



# Research and extension initiative for blueberry and cranberry: Current and future needs

Vaccinium Planning meeting,  
NCRC, Kannapolis NC

# WELCOME



# Research and extension initiative for blueberry and cranberry: Current and future needs



## North Carolina Research Campus



### Nutrition Research Institute



### David H. Murdock Research Institute

### Plants for Human Health Institute



Sequencing  
Metabolomics  
Proteomics

# Research and extension initiative for blueberry and cranberry: Current and future needs



Project funded by USDA-NIFA SCRI program

Team: 25 scientists, 11 institutions (US and Canada)

## Objectives:

- Establish the first multi-state, multi-disciplinary coordinated Vaccinium research team;
- Identify and rank breeding traits for new blueberry and cranberry cultivars;
- Outline objectives of a full USDA-SCRI grant proposal that will support research activities to improve tools and strategy to select for important traits;

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## Survey questions:

13 grower assoc. meetings

Cranberry: 3 states

Blueberry: 10 states

### 1-7. Traits - Fruit quality (10):

Disease resistance (18);

Pest resistance (16);

Stress tolerance (5):

Other traits (4):

Plant architecture for machine harvestability (8):

Most important traits (6):

### 8-13. Demographic – Profession

Farm size

Years of experience

Cultivars in production

Cultivar re-planted

Farm-business location

### **Target stakeholders:**

- Growers
- Nurseries
- Processors/packing houses
- Breeders
- Scientists

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## Vaccinium team opportunity

- US top producer;
- Cranberry-Blueberry community interaction; (XI international conferences)
- Extensive genetic-genomic work need to be done;
- New energy/skills + traditional experience;
- Coordinate efforts and avoid duplications;

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## Planning meeting objectives:

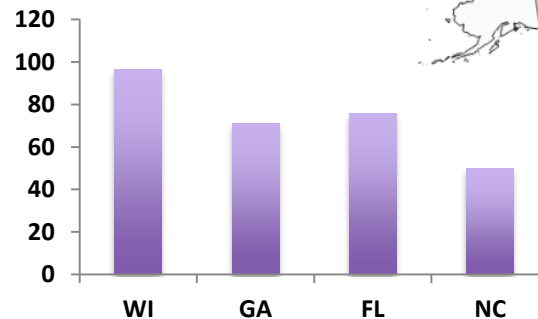
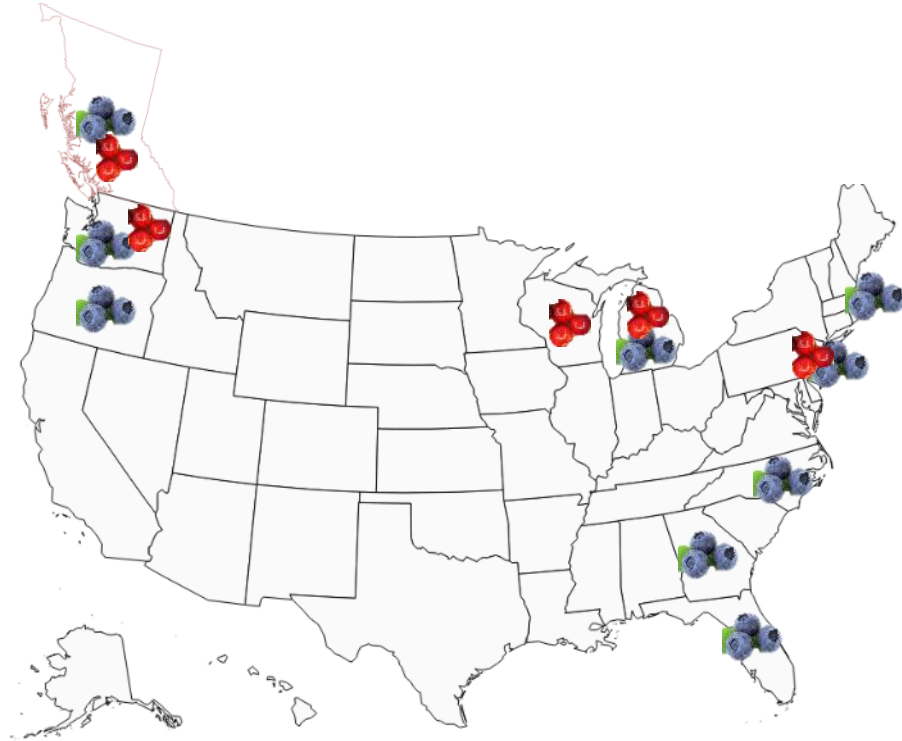
- Discuss and identify possible projects;
- Outline objectives of a full USDA-SCRI grant proposal;

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## Survey distribution volunteers:

Nicholi Vorsa  
Cesar Rodrigues-Saona  
James Polashock  
Amaya Atucha  
Juan Zalapa  
Patrick Edger  
Harald Scherm  
Michael Dossett  
Chad Finn  
William Cline  
Hamid Ashrafi  
Ebrahiem Babiker



# Thank you



WASHINGTON BLUEBERRY COMMISSION  
*Serving the Blueberry Industry of Washington*

