

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **BLUEBERRY FARM PLAN**

Please use this form when applying for certification of low bush blueberries. You must submit farm maps and field history sheets with this form. If a question does not apply to your farming operation, please write N/A. If you are certifying crops other than blueberries please complete the organic farm plan. Next year's renewal forms will rely on the information you submit this year, making the process easier to complete.

### **SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION**

1.1 Have you managed all blueberry fields that you will be harvesting this year for 3 or more years?

Yes  No

If NO, you must submit a landowner affidavit from the previous owner/manager reporting land use and all inputs applied during the previous 3 years.

1.2. (a) How many pounds of organic blueberries did you harvest last year?

(b) How many pounds of organic blueberries do you estimate that you will harvest this year?

### **SECTION 2: SOIL and CROP FERTILITY MANAGEMENT**

**NOP 205.203 Soils and crops must be managed to build soil fertility, manage plant nutrients, protect natural resources, and prevent soil erosion. All fertility inputs used must be allowed. Plant and animal materials (manure, compost and crop residues) must be managed so that they do not contribute to contamination of crops, soil or water.**

2.1. How do you monitor soil fertility and quality?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil observation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Microbiological tests (please attach a copy of last results) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crop observation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant tissue tests (please attach a copy of last results)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weed observation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Crop quality tests   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crop yield comparison  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil organic matter content                                  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil (nutrient) tests (please attach a copy of last results) |   |

2.2. How do you manipulate the crop environment/landscape to favor blueberry production and discourage pests?

2.3. (a) Do you burn fields?  Yes  No If YES, please answer the following questions:

(b) Why do you burn your fields?

(c) Please explain method of burning (include inputs used (such as straw, propane etc.)):

(d) Do you conduct the burning?  Yes  No If NO, who does? Please provide name and address:

**SECTION 3: PEST & DISEASE MANAGEMENT**

**NOP 205.206 requires that the producer implement management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases. These practices may include crop rotation, sanitation, cultural practices, and physical methods.**

3.1. a) List 3 or more major crop diseases you might expect on your farm (fungal, bacterial, viral).

b) What disease prevention strategies will/do you use?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field sanitation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Early removal of diseased plant              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil balancing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Rotation of crop cycle "Cropping vs Pruning" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use of accepted products: Please add products used to the material list. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                 |

3.2. a) List 3 or more major weeds you might expect on your farm.

b) What weed control methods will/do you use?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical cultivation      | <input type="checkbox"/> Rotation of crop cycle "Cropping vs Pruning" |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock grazing           | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil sterilization                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand weeding                | <input type="checkbox"/> Burning fields                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prevention of weed seed set | <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mulch                       |   |

3.3. a) List 3 or more major insects or other invertebrate pests you might expect to be on your farm?

b) What strategies will/do you use to control pest damage to crops?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Companion planting            | <input type="checkbox"/> Traps  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Release of beneficial insects | <input type="checkbox"/> Rotation of crop cycle "Cropping vs Pruning"                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hand picking                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Use of accepted products: Please add products used to the material list. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beneficial habitat            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring                    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing                       |   |

3.4. a) List major wildlife or vertebrate pests (rodents, deer, birds etc) that may impact your farm?

b) What strategies will/do you use to control pest damage to crops?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fencing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide habitat corridor for beneficial predators to have access to prey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Netting   | <input type="checkbox"/> Scare tactics—Explain _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repellants  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traps   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construct predator habitat (owl nests, perches, bat houses) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve/plant trees on edges of fields                     |   |

3.5. a) Pollination- Do you take steps to ensure crop pollination?  Yes  No If YES, what do you use for pollination?

b) If you use honeybees, do you rent honeybee colonies? If YES, from who? Please provide name and address:

**SECTION 4. MAINTAINING ORGANIC INTERGRITY**

**NOP 205.272 Handling practices and procedures must maintain the organic integrity of ingredients or products. Packaging materials, bins and storage containers must not contain a synthetic fungicide, preservative, or fumigants.**

**4.1. Commingling**

(a) Do you manage/own conventional/transitional blueberry fields?  Yes  No  
If NO, continue to question 4.2.

(b) What prohibited materials or methods are being used on conventional crops?

(c) What procedures will/do you use to prevent the commingling of conventional, organic and transitional crops? Include how you identify and separate allowed and prohibited materials.

(d) If you sell both organic and conventional blueberries how do you let customers know the difference?

