



## U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council

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Date: November 1, 2006  
To: Blueberry Researchers  
From: USHBC Research Committee  
Re: **Request for Proposals**

You are invited to submit a proposal on highbush blueberry research for consideration by the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC). Enclosed are guidelines for you, or others at your facility, to submit proposals for our upcoming funding year. The goal of USHBC research funding is to provide initial funds, or additional funds, to explore blueberry research activities. Those proposals that leverage costs through cooperation with other funding sources are of prime interest.

The USHBC is a national promotion and research organization supported by production assessments from both domestic and imported highbush blueberries with oversight by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The scope of funded projects include highbush blueberry research on the following:

- Health Benefits
- Food Safety

Though health attributes of blueberries are of primary interest, proposals in the food safety area will be considered. Proposals must address pertinent issues relevant to all highbush blueberry growers in all regions of the United States. Projects that increase the marketability of blueberries or improve the competitive position of growers are encouraged. Proposals that leverage costs by cooperation with other funding sources are of interest.

Proposals for all health related research are encouraged. For this funding cycle, proposals related to diabetes and vision are of particular interest. Successful applicants may be requested to present their findings at the annual USHBC meeting held each year in late February or early March.

The timeline for the application process follows:

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|--|-----------------------|
| • Request for proposals:                                 | November 1            |
| • Proposal submission <b>deadline</b> :                  | January 10            |
| • Funding notification:                                  | April 2               |
| • Progress Report Due Date For Currently Funded Projects | Every 6 Months        |
| • Final Project Report and Invoice Due Date              | At Project Completion |

Proposals will be screened by a scientific peer review committee, and then reviewed by the USHBC Research Committee. The Committee meets during the last week of February for final review and recommendation to the Council. Successful applicants will then be required to submit the proposal in the USDA format and sign a USHBC Memorandum of Agreement prior to funding. For reference, a draft copy of the Memorandum of Agreement is included with the enclosed *Guide to Submission of Research Proposals* or can be downloaded from the USHBC website at [www.blueberry.org](http://www.blueberry.org).

The Council does not currently have minimum or maximum funding levels for proposals. To date most projects have been submitted in the funding range of from \$25,000 to \$45,000 per year. Typically, the Council funds several projects each year. For proposals that address urgent needs or exceptional opportunities, additional funding may be available. Proposals will be considered for a single year of funding; however in some cases, multiple-year projects will be funded. Please note that our preference is for projects utilizing whole blueberries and that freeze-dried whole blueberry powder or frozen whole blueberries will be made available to researchers free of charge in order to facilitate and/or standardize research efforts.

Technical questions concerning research and this request for proposals should be directed to USHBC Research Committee Member Leslie Wada at [lwada@pacbell.net](mailto:lwada@pacbell.net).

It is preferred that proposals be submitted electronically to:

[mnezbeth@ushbc.org](mailto:mnezbeth@ushbc.org)  
Subject: Research Proposals

CD's, disks or hard copies of the proposal may be mailed to:

USHBC Research Committee  
2390 East Bidwell Street, Suite #300  
Folsom, California 95630