

**U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council
Blueberry Promotion, Research and Information Order
Council Member Nominee Application Instructions**

The U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC) is seeking highbush (cultivated) blueberry producers to serve as Regional Members and Alternates. To be listed as a nominee on the final ballot, you must complete the enclosed application and return it to the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council office.

Nomination Period

Nominations for Regional Member positions on the USHBC will be accepted from January 13 to February 17, 2012. Completed applications must be received by the USHBC **no later than close of business on Friday, February 17, 2012.**

Nominee Eligibility

Each person (as defined below) who produced 2,000 pounds or more of cultivated blueberries during the period of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 is eligible to be nominated to the USHBC.

- 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.

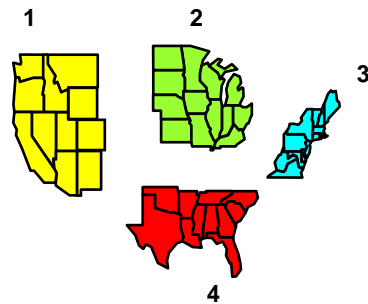
- C. Blueberries means only cultivated blueberries grown in the United State of genus Vaccinium Corymbosum and Ashei, including the northern highbush, southern highbush, and rabbit eye varieties and excluding the lowbush (native) blueberry Vaccinium Angustifolium.

Nominee Positions

Producer nominees are now requested for 4 USHBC Regional Member positions. Those receiving the most votes for each producer seat will be recommended as Council Members. Those receiving the second most votes for each position will be recommended as the Alternate for that position. The names of those who receive the third and fourth most votes will also be sent on to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for consideration. Nominees for the following Regional USHBC Member positions are requested:

Regional Representatives

<u>Region #1</u>	<u>Region #2</u>	<u>Region #3</u>	<u>Region #4</u>
<u>Western Region</u>	<u>Midwest Region</u>	<u>Northeast Region</u>	<u>Southern Region</u>
Alaska	Illinois	Connecticut	Alabama
Arizona	Indiana	Delaware	Arkansas
California	Iowa	New York	Florida
Colorado	Kansas	Maine	Georgia
Hawaii	Kentucky	Maryland	Louisiana
Idaho	Michigan	Massachusetts	Mississippi
Montana	Minnesota	New Hampshire	North Carolina
Nevada	Missouri	New Jersey	Oklahoma
New Mexico	Nebraska	Pennsylvania	Puerto Rico
Oregon	North Dakota	Rhode Island	South Carolina
Utah	Ohio	Virginia	Tennessee
Washington	South Dakota	Vermont	Texas
Wyoming	Wisconsin	Washington D.C.	
		West Virginia	



Terms of Office

USHBC Regional Members and Alternates will serve for a term of three years starting January 1, 2013 and will be able to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. A USHBC member may serve as an alternate during the years the member is ineligible for a member position.

How to be Placed on the Final Ballot as a USHBC Nominee

To be listed on the final USHBC ballot you must complete all information required in the Nominee Application Form included in this packet. (Note: Application Form is also available on USHBC website @ www.blueberry.org). **Once complete, the application is to be sent on to the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council office to arrive no later than the close of business on Friday, February 17, 2012.**

Incomplete applications, or any application received after 5 pm Pacific Time on February 17, 2012, will not be accepted. Applications can be faxed to the USHBC at (916) 983-9022 or sent via mail to:

USHBC Regional Member Nominees
C/o U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council
80 Iron Point Circle, Suite 114
Folsom, California 95630

Names of nominees will then be placed on the final regional ballots to be mailed to growers on April 20, 2012. Voting will take place over a five-week period from April 20 to May 25, 2012.

USHBC Diversity Outreach Policy

The USHBC has adopted a diversity outreach plan to attempt to achieve a diverse representation on the Council. USHBC programs and meetings are open to all individuals. The USHBC prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of 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 1967; 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 USHBC office at (916) 983-0111. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD).

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