



## THE STORY OF THE MAINE POTATO BOARD

Potatoes have always been big business in Maine; however, the industry has not always shared a unified voice. Up through the mid-eighties, growers, processors, and dealers worked to support and promote the industry, but their efforts were fragmented.

In an attempt to bring all of the players in the potato industry together, the legislature created the Maine Potato Board in 1986. Today, as a result, the three sectors (growers, processors, and dealers) reap the benefits of strength in numbers and enjoy greater representation.

The mission of the Maine Potato Board is to provide a competitive environment for its growers, processors, and dealers creating both stability and the infrastructure for future growth, while promoting the economic importance to the state and quality of the product.

The organization delivers on this promise by advocating on behalf of potato growers on legislative issues, collaborating with strategic partners such as the University of Maine, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Maine Department of Agriculture, and many others to advance agriculture, marketing this industry so vital to Maine, and looking for value-added opportunities for growers – such as the potatoes to plastics initiative.

The Maine Potato Board leadership also does its best to act as the eyes and ears of growers, keeping tabs on the latest technologies and innovation, monitoring the industry on a national scale, and exploring and seizing opportunities that will position Maine to compete and win in an ever-changing, competitive agricultural landscape.

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