

## WILD BLUEBERRIES

Maine's 2006 wild blueberry crop weighed 74.6 million pounds, an increase of 24 percent from 2005 production, and 62 percent above 2004 total. Although snow cover was below normal across much of Maine during the winter months, mild temperatures prevented significant winter injury to wild blueberry fields. Heavy rains in May and June impeded pollination and hindered crop potential. In July, timely rains improved berry size. Some growers reported finding

mummyberry disease in fields, and there were a few reports of hail damage during July. Based on December 2006 assessments, the price received for processed berries in 2006 is expected to average 80 cents per pound, an increase of 15 cents from a year earlier. If realized, this would place the 2006 processing value at \$59.4 million, compared with \$38.9 million the previous year.



## MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 1997 – 2006

| Year               | Total Production | All Price per Pound <sup>1/</sup> | Total Value of Production <sup>1/</sup> | Fresh Blueberries <sup>1/</sup> |                 |                     | Blueberries for Processing |                 |                     |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
|                    |                  |                                   |   | Production                      | Price per Pound | Value of Production | Production                 | Price per Pound | Value of Production |
|                    | 1,000 Lbs        | Dollars                           | 1,000 Dollars                           | 1,000 Lbs                       | Dollars         | 1,000 Dollars       | 1,000 Lbs                  | Dollars         | 1,000 Dollars       |
| 1997               | 73,816           | 0.43                              | —                                       | —                               | —               | —                   | 73,540                     | 0.43            | 31,622              |
| 1998               | 62,981           | 0.46                              | 29,166                                  | 360                             | 1.00            | 360                 | 62,621                     | 0.46            | 28,806              |
| 1999               | 66,102           | 0.51                              | 33,889                                  | 300                             | 1.10            | 330                 | 65,802                     | 0.51            | 33,559              |
| 2000               | 110,990          | 0.40                              | 44,732                                  | 420                             | 1.20            | 504                 | 110,570                    | 0.40            | 44,228              |
| 2001               | 75,200           | 0.31                              | 22,945                                  | 350                             | 1.40            | 490                 | 74,850                     | 0.30            | 22,455              |
| 2002               | 62,400           | 0.29                              | 17,860                                  | 400                             | 1.25            | 500                 | 62,000                     | 0.28            | 17,360              |
| 2003               | 80,400           | 0.33                              | 26,880                                  | 400                             | 1.20            | 480                 | 80,000                     | 0.33            | 26,400              |
| 2004               | 46,000           | 0.46                              | 20,970                                  | 300                             | 1.35            | 405                 | 45,700                     | 0.45            | 20,565              |
| 2005               | 60,150           | 0.66                              | 39,430                                  | 350                             | 1.60            | 560                 | 59,800                     | 0.65            | 38,870              |
| 2006 <sup>2/</sup> | 74,600           | 0.81                              | 60,020                                  | 400                             | 1.65            | 660                 | 74,200                     | 0.80            | 59,360              |

<sup>1/</sup> Fresh Blueberry Price per Pound and Value of Production are not available before 1998.

<sup>2/</sup> Preliminary Price per Pound and Value of Production, Final Price Statistics to be published in July 2007.

