



Newsletter

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CBC SWITCHING TO VIRTUAL NEWSLETTERS

In an effort to save paper and resources, the CBC has decided to switch to an entirely virtual format for our bimonthly newsletters. To remain on the newsletter list, please enter your email in the newsletter subscription box on our website, calblueberry.org, email intern@calblueberry.org, or call 559-221-1800 requesting to be added to the CBC newsletter email list. Be sure to subscribe to receive the next newsletter in your email inbox!

2019-2020 CALIFORNIA BLUEBERRY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

The 2019-2020 California Blueberry Commission Annual Report was finalized at the end of February and is available at <http://www.calblueberry.org/annual-reports.html>. Within this report, you will find information on California blueberry research projects, California blueberry domestic and export statistics, export market summaries, the COVID-19 situation, and more. We hope you enjoy the Commission's newest annual report!

UPCOMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

The Commission is conducting its Board of Directors elections for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year. Nomination ballots will be mailed out the first week of June 2021. In order to nominate yourself or a qualified member, you will need to complete the nomination form and return it to CDFA. Following the nomination process, the names of all eligible producer and handlers will be placed on an election ballot and mailed to the industry. Those nominees receiving the highest number of votes will be elected as members to the board. All growers should be on the lookout for their Election Letter and Nomination Form.

CALIFORNIA BLUEBERRY PACKET

To all California Blueberry Handlers, this year's Blueberry Packets for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year will be mailed out May 6, 2021. Included in the Packet are the following:

Assessments & Destinations: Handlers who pack blueberries must submit their completed assessment report(s) along with the assessment payment and attached destinations by August 6, 2021. Failure to submit reports or pay assessments may result in penalties and legal action.

Grower Production: Please mail in complete grower production information. According to California state law, this information is needed to properly assist in the Commission duties. Penalties may be administered should this information not be provided. Should you have any questions please contact the Commission office.

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE

On April 21, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a drought emergency in two Northern California counties in response to arid conditions affecting much of the state and west coast. The declaration included Mendocino and Sonoma counties, where drought conditions are especially bad. It's likely that a broader drought declaration will come as conditions change. The Commission office will provide more information as the situation progresses.

HELPFUL SITE: USHBC DATA AND INSIGHT CENTER

The U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council's (USHBC) Data and Insights Center is a helpful tool for blueberry growers, marketers, and other industry members. Data on the site includes grocery retail sales reports, economic impact studies, consumer, shopper, and foodservice insights, research, pricing trends, and more. To access the site, please visit <https://ushbc.blueberry.org/all-resources/data-and-insights-center>. The site is also linked on calblueberry.org and can be accessed by clicking "Consumer," then "Helpful Links;" the link is displayed on the top right hand side of the page.

**CA LEGISLATURE PASSES TAX RELIEF
BILL FOR PAYCHECK PROTECTION
PROGRAM RECIPIENTS**

On April 26, 2021, the California Legislature sent the Governor AB 80, which seeks to "provide assistance to small businesses operating in the state that have been harmed economically by the COVID-19 pandemic." Specifically, the bill will:

- Allow eligible entities to deduct business expenses that were paid for using forgiven Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) or Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) funds.
- Allow loans forgiven as an "advance grant amount" under the EIDL program to be excluded from income for California taxpayers.
- Not require eligible entities to adjust their tax attributes as a result of forgiven PPP or EIDL funds. (*Continued to the right*)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **OFFICE CLOSED- Memorial Day**
 - May 31, 2021
- **CBC Board of Directors Elections**
 - First week of June, 2021
- **International Blueberry Organization (IBO) Summit 2021**
 - August 23-25, 2021

All events are being held virtually. Please contact the CBC office for more information.

AB 80 defines an "ineligible entity" as a taxpayer that either:

1. Is a publicly-traded company, as described in the Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260).
2. Does not meet the reduction in gross receipts of 25 percent or more in 2020 as compared to the same time period in 2019, as defined in the Federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law 116-260).

The 25 percent reduction in gross receipts was an eligibility requirement for the second round of PPP loans, Unfortunately, the Legislature and Governor extended this requirement to all businesses that received a PPP loan for purposes of business deduction which means many essential sectors will not be eligible because they have been operating throughout the pandemic.

The language of the bill can be found [here](#).

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