



WASHINGTON BLUEBERRY COMMISSION

Serving the Blueberry Industry of Washington

To: Members of the Washington Blueberries Industry
From: Alan Schreiber, Director, Washington Blueberry Commission
Date: 10/26/2012
Re: Quarterly Meeting of the Washington Blueberry Commission

Quarterly Meeting. The WBC will hold its quarterly meeting in Lynden. The meeting will be on October 25th at the Homestead Restaurant. The meeting will start at 11:00 am. Topics at the meeting include assessment collection efforts including a production estimate for 2012, 2012 promotional activities, food safety, adoption of a research request for proposals, update of the NABC/USHBC meeting in St Louis, MO, planning for 2013 budget and an in depth discussion of trade and labor/H2A issues. This will be a very important meeting and we encourage Washington blueberry growers and their allied industries to attend this meeting.

The WBC will consider joining with the Washington Farm Labor Association in creating an H2A program that is specifically tailored to create an adequate labor supply for blueberries. The WBC is also investigating whether to start to aggressively developing an Asian export strategy.

Paying Assessments. Growers are required to pay assessments. If growers sell to a handler, the handler is required to collect your assessments and report to the Commission office. If you sell your own fruit, then you pay your own assessments. If you sell some to a handler and you sell some yourself, pay on the amount you sell and let the handler pay the assessment on the fruit that he buys from you.

The assessment payment is due in our office by October 31 with a 10% penalty, if paid after November 30, 2012. If you need the forms or instructions on how to pay assessments, call or email us and we will kindly show you the ropes.

Production. The WBC is predicting that Washington will be producing up to 70 million pounds of blueberries in 2012. We are just beginning to receive assessments so at this time we did not have a final tally on the production for Washington. However, one thing is clear, production of Washington blueberries is going to increase a significant amount this year and next year and for several more years. With this increase in production will be an increase in assessments. The quarterly meetings of the Commission are the best times for growers to provide input into how these funds are spent. Please attend and participate in the October 25th meeting of the Washington Blueberry Commission.

2621 Ringold Road Eltopia, WA 99330 · (509)266-4300 · (509)266-4317 fax
Alan Schreiber • aschreib@centurytel.net · Amanda Bragg • abragg@centurytel.net