



NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBERRY COUNCIL

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To: NABC Grower and Associate Members
From: Mark Villata
Date: December 16, 2008
Re: **Support for School Lunch Bid**

In response to the current frozen blueberry inventory situation, the NABC issued a proposal to the USDA AMS Fruit & Vegetable Programs Commodity Procurement Branch in October for the purchase of a total of 20 million pounds of frozen (process) U.S. highbush (cultivated) blueberries and a purchase of a total of 1 million pounds of dried U.S. highbush (cultivated) blueberries for shipment prior to June 2009.

On December 2, 2008 the USDA announced that it is inviting offers for the purchase of approximately 2 ½ million pounds of highbush (cultivated) blueberries. While we are encouraged by the news of this potential purchase, we can still offer substantially more blueberries to the USDA and hope that an additional purchase will be considered in the months to come.

In order to encourage the USDA to consider additional purchases we are asking NABC members to bring our request to the attention of their Senators and Congressmen. A draft letter is attached for your use in contacting your legislator and providing the background information pertaining to our purchase proposal, as well as a request that they assist in bringing the importance of this purchase proposal to the attention of the USDA.

We ask that at your earliest convenience you copy, sign and send (via regular mail) a copy of this letter to your legislator's Washington D.C. office, as well as to their local district office in your area. For assistance in obtaining the mailing addresses for your legislators, please log on to the following website:

<http://www.congressol.com/index.html>

Once on the site, click on your state on the map of the U.S. and the legislators for your area will be listed. Click on the names of your representatives and you will go to their page. Their mailing address is found by clicking on the "contact" icon on their page.

Please contact our office if you have any questions concerning this request and thank you for your assistance.