



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NEW ENGLAND FIELD OFFICE
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USDA TO CONDUCT MAINE WILD BLUEBERRY SURVEY FOR 2010 CROP

Concord, New Hampshire – USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be contacting Maine wild blueberry growers in May to participate in the Wild Blueberry Survey. The results of this survey help promote the industry by supplying important data to all involved in production and marketing. Maine is the number one producer of wild blueberries nationally and is the only State which publishes wild blueberry statistics in the USDA's *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts Release*.

"I ask that all wild blueberry growers take the time to respond to this important survey as it provides an accurate unbiased account of the production and price, which we can use to evaluate trends in the wild blueberry industry over time," commented David Yarborough, University of Maine cooperative extension blueberry specialist. The survey will be mailed at the end of April with a phone follow-up mid-May.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and publishes only State- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Gary Keough, director of the NASS New England Field Office

NASS will contact Maine wild blueberry growers by mail or telephone and ask them to provide information on their production, disposition, and prices received for the 2010 crop. The information will be compiled and analyzed, then published in the *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts Report* from Washington, D.C. on July 7, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. All reports from Washington, D.C. are available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov.

Additional information about final production and value estimates for the Maine wild blueberry crop will be published from the NASS New England Field Office in July. This report will be available on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/me. Complimentary copies will be mailed to survey participants upon request.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, contact the NASS New England Field Office at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov.