



MICHIGAN BLUEBERRY COMMISSION CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

I. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – 2021 OR 20/21

II. INTRODUCTION

- Michigan Blueberry Commission (MBC) was formed on May 31, 2017, under P.A. 232 of 1965. The MBC functions like other commodity check-off programs in Michigan.
- 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-fruiting 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 krobson@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.