

## GLOSSARY – for all underlined words in the book “Potatoes for ME”

**Aroostook County:** The largest and northernmost county in Maine.

**Barrels:** Round, wooden, storage units built to hold potatoes since colonial times.

**Colonial Times:** (1600’s-1800’s) Settlers of America started building permanent houses, cultivating fields, and growing crops and other products.

**Conveyer belt:** A moving belt on farm machinery that moves potatoes from one place to another.

**Crop:** Plants, cultivated by a farmer to be eaten by people or animals, or used for fuel.

**Crop Rotation:** Farmers alternate other crops with potatoes such as grains, canola or clover, to keep the soil rich and full of nutrients.

**Cultivate:** To loosen and move soil around growing plants.

**Culture:** The way of life for a group of people.

**Enrich the Soil:** To add nutrients and improve the quality of the soil.

**Factory:** A place where potatoes and other products are cooked packaged or processed into a variety of foods or products for consumers.

**Farmer:** The person who grows food and other products for other people.

**Farm Stand:** A small store where you can buy potatoes and other products grown on that farm.

**Fertile Soil:** Soil with the right nutrients to produce crops.

**Fertilizer:** A substance used to add nutrients to the soil.

**Fields:** Land where the crops are planted, grown, and harvested.

**Fresh:** Agricultural products recently grown and harvested, and not cooked or processed.

**Future Generations:** The sons and daughters of the people living now and into the future.

**Graded:** Sorted potatoes are given a grade depending on the size and quality.

**Growing Season:** The part of the year when the weather is not too cold to grow crops.

**Growth:** The seed potato growing into a plant with many potatoes on the roots.

**Harvest Break:** A break from school in September/October when students are given the time to help the farmers with the potato harvest.

**Harvester:** A machine usually pulled behind a tractor, which sifts the potatoes out of the soil to be transferred to where they will be bagged or processed.

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**Harvesting:** Removing the mature potatoes from the field and moving them to a storage facility or the factory for processing.

**Healthy:** When people are well and not sickly.

**Hilling:** Farmers must use equipment to move the soil over the roots of the potato plants, so that when the tubers grow they are not exposed to the sun.

**Humidity:** The levels of water in the air.

**Irrigation:** Supplying water to plants in the field when there are times with not enough rain.

**Maine Potato Blossom Queen:** An award given to the winner of a contest that spends the year as the ambassador, teaching people about Maine potatoes.

**Planting:** Potato seed is covered with soil and given water to grow new potatoes.

**Potato Baskets:** Woven by Native Americans to carry many potatoes by hand.

**Potato Festival:** A community celebration for the Maine potato held every summer to celebrate the crop and promote the potato industry.

**Potato House:** Large buildings with the right temperature, humidity, and storage conditions used to store potatoes for up to 1 year.

**Potato Inspector:** A specially trained person that inspects and grades the potatoes to certify their quality before going to market.

**Potato:** A tuber of the potato plant that we eat, and our state’s largest crop.

**Potato Seed:** A portion of a potato re-planted in the soil to grow a new potato plant.

**Processing:** Cooking potatoes and preparing them into chips, fries, and other products.

**Quality:** The quality of the potato is determined by shape, color, size, use and lack of defects.

**Soil:** The top layer of the earth’s surface where potatoes can grow made of rock and mineral particles mixed with decayed organic matter and having the ability to retain water.

**Sprayer:** A machine used to spray the plants with water and other liquids to control pests.

**Spuddy:** The official mascot of the Maine potato.

**Tractor:** A powerful farming machine used to pull other machinery, and heavy loads.

**Tubers:** An underground stem found on the roots of a potato plant that can be eaten or used to produce a new plant.