



AP

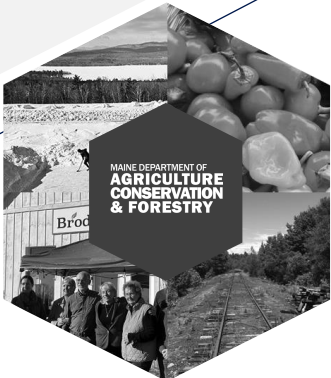


“Maine to expand mental health help for farmers”

Farmers in Maine and beyond have had to contend with the coronavirus pandemic, droughts and supply chain difficulties in recent months and years, Beal said. She said the stress assistance network will provide direct service for farmers as well as referrals for farmers anticipating stress and conflict.

The effort will also involve broadening the providers who understand the needs of agriculture workers, Beal said.

<https://apnews.com/article/business-maine-us-department-of-agriculture-forestry-health-0fdece81d2688f0cdda080081a0bf3fa>
November 9, 2021





NEWS BREAK

AP



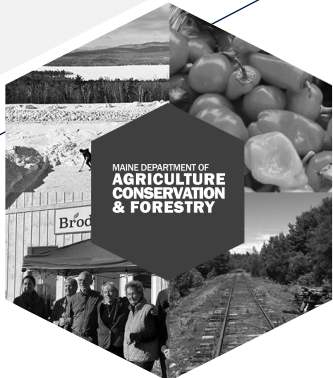
“Maine Is Asking You To Help '#Knockout Browntail' In February”

Encounters with hairs from browntail moth caterpillars can cause mild to severe rashes and respiratory issues. Browntail moth caterpillars overwinter in webs that may have from a couple dozen to several hundred caterpillars each. Some people say they experience itching with fewer than 10 webs per tree or shrub; others say they have no symptoms from heavier infestations around their yards.

Winter is the best time to spot an infestation and take steps towards controlling the caterpillars and reducing the itch.

Follow the four Rs to help knockout browntail caterpillars in our communities and reduce the itch!

01/04/2022



Sun Journal

Central and Western Maine News

centralmaine.com

KENNEBEC JOURNAL | *Morning Sentinel*



“Maine Agricultural Trades Show to go virtual”

The Maine Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry plans to hold the annual Maine Agricultural Trades Show online instead of in-person the week of Monday, Jan. 10.

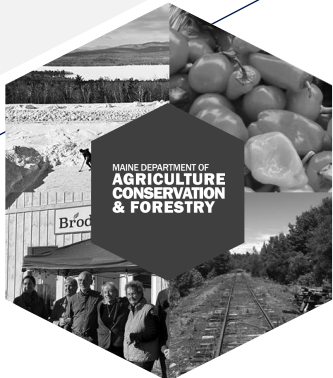
“Throughout the pandemic, our agricultural community has adapted to provide for the people of Maine. The department is adapting, too, to provide the resources our industry needs virtually, so they can address the challenges of the pandemic and plan for the future,” said DACF Commissioner Amanda Beal.

[Maine Agricultural Trades Show to go virtual - CentralMaine.com](https://www.centralmaine.com)

<https://www.centralmaine.com> ›

[2021/12/14 › maine-a...](#)

Dec 14, 2021





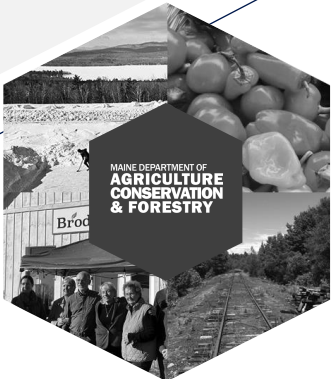
“Moosehead ski resort developers revise plans to reduce impact on wildlife”

Developers of a proposed year-round ski resort in Piscataquis County have revised their plans to have less impact on wildlife habitats and the environment on Big Moose Mountain.

Of particular concern to the state is habitat for the Northern Spring salamander, the Bicknell's thrush — a small, brown songbird — and the Roaring Brook mayfly.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife recommended the revisions in June. In December, ski resort developers submitted plan changes to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission to deal with the state's concerns.

<https://observer-me.com/2021/12/26/news/moosehead-ski-resort-developers-revise-plans-to-reduce-impact-on-wildlife/>
Dec 26, 2021



Portland Press Herald

centralmaine.com
KENNEBEC JOURNAL | Morning Sentinel



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FARM CREDIT EAST

“Maine launches \$20 million grant program for food infrastructure”

Grants can be used to upgrade harvesting, processing and manufacturing or packaging and handling equipment. Improving agricultural infrastructure will allow the sector to increase production and storage capacity, enhance supply chain resilience and drive growth within the state’s agricultural and food economy while increasing production of Maine-grown foods, according to the release.

Maine launches \$20 million grant program for food infrastructure

<https://www.pressherald.com>

2021/11/08

