

TAMING THE WILD BLUEBERRY

A panel discussion hosted by the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



When: Wednesday, November 13, 2013, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Where: Riverside Room, Ellsworth Public Library, 20 State Street

Blueberry growing, harvesting, and processing are a vital part of the local economy in Hancock County, where jobs, agriculture, and commerce converge. With growing demand in the marketplace for the Maine Wild Blueberry, the industry is adopting new strategies at all stages from farming through processing. A moderated panel discussion will introduce the attendees to the history of commercial blueberries in Hancock County and the various challenges of today's blueberry industry.

The invited panelists include David Bell, Executive Director of the Maine Wild Blueberry Association; Todd Merrill, President of Merrill Farms; and Tom Taylor Lash, an organic blueberry grower from Orland, who is also on the board of the Maine Farm Bureau. Ann Luther of the League of Women Voters will moderate. There will be an open forum for questions from the public.

The League of Women Voters nationally has embarked on a study of agriculture policy and practice to educate its members and the public about current issues and challenges. The November 13th public event in Ellsworth is part of a continuing series of local programs to inform League members and the community about those agriculture issues that affect us here in Maine. Light refreshments will be served.

Civic-minded organizations are welcome to join the League of Women Voters Downeast as co-sponsors. For more info, contact Martha Dickinson, 667-5863 or marthad@gwi.net. For information about LWV in Maine see www.lwvme.org.