

# COVID-19 UPDATE



## **CORONAVIRUS FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING**

As you may recall, in early July, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued a modification to its original Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) ruling. Blueberries were initially left out of the program's component dealing with price declines, but have been reconsidered by USDA and growers will now be eligible for a payment rate of \$0.20/pound. However, it is important to note that growers applying for these funds must be able to demonstrate at least a 5% loss in sales during the eligibility time frame set by USDA from January 15-April 15, 2020.

Eligible growers who qualify based on the parameters mentioned above, can now apply for direct payments by visiting [www.farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov). The application deadline for this program is August 28, 2020. The CFAP program was included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and was passed by Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support and eventually signed into law by President Trump on March 27, 2020.

If you have any questions regarding this application or your potential eligibility for funding, please do not hesitate to contact the CBC office.

## **USDA-ERS RELEASES UPDATED COVID 19 ECONOMIC IMPLICATION STUDIES FOR AGRICULTURE**

The United States Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS) has compiled a list of the economic impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has had on agriculture. The ERS' research program considers links in the farm-to-consumer supply chain that may be affected by the pandemic, including farms, processors, handlers, retail outlets, and trade. ERS also examines the economic impacts of the pandemic on consumers, food assistance program participants, residents of rural America, and farmers. Topics of their research and links to relevant reports can be found at the following link: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/covid-19/>

# U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council to Hold Virtual Conference This Fall



The U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC)/North American Blueberry Council (NABC) will be holding their annual fall meetings in a virtual format this year due to travel restrictions resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual event will be held from September 28-October 1, 2020. Registration is now open and FREE for the NABC/USHBC Virtual Conference & Expo.

Four days of exclusive committee meetings will be accompanied by industry showcases, interactive education, and fun activities for anyone who wants to learn more about the most pressing and important blueberry topics. Please register online for the online virtual USHBC/NABC conference [HERE](#).