**4.2. Contamination**

a) Identify all potential point and non-point sources of chemical and biological contamination that **could** affect your organic blueberries.

Check all that apply:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural chemical drift & runoff | <input type="checkbox"/> Flooding                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Powerline management                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Treated lumber                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frontage on roads                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transgenic or GE crops              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial area                      | <input type="checkbox"/> No sources of contamination evident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waste storage                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation water                     |  |

b) If you identified any potential sources, please describe nature of contamination below. Identify source(s). If possible, provide the name and address of potential source.

c) Describe distances, buffer width, type of buffer, and efforts undertaken to reduce the risk of contamination (buffers must be identified on your field maps):

d) If keeping buffers, please describe how the boundaries of organic and buffer zones collection areas are marked or otherwise indicated (tree lines, streams, signs etc.)?

e) Do you harvest buffer zones?  Yes  No If YES, please explain what is done with the buffer berries and how you prevent commingling with organic products.

#### 4.3. Equipment

The organic standard requires that we consider potential commingling or contamination risks from farm equipment. Please check all equipment use scenarios that apply to your farm.

- Purchasing second hand equipment
- Sharing equipment with non-certified farmers
- Using your own equipment on non-certified fields/crops
- Hiring equipment used on non-certified fields/crops

***You are expected to clean or purge equipment that has been used on non-organic land or crops. You must have standard procedures for cleaning and purging and keep records of these events for your inspector to verify. If you have questions please contact MCS staff.***

***Please make sure to list all cleaning materials used on the material used form.***

#### 4.4. Blueberry harvest

a) Do you contract the harvesting and/or processing of your crops to others?  Yes  No  
If YES, please explain:

b) What type(s) of containers are organic crops harvested into? (Check all that apply)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulk trucks            | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic buckets   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cardboard boxes        | <input type="checkbox"/> Wooden containers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waxed boxes            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic bins or crates |  |

c) Check all that apply—my harvest containers are:

- New  Cleaned before use (include any materials on input list)
- Used for organic crops only  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4.5. Post harvest handling

(a) How do you prepare products for market? (winnowing, packaging etc)

(b) If you package blueberries, describe how and where these activities take place. If blueberries are taken off the farm for packaging, provide the name and location of the facility.

**Note: If you freeze blueberries, or otherwise process blueberries, please make sure to complete an on-farm processor supplement.**

c) What kind of packaging do you use? (Check all that apply).

- New
- Previously used for organic products
- Previously used for conventional products- Please describe how you prevent any residual materials in the used packaging from contaminating your organic product:

d) Do you need to control pests (rodents, insects) in your storage or handling areas?  Yes  No  
If YES, please describe how you manage them; check all that apply:

- Keep buildings and grounds clean, secure and unattractive to pests
- Mechanical traps, sounds, lights
- Lures and repellants. Please include on your material list
- Materials like bait stations. Please include on your material list
- Other. Please describe:

e) Do you or will you soon have a food safety plan (e.g. HACCP plan)?  Yes  No.

If YES, please enclose a copy.

Are you GAP certified?  Yes  No

#### 4.6 Labels

How are your blueberry products labeled for sale? **Enclose examples.** We must approve product labels.

### **SECTION 5: RECORDS**

**NOP 205.103 Records must disclose all activities and transactions of the operation, be kept for five years and demonstrate compliance with the NOP rule. All records must be available at the time of inspection.**

5.1. During your inspection, an inspector will examine all records related to your farm operation in order to verify compliance with organic standards. Which of the following records do you keep:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field activity records | <input type="checkbox"/> Lot numbers                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase receipts      | <input type="checkbox"/> Seed search records        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Input records          | <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment cleaning records |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harvest records        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sales records              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shipping records       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____               |

5.2. What monitoring practices do you use in your operation, and how frequently do you use them? (For example: soil tests, water tests, microbial tests, soil observations, etc.)

### **SECTION 6: NATURAL RESOURCES**

**NOP 205.200 Organic producers must implement practices that maintain or improve the natural resources of their operation including soil and water quality.**

6.1. What conservation practices are used on your farm?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minimize erosion                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pollinator or songbird habitat enhancement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preserve/restore wildlife corridor | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Riparian management                |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Windbreaks                         |   |

6.2. Are you part of any programs that assist you in managing on-farm natural resources?

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NRCS                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Land trust   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Services Agency        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil and water conservation |                                       |