MICHIGAN BLUEBERRY COMMISSION CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

I. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – 2021 OR 20/21

II. INTRODUCTION

- The MBC’s main charge is funding critically needed, industry driven research, by utilizing grower dollars, and leveraged funding.
- The MBC will be funding research projects, or would entertain partnerships in projects, that help address the needs of Michigan blueberry growers.

III. INDUSTRY PRIORITIES

- Develop management programs for native and invasive pests
  - Blueberry stem gall wasp, spotted wing drosophila, nematodes
  - Fungal disease pathogens, especially anthracnose, including development and validation of disease prediction models
  - Weeds, especially milkweed, horse nettle, hemp dogbane, and perennial vines
  - Study effects of field-applied sanitizers and skin thickeners on fruit firmness, disease control, and insect control
- Enhance blueberry yields and quality
  - Best practices for removal of low yielding fields, site preparation strategies, and field establishment techniques
  - Better understanding of methods to increase fruit set, fruit size, and fruit quality including planting design, pollination, pruning, nutrition, and water management
  - Management systems that reduce labor inputs, especially harvest labor
  - Breeding program to enhance selection for both plant hardiness and fruit quality
  - Growth regulator uses to increase quality and yields, and de-fruited young plantings
- Effectiveness of Generic Sprays and lower cost fungicides
  - Anthracnose reduction, possible thru lower cost fungicides? (ie. Reliant, Aframe)
  - Lowering the financial impact of chemical inputs on the farm helps the bottom line
- Food Safety
  - Production and Harvest practices
  - FSMA and GAP education to growers
- For more information, visit www.michiganblueberrycommission.org
IV. TIMELINE

- Nov 15 – Call for Proposals
- Dec 31, 2020 – Proposals due
- Jan 20 – Notifications of Awards
- March 1 – Availability of Funds
- One year projects
- Dec 2021 – Project progress and or final reports due @ GLE meeting
V. PROPOSAL OUTLINE (THE COVER PAGE IS ONE PAGE AND ITEMS B THROUGH F ARE 3 PAGES).

a. Cover page
   i. Project Title
   ii. Principal Investigator
   iii. Collaborators
   iv. Principal Investigator mailing address
   v. Principal investigator email address
   vi. Project Summary (limit to 250 words)
b. Problem statement (relate to industry priorities)
c. Objectives
d. Methods and Procedures
e. Anticipated Results and Impact
f. Timeline
g. Budget
   i. Personnel wages, including associated Fringe
   ii. Non-expendable equipment, provide explanation
   iii. Materials, supplies and publications
   iv. Travel
   v. Other direct costs, provide explanation
h. Budget justification
i. Literature Cited

VI. EVALUATION CRITERIA

• Aligns with the MBC industry driven priorities (25 points)
• Extent and demonstration of partnering with and potential impact on Michigan’s Blueberry Industry (20 points)
• Mechanism to deliver information to Michigan blueberry industry (20 points)
• Scientific soundness, appropriateness of methodology, completion feasibility, project scope, previous research connection (25 points)
• Team composition and investigator qualifications are aligned with project (10 points)

TOTAL: 100 points

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Non-MSU proposals should be submitted electronically to Michigan Blueberry Commission at krobon@michfb.com by close of business December 14, 2020. MSU researchers should submit proposals electronically to Michigan State University AgBioResearch, by emailing to Jackie Lindsey at jlindsey@anr.msu.edu by close of business on December 14, 2020. MSU transmittals need to be submitted for this proposal.

Proposals for consideration are not to exceed $20,000.

VII. PROPOSAL REVIEW

• All proposals are subjected to review/scoring by the Michigan Blueberry Commission at their January/February regular scheduled Commission Meeting

VIII. FUNDS ALLOCATION

• Funds will be allocated in one lump sum
• Extensions of funding could be considered, at the discretion of the MBC

IX. PROJECT COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

• Projects are one year projects
• Reporting should happen ½ way through project (interim report due by September 1), as well as year-end (the MBC December meeting) for final report
  - Interim report- if applicable, in person, at the MBC meeting
  - Final report – 5 page maximum
  - Overall public/ grower message 1 page max, non-technical language with max of 1 figure.
  - Presentation at the MBC December Meeting
• Request: mention of the MBC as the funding source during presentations, publications etc.