



MICHIGAN BLUEBERRY COMMISSION CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

I. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – 2022

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

1. Develop management programs for native and invasive pests.
 - a. Blueberry Stem Gall Wasp, Spotted Wing Drosophila, nematodes
 - b. Fungal disease pathogens, especially Anthracnose, including development and validation of disease prediction models.
 - c. Weeds, especially milkweed, horse nettle, hemp dogbane and perennial vines, timing of post emergence herbicides in fall for perennial weeds.
 - d. Study effects of field applied sanitizers, skin thickeners, and feeding stimulants on fruit firmness, disease control and insect control.
 - e. Surfactants/adjuvants, best application practices with herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and plant growth regulators.
2. Enhance blueberry yields and quality
 - a. Best practices for removal of low yielding fields, site preparation strategies and field establishment techniques.
 - b. Better understanding of methods to increase fruit set, fruit size, and fruit quality including planting design, pollination, pruning, nutrition and water management, soil and foliar applied bio-stimulants.
 - c. Management systems that reduce labor inputs, especially harvest labor.
 - d. Breeding program to enhance selection for both plant hardiness and fruit quality.
 - e. Growth regulator uses to increase quality and yields and de-fruiting young plantings.
3. Lowering the financial impact of chemical inputs on the farm while maintaining quality fruit.
4. Food Safety
 - a. Production and Harvest Practices
 - b. FSMA and GAP education to growers

• For more information, visit www.michiganblueberrycommission.org

IV. TIMELINE

- December 10, 2021 – Call for Proposals
- January 17, 2022 – Proposals due
- February 1, 2022 – Notifications of Awards
- March 1, 2022 – Availability of Funds
- One year projects
- Dec 2022 – Project progress and or final reports due @ Great Lakes Expo 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 nnyquis@michfb.com by close of business January 17, 2022. MSU researchers should submit proposals electronically to Michigan State University AgBioResearch, by emailing to Jackie Garcia at jdesande@msu.edu by close of business on **January 17, 2022**. 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
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- Request: mention of the MBC as the funding source during presentations, publications etc.