

**U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council  
Cultivated Blueberry Promotion, Research and Information Order  
Council Member Ballot Instructions**

*The nominees listed on the enclosed ballot are seeking council member positions with the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC). Cultivated (highbush) blueberry growers in Michigan, North Carolina and Georgia are asked to cast their vote for the one candidate they wish to represent their state. For your reference and assistance in selecting your representative, background statements from the candidates were requested and are included with this packet.*

*General information concerning this election and instructions for completing the ballot follow:*

**Voting Period**

The voting period for state producer member positions on the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC) will run from April 23, 2007 to May 29, 2007. In order to be counted, ballots must be received by the USHBC **no later than close of business on Tuesday, May 29, 2007.**

**Voter Eligibility**

Each person (as defined below) who produced 2,000 pounds or more of cultivated blueberries during the period of January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006 is eligible to vote in this USHBC Member election.

A. A person means any individual, group of individuals, partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or any other legal entity.

1. Partnership includes, but is not limited to: (a) a husband and wife who have title to, or leasehold interest in, a blueberry farm as tenants in common, joint tenants, tenants by the entirety, or, under community property laws, as community property, and (b) joint ventures wherein one or more parties to the agreement, informal or otherwise, contributed land and others contributed capital, labor, management, or other services, or any variation of such contributions by two or more parties.

B. Eligible producer means any person who produced 2,000 pounds or more of blueberries (cultivated) in the United States during the representative period who: (a) Owns, or shares the ownership and risk of loss of, the crop; (b) Rents blueberry production facilities and equipment resulting in the ownership of all or a portion of the blueberries produced; (c) Owns blueberry production facilities and equipment but does not manage them and, as compensation, obtains the ownership of a portion of the blueberries produced; or (d) Is a party in a landlord-tenant relationship or a divided ownership arrangement involving totally independent entities cooperating only to produce blueberries who share the risk of loss and receive a share of the blueberries produced. No other acquisition of legal title to blueberries shall be deemed to result in persons becoming eligible producers.

C. Blueberries means only cultivated blueberries grown in the United States of the genus Vaccinium Corymbosum and Ashei, including the northern highbush, southern highbush, and rabbit eye varieties and excluding the lowbush (native) blueberry Vaccinium Angustifolium.

**USHBC Member Term of Office**

USHBC members and alternates will serve for a term of three years starting in January 2008 and will be able to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms as a member or an alternate. A USHBC member may serve as an alternate during the years the member is ineligible for a member position.

**VOTING INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Voting for State USHBC Members**

Growers from the states of **Michigan, North Carolina** and **Georgia** are asked to cast a vote for **one** nominee as the state representative on the USHBC. Space is also made available on the ballot for write-in candidates for these three state seats as well. As provided for in the order, which has established the US Highbush Blueberry Council, voting for nominees for the remaining three state positions, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington, will be handled by the grower members of the New Jersey Blueberry Industry Advisory Council, the Washington Blueberry Commission and the Oregon Blueberry Commission. Those receiving the most votes for each state producer seat will be designated as the council member. Those receiving the second most votes for each state position will be designated as the alternate for that position. The third and fourth top vote getters will also be reported to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture as additional nominees for these positions.

**Completing and Submitting the USHBC Election Ballot**

Growers are asked to mark their selection of one state representative, or indicate their write-in candidate, on the official USHBC election ballot enclosed with this packet. Voter signature is also required. **Once complete, the ballot is to be sent on to the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC) office in the self-addressed envelope provided with this ballot. In order to be counted, your ballot must arrive at the USHBC office no later than the close of business on Tuesday, May 29, 2007. Faxed ballots will not be accepted.**

Incomplete ballots, ballots marked with more than one candidate for each position, ballots cast for candidates outside of your state, unsigned ballots, or any ballot received after 5 pm Pacific time on May 29, 2007 will not be accepted.

If you have any questions concerning the USHBC nomination procedure or balloting process, please contact the USHBC office at (916) 983-0111.

**USHBC DIVERSITY OUTREACH POLICY**

The USHBC has adopted a diversity outreach plan to attempt to achieve a diverse representation on the Council. USHBC programs are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, genetic information, parental status and marital or family status. The USHBC fully complies with any and all applicable federal, state, and local equal employment opportunity statutes, ordinances and regulations, including but not limited to, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1907; and The Equal Pay Act of 1963. It is USHBC policy that membership on the Council and its committees reflect the diversity of individuals served by its programs.

To accomplish this objective, the USHBC will strive to attain representation of growers and other industry participants from diverse backgrounds on the Council and USHBC committees. To this end, the USHBC strongly encourages women, minorities and persons with disabilities to seek nominations to the USHBC and to participate in Council and USHBC committee activities.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice and TDD).