



LEADERSHIP BIOS

Maine Potato Board

Donald E. Flannery, Executive Director, MPB

Having grown up on a potato farm in Aroostook County, Don Flannery welcomed the opportunity to work for the Maine Potato Board. After all, he had an inherent interest in and knowledge of the potato industry. And, he had spent a great deal of time supporting the industry in his former role at the Northern Maine Development Commission.

Don joined the Maine Potato Board 11 years ago, and for the last six years has served as executive director. During his tenure, he has helped transform the organization to better reflect the industry at large. “We’ve worked very hard to address federal and state issues and to have a positive impact,” said Don. He is perhaps most proud of shifting the Maine Potato Board’s core focus from marketing to creating an environment for potato growers to compete and win in the marketplace. While the Board continues promotional activities, these initiatives are in partnership with growers, dealers, and processors.

Don still oversees proactive marketing efforts; however, he spends a tremendous amount of time and energy on legislative and regulatory issues such as plant health, transportation, and taxation, particularly at the state level. He also handles fiduciary responsibilities for the Maine Potato Board and works closely with the organization’s board of directors to continually advance Maine’s vital agricultural industry.

Timothy P. Hobbs, Director of Development & Grower Relations, MPB

Tim joined the Maine Potato Board six years ago – officially that is. Having worked for the Soil and Conservation District just prior, Tim had already become intimately involved with the organization, collaborating on water and other environmental issues.

Today, Tim remains heavily focused on environment issues (his passion), representing the Maine Potato Board in Augusta on issues ranging from air quality to soil conservation to integrated pest management to water quantity and water quality – always on behalf of growers.

“One of the most effective ways I can help potato farmers is to act as their eyes and ears...to be on the lookout for potential obstacles and knock them down before they impede industry progress,” said Tim.

And, help potato farmers, he does. In addition to thrusting his time and energy into policy work, Tim is always available for growers – to answer questions, offer advice, and help promote an industry so important to them and to the entire state of Maine.

Furthermore, Tim works diligently to keep the potato farming community abreast of what’s going on nationally and to educate them on the latest and the greatest opportunities available to them. He is always looking for ways to position and advance Maine’s potato industry – to stay ahead of the competition and set the bar for excellence in agriculture.