

MEMO

To: All U.S. Blueberry Growers
From: Mark Villata
Date: January 13, 2012
Re: **Nomination of USHBC Regional Members**

The U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC) is now seeking nominees to fill Regional Council Member and Alternate positions on the USHBC. Terms for current USHBC regional members and alternates will expire December 31, 2012. The nomination period for the 2013 to 2015 term begins January 13, 2012 for a 5-week period. Potential nominees are required to complete a USHBC nomination application and forward their application on to the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council office by February 17, 2012. A nomination packet is enclosed with this mailing (Note: additional applications are available on the USHBC website at www.blueberry.org).

Nominees are being sought for four regional grower member positions. Eligible producer nominees are those who produced 2,000 pounds or more of cultivated blueberries in the United States during the period of January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. Once the nomination period is closed, a ballot will be prepared listing all regional nominees. Ballots will be mailed by the USHBC to blueberry growers on April 20, 2012. The voting period will be open for 35 days and close on May 25, 2012.

Those receiving the most votes for each regional representative seat will be recommended to the Secretary of Agriculture as Council Members. Those who earn the second most votes for each position will be recommended as the Alternate. The names of those who receive the third and fourth most votes will be sent on to the Secretary for consideration as well. Council Members and Alternates will serve for a term of three years starting January 1, 2013 and will be allowed to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. A member who completes two consecutive terms can serve as an alternate during the three-year period they are not eligible for a member position.

The current USHBC Regional Members concluding their first term of office are:

Midwest Region (Region 2)	Shelly Ann Hartmann (Michigan)
Southern Region (Region 4)	Keith Mixon (Florida)

The current USHBC Regional Members concluding their second term of office and therefore not eligible for election as a Member in 2013, but would be allowed to serve as an alternate are:

Western Region (Region 1)	Verne Gingerich (Oregon)
Northeast Region (Region 3)	Art Galletta (New Jersey)

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. 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.

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