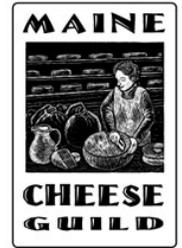


For Immediate Release:
August 3, 2022

Holly Aker
President
Maine Cheese Guild
(207) 595-2344
mainecheeseguild@gmail.com



Portland, ME (August 3, 2022) - The Maine Cheese Guild is pleased to announce the hiring of its first Executive Director, Ron Dyer of Winthrop, Maine. Ron brings a wealth of management and technical agricultural, food safety and business experience that will help grow and support the Guilds membership. He looks forward to supporting Maine's small and large cheese makers and creameries throughout the state, and members who sell our products or support our organization in other ways. This position was funded in part by a grant from the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center.

Ron stated, "I believe this is an exciting opportunity to support and promote Maine's incredibly talented cheese producers. These businesses are true artisan's and represent a local, high quality and safe food for all Maine families to enjoy."

The Maine Cheese Guild is the oldest of the American Cheesemaker Guilds, founded as an education focused not-for-profit in 2003 to support and encourage the Maine cheese making community. The Guild uses their collective voice to promote Maine cheese and cheesemakers, educate cheesemakers and consumers, coordinate resources and share the joy and art of regional cheeses. This includes workshops led by cheesemakers from around the world, Open Creamery Day across Maine in October, and our annual fall Cheese Festival and Maine Cheese Awards.

"We are so grateful to the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center for recognizing the talent of our cheesemaking community and supporting the Maine Cheese Guild mission to provide educational and technical assistance for our creameries," said Maine Cheese Guild President Holly Aker. "Ron's advanced food safety knowledge, expertise in agriculture, and track record of supporting small business, is exactly what we were hoping to bring to this role and to our members."

Since 2019, Ron has owned Ledgemere Group Consulting in Winthrop Maine where he focusses on food safety and training, food business development and Environmental Health and Safety. His past roles have included Director, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, State of Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry. Ron has also served as Director for Quality Assurance & Regulations within the department of agriculture. On the EHS front, Mr. Dyer has also served as a director within Maine's state environmental agency and as a Regional Manager with Poland Spring Bottling.

Ron's volunteer efforts include serving on the Maine Course Advisory Board, and as a mentor and assistance provider with the Maine Center for Entrepreneurs, where he focuses on food producer operations and food safety.

To learn more about the Maine Cheese Guild, visit www.mainecheeseguild.org
To learn more about the Dairy Business Innovation Center please visit
<http://agriculture.vermont.gov/dbic>

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Maine Cheese Guild's mission is to support and encourage the Maine cheesemaking community through the development of a collective voice to promote Maine cheese and cheesemakers, educate cheese makers and consumers, coordinate resources and share the joy and art of regional cheeses.

The 2021 -2022 Board of Directors includes:

Holly Aker, Local Goods Gathered, President
Mark Whitney, Pineland Farms Dairy Co., Vice President
Eric Rector, Monroe Cheese Studio, Treasurer
Heather Donahue, Balfour Farm, Secretary
Olivia Barber, Maine Milk Maven
Beth Calder, University of Maine
Alexis Godin, Alice & Lulu's
Jean Koons, Kennebec Cheesery
Amy Rowbottom, Crooked Face Creamery
Sarah Spring, Spring Day Creamery
Carrie Whitcomb, Springdale Farm