



# 2019 Wild Blueberry Update for NSBA



# Delayed Spring

- Cold open winter (2019)
  - Lots of icing in the fields
  - Caused wide spread winter injury
  - Also allowed for deep frost
  - The deep frost combined with the cold May delayed development



# Monilinia

- Delayed and extended period of susceptibility
- Multiple infection periods
- Some fields required two application to have adequate control
- Severe infections in many places











# Warmer June

- Bloom was delayed
  - Warmer temperatures did not result in plant development catching up
  - One of the best pollination seasons in recent memory
- Leaf feeding insects hit post bloom in many areas
- First blue wasn't noted until mid July
- Hot and dry July
  - Sporadic and isolated rains



# Blueberry Maggot

- Very late captures
  - Middle to end of July
  - Still getting first captures the first of August
- Delayed emergence may have resulted in some growers missing the application timing

# Harvest

- The bulk of harvest started around the 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Much later than normal
  - From a crop development standpoint
    - Earlier than should have
- Still noting green and under ripe fruit in harvested crop well into the first week of September.
- The crop never “caught up”

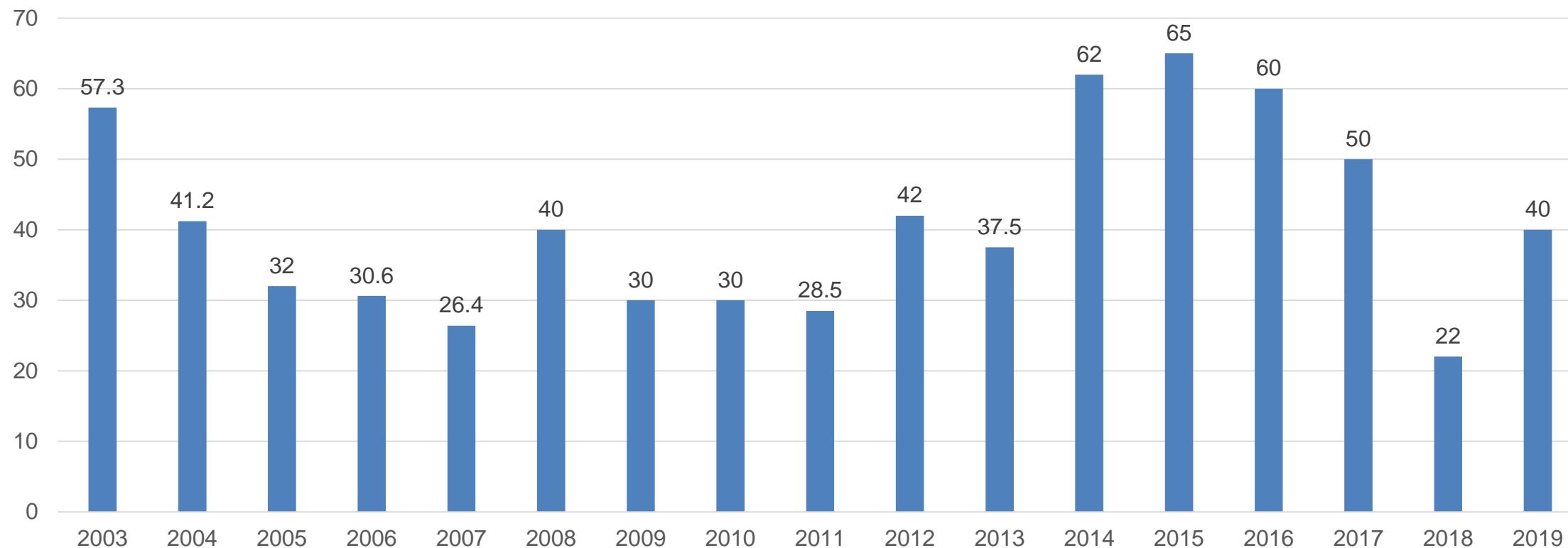


# Yields

- Very sporadic yields
- Many areas were below average to poor.
  - Some fields came off better than anticipated
- Some areas that had snow cover and/or didn't have a lot of frost injury last year faired well.
  - There were some good yields around the province. (5000-6000 lbs/acre)

# NS Yields – last 17 years

Millions of pounds





# Price and Cashflow

- Field Price \$0.45/lb in 2019
  - 10 year average \$0.537/lb
  - 5 year average \$0.39/lb
- Farms are still struggling after years of low cashflow

# 2020??

- Plants went into winter well.
- Generally speaking the winter has been easy on the crop
- Crop potential looks decent
- The general trend looks positive
- Weed control is still going to be an issue
  - Lots of fescue impact yields and harvest ability







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