



NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBERRY COUNCIL

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NABC MEMO

To: NABC Members
cc: USHBC Members
From: Mark Villata
Date: July 23, 2009
Re: **Ag Secretary Announcement of \$14.7 Million Blueberry Purchase**

On July 16 the Secretary of Agriculture announced the USDA's intent to purchase up to \$14.7 million worth of cultivated blueberry products for federal nutrition assistance programs. I have been in contact with the USDA Commodity Procurement Branch and have been provided with additional details concerning this intended purchase.

At this point it looks like the bid announcement will ask for blueberry deliveries in the final quarter of this year, September to December 2009. Our original proposal, submitted last year, was for 2008 crop blueberries. Given the timing of this announcement, I have been told that we can ask that the USDA contracting officer consider both 2008 and 2009 crop blueberries for this upcoming purchase.

Though final amounts are yet to be determined, both frozen and dried cultivated blueberries may be included in the purchase offer. Frozen packs may be requested in 2 ½ pound and 30 pound pack sizes and dried could be requested in 2 pound and 10 pound packs.

We would expect to see the formal announcement with final details, delivery dates and requested amounts published shortly on the USDA AMS website at www.ams.usda.gov.