



FROM: Mary McDonnell

DATE: June 8, 2026

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH

In an effort to ensure that industry resources are being utilized in an efficient and effective manner, the California Blueberry Commission (CBC) has established a policy to seek proposals from outside organizations and/or individuals that are interested in conducting research on behalf of the CBC. Specifically, the CBC requests proposals from qualified companies and/or individuals to demonstrate their capabilities in conducting research that will ultimately benefit California blueberry growers and processors by increasing the efficiency of blueberry production and processing practices in California.

California Blueberry Commission Research Priorities for 2026-2027

- Mechanical Harvesting for fresh blueberries
- Packing house automation techniques
- Mechanical pruning
- Management of Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD)
- GPS Blueberry Acreage Mapping
- Irradiation of Blueberries
- Low-cost UAV Based System for Bird Control
- Frost detection/prevention technology
- Postharvest treatments/alternatives to methyl bromide fumigation
- Increase shelf life/quality preservation
- Alternate packaging options instead of single use plastic in response to CA state laws
- Any other topic related to cost reduction/increasing the effectiveness of California blueberry production.

Researchers interested in submitting proposals must be aware of the following:

1. Project proposals are due August 21st, 2026
2. Proposal format can be seen on the following page
3. Researchers are expected to provide a recorded video presentation no longer than 10 minutes discussing proposals in preparation for the CBC Board Meeting in September.
4. Projects selected for funding begin October 1, 2026 and conclude September 30, 2027.

Please email proposals and video presentations to mmcdonnell@calblueberry.org no later than **August 21st, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. PST**. Please feel free to contact our office with any questions. We look forward to reviewing the proposals.

Respectfully,

Mary McDonnell, Program Supervisor
California Blueberry Commission



California Blueberry Commission Research Proposal Format

Proposal text should not exceed 8 pages. However, this limit does not include budget support summary, budget page, and literature cited. Please use Times New Roman, 12 point. Create the proposal with 1 inch margins left, right, and top and 1.5-inch margin at the bottom with pages numbered at the bottom. Include the requested details:

Project Title:

Principal Investigator(s) (PI):

Indicate the contact PI for correspondence and questions. Include institutional affiliation, address, phone number, and email address.

Cooperator(s):

Indicate the roles of each cooperator, and ensure they are aware of their proposed participation.

Objective(s) of Proposed Research:

Point by point, logically arrange and prioritize the objectives.

Justification and Importance of Proposed Research:

Describe the previous work that has been done to date and the importance of the proposed research to the blueberry industry.

Procedures to Accomplish Objective(s):

For each objective, discuss the experimental procedures you proposed to employ. Be specific enough to discuss plot design, anticipated statistical analysis, methods used in the experiment and parameters of data collection.

Timetable for Project:

Develop a timetable showing when the research to accomplish objectives will be initiated and completed.

Present Outlook and Estimated Success in Accomplishing Objective(s):

Budget Support Summary by Objective(s):

It is important to prepare a sufficiently detailed budget. Also, list other agencies, along with the amount requested for each objective, to which this proposal, or one or more of the objectives, have been submitted for funding.



Total Budget Request:

Please prepare a budget which reflects your needs each year for the length of the proposed project - up to three years. Although funding is granted on a year-to-year basis, continuation of projects must be justified annually.

Prepare a budget page using the following format:

	<u>% of Time On Project</u>	<u>Request Year One</u>	<u>Request Year Two</u>	<u>Projected Year 3</u>
Personnel				
SRA/Tech				
Lab Assistant				
Other				
Employee Benefits				
Supplies and Expenses				
Items and Cost				
Equipment (itemize when cost >\$1,000)				
Items/Cost/Justification*				
Travel				
Trips/Purpose/Costs				
Computer Time				
Overhead (where appropriate)				
Indirect Costs**				

(*Be specific in terms of actual hours per day or week of estimated use.)

****The CBC allows up to 11% of indirect costs.**

Literature Cited:

Include pertinent reference.

Approval by:

Signature of the department chair or other person who review your research funding.