

## How To Apply

*Applicants are invited to download, complete and submit a No Small Potatoes loan application along with the following information*

- current business plan
- current and prior year profit and loss statements
- projected revenues and expenses for the coming year
- tax returns for the prior year
- current and past debt history
- credit and trade references

## Review Process

*No Small Potatoes* meets in May, September and January to review loan requests.

Applicants can expect to be contacted by a *No Small Potatoes* member to arrange a site visit within two to three weeks after the application deadline. Decisions are generally made within six weeks of the receipt of a loan request.

*To download an application form, learn about application deadlines and for further information, visit our website*

[www.nosmallpotatoesinvestmentclub.com](http://www.nosmallpotatoesinvestmentclub.com)



“Our *No Small Potatoes* loan was a great opportunity for us. Enlarging our barn allows us to store more hay. We have more flexible space for our ewes and lambs. All of this helps us to meet the expanding demand for our all natural, locally raised lamb.”

~ *Donna and Bruce Fournier, Meadowsweet Lamb and Herb Farm, Denmark*

“Beyond the impact of helping us become more productive and efficient with our recently purchased butcher shop, our loan from *No Small Potatoes* was a coming of age experience - our very first loan. This allowed us to feel a sense of legitimacy about our business model and to go on to secure a line of credit and a subsequent loan from other institutions.”

~ *Ben Slayton, Farmers' Gate Market, Wales*

# NO SMALL POTATOES



*GROWING MAINE'S LOCAL FOOD ECONOMY WITH MICRO-LOANS FOR FARMS, FISHERIES AND FOOD BUSINESSES*



# *No Small Potatoes Invests In Healthy Maine-Grown Food*

With roots in Slow Money Maine and the movement to strengthen Maine's local food economy, *No Small Potatoes* is the first private investment club in the nation to make small loans that help established farms, fisheries and food businesses thrive and become more profitable.

These loans support improvements in physical infrastructure and special projects that increase the processing, marketing and distribution capacities and efficiencies of food businesses statewide. In turn, these loans help expand access to healthy Maine-grown food.

Here's how some businesses are putting *No Small Potatoes* working capital to good use:

- *Jordan's Farm in Cape Elizabeth* purchased software to improve their on-line farm market
- *Yanga Family Farm in Lisbon* bought tractor attachments and built a cold storage facility
- *Meadowsweet Lamb and Herb Farm in Denmark* is enlarging their barn
- *The Farmers' Gate Market in Wales* bought butchering equipment
- *Nettie Fox Farm in Newburg* purchased a new van to take more produce to markets
- *Tibbets Family Farm in Lyman* is making an impermeable receiving pad for their Barnyard Blend Compost, a natural, food waste fertilizer product.



## **Small, low-interest loans that can make a difference**

Local food. It's vital to our state's economy, the health and well-being of Maine people and the world's environment.

Local food. It's becoming more and more available as the number of farmers grows, more farmland is preserved and the number of businesses that sell, process and distribute Maine-grown food increases.

*No Small Potatoes* supports the expansion of our state's agricultural community and a healthier and sustainable food system. We are a group of individuals from Caribou to Kennebunk who are pooling our own resources to invest in the profitability and success of Maine's local food economy. We make timely loans to farmers, fishermen, food producers and suppliers.

As an investment club, members meet on a regular basis to review loan applications, drawing on the advice and expertise of Coastal Enterprises, Crown O'Maine Organic Cooperative and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA).

## **What We Fund**

- loans of \$5,000 or less for low-interest terms of up to three years without collateral
- equipment or special projects that help a farm or food business operate more efficiently and/or expand
- working capital loans that lower costs
- businesses that advance sustainable practices and source their inputs primarily from Maine farms and fisheries
- entrepreneurs with sufficient cash flow to support repaying the loan
- local food businesses that can show they are growing or have the potential to grow and are on a path towards profitability