



## NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBERRY COUNCIL

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### **NABC MEMO**

To: Blueberry Industry Members  
From: Mark Villata  
Date: February 4, 2019  
Re: **REMINDER ON BLUEBERRY SALES TO USDA**

As a reminder, and as noted in previous NABC memos, to take part in any potential sale to the USDA blueberry vendors must follow USDA requirements which include USDA plant inspections. **Vendors (handlers) must be pre-certified by the USDA prior to submitting a bid.** Certifications are conducted by the USDA on a yearly basis and are scheduled during processing and handling periods.

In the past there have been questions on what steps are necessary to sell blueberries to the USDA for the various domestic feeding programs such as the School Lunch Program. Any blueberry handler who wishes to be considered for a possible future blueberry purchase by the USDA is encouraged to visit the USDA AMS Commodity Procurement website at [www.ams.usda.gov/commoditypurchasing](http://www.ams.usda.gov/commoditypurchasing) for specific details and procedures to be followed in order to be approved to sell blueberries to these programs, as well as for details on how to follow the on-line process now being used by the USDA to collect bids.

The USDA uses a Web-Based Supply Chain Management (WBSCM) system which is a fully integrated, web-based ordering and procurement system. All federal food and commodity orders, solicitations, offers, awards, deliveries, invoices, and payments occur in WBSCM, and all business partners in the commodity program are required to use this system. Details on this system and online training offered to you by the USDA on how to use the system can be found on the USDA AMS Commodity Procurement website at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/selling-food/wbscm> .