

U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council
Blueberry Promotion, Research, and Information Order (7 CFR 1218)
First Handler Report for 2026

PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING REPORT

ASSESSMENTS DUE NOVEMBER 30, 2026

Mail Report and Payment to:
 USHBC
 PO Box 511937
 Los Angeles, CA 90051-1906
 For questions and assistance
 Email: assessments@blueberry.org

PART A: REPORT FOR 2026 SUBMITTED BY:

Name of Individual Completing this Report

Telephone No., Include Area Code

Name of Business/Company

Firm Tax ID# or Employer ID#

Address

City

State

Zip

Email Address

PART B: HANDLER ASSESSMENT CALCULATION

(copy form or continue on another sheet if necessary)

List the NAME and ADDRESS of producers for whom you received/handled cultivated blueberries and the amount received/handled

NAME & ADDRESS OF PRODUCER	* IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	TOTAL POUNDS	TOTAL POUNDS/2000 = TOTAL TONS	TOTAL TONS X \$18.00 = ASSESSMENT DUE
NAME: ADDRESS:				
NAME: ADDRESS:				
NAME: ADDRESS:				
NAME: ADDRESS:				
NAME: ADDRESS:				
NAME: ADDRESS:				

*Grower or Farm ID/Corp/Partnership, Taxpayer ID no., or EIN.

Total Assessment Collected By Handler and Due USHBC \$ _____

Part C: HANDLER NON-ASSESSED, EXEMPT ORGANIC BLUEBERRIES RECEIVED

(copy form or continue on another sheet if necessary)

List the NAME and ADDRESS of producers for whom you handled organic cultivated blueberries and the amount handled. USHBC Organic Exemption Certification # **REQUIRED**

NAME & ADDRESS OF PRODUCER	* IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	TOTAL POUNDS	TOTAL POUNDS/2000 = TOTAL TONS	REQUIRED USHBC Organic Exemption Certification #
NAME: ADDRESS:				
NAME: ADDRESS:				
NAME: ADDRESS:				
NAME: ADDRESS:				
NAME: ADDRESS:				
NAME: ADDRESS:				
NAME: ADDRESS:				

*Grower or Farm ID/Corp/Partnership, Taxpayer ID no., or EIN.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and the attached remittance represents \$18.00 per ton for all blueberries handled during this reporting period on which I was required to pay the assessment. I also certify that I am authorized to sign this report.

 Name (print)

 Signature

 Title

 Date

Any false statement or misrepresentation on this form may result in a fine of not more than \$10,000, or imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both (18 U.S.C. § 1001).

INSTRUCTIONS

First handlers are required to file the **First Handler Report** annually. The U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC) must receive the original of the report, with signature, and full remittance **by November 30 of each calendar year**. A late payment charge will be imposed on any handler who fails to remit the total amount due by December 31. The individual completing this report will provide their name and contact information in Part A; note producer's name and address, amount received, and calculate assessment due in Part B; note organic producer's name and address, amount received, and USHBC's organic exemption certification number in Part C; and sign the certification statement at the bottom of this form. The staff of USHBC holds all reports in strict confidence.

Handler Definition: The definition of First Handler is stated in section 1218.7 of the Blueberry Promotion, Research, and Information Order (Part 1218) as follows:

"First Handler means any person, excluding a common or contract carrier, receiving blueberries from producers and who as owner, agent, or otherwise ships or causes blueberries to be shipped as specified in the Order. This definition includes those engaged in the business of buying, selling, and/or offering for sale; receiving; packing; grading; marketing; or distributing blueberries in commercial quantities. This definition includes a retailer, except a retailer who purchases or acquires from, or handles on behalf of any producer, blueberries. The term first handler includes a producer who handles or markets blueberries of the producer's own production."

Responsibility for Assessment Collection: As stated in section 1218.52 of the Blueberry Promotion, Research, and Information Order (Part 1218),

"The collection of assessments on domestic blueberries will be the responsibility of the first handler receiving the blueberries. In the case of the producer acting as its own first handler, the producer will be required to collect and remit its individual assessments."

Please note that the failure of a handler to collect an assessment from the producer does not release the handler from the responsibility of paying the assessment.

Assessment Exemption: Also note that any grower producing less than 2,000 pounds of blueberries annually can apply to USHBC for exemption from assessment.

Organic Assessment Exemption: Also note that any grower producing organic blueberries can apply annually to USHBC for exemption from assessment on their organic production.

Submission of Reports and Payments: Reports and payments are to be sent to USHBC at the following address:

US Highbush Blueberry Council, PO Box 511937, Los Angeles, CA 90051- 1906

Late Payment Fees: As noted in section 1218.52, Item E of the Order, *"All final payments for a crop year are to be received no later than November 30 of that year. A late payment charge shall be imposed on any handler who fails to remit to USHBC the total amount for which any such handler is liable on or before the due date established by USHBC. In addition to the late payment charge, an interest charge shall be imposed on the outstanding amount for which the handler is liable."*

USHBC will levy a one-time late payment charge of 5 percent on the outstanding amount due and an interest charge of 1 percent per month on the total outstanding balance plus the late payment charge.

Contact the USHBC office at (916) 983-0111 or email: assessments@blueberry.org with any questions concerning this report or USHBC assessment requirements.

NOTE: The following statements are made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (U.S.C. §522a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, as amended. The authority for requesting this information to be supplied on this form is the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-127, 110 Stat. 1032 (7 U.S.C. §7411-7425). Furnishing the requested information is necessary for the administration of this program. Submission of Tax Identification Number (TIN) or Employer Identification Number (EIN) is mandatory, and will be used to determine affiliation or entity identification.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0581-0093. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, completing and reviewing the collection of information.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; 2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or 3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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