Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

A cooperative program between Cornell and Penn State Universities, Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie and Niagara Counties, Penn State Extension – Erie County, NYS IPM Program, National Grape Cooperative, Constellation Brands, Walker's Fruit Basket and growers of the Lake Erie Grape Industry

LERGP Home Page: http:\\lergp.cce.cornell.edu Phone: 716.792.2800

April - June 2017

Coffee Pot Meetings a Hit With Lake Erie Grape Growers

For the 24th consectutive year, Coffee Pot meetings were held across the Lake Erie grape belt. These meetings have no agenda, as it is set by growers' questions as each meeting progresses. Thirteen meetings were held in the 5 counties involved in the LERGP, and were attended by a total of 204 growers and members of the Lake Erie grape industry. Coffee Pot meetings started the first Wednesday in May with AM meetings only. Both a morning and afternoon meeting were held each week in June to ensure the entire Lake Erie grape region was covered during the critical immediate prebloom and post bloom time period. Coffee Pot meetings will continue through the third week in July.

Efficient Vineyard SCRI Project

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program extension team members are providing leadership in the extension portion of this $6 million USDA/NIFA Specialty Crop Reserach Intiative (SCRI) project being lead by Dr. Terry Bates, CLEREL Director and LERGP Research Viticulturalist. This project is a cooperative effort between Cornell, Penn State, Carnegie Mellon, Univerity of California Davis and Newcastle University. The Effective Vineyard website https://www.efficientvineyard.com is on-line and provides updates in the areas of Current Research, Outreach, Project Participants and News (contains a blog, publications and photo gallery). We continue to develop the project web site and are developing a schedule for the main project participants to contribute information to the website via blog and short informational videos.

Developing Management Tools for Grape Rootworm - A Reemerging Pest

In conjunction with Greg Loeb, Department of Entomology, NYSAES, Geneva, the third year of a field scale project looking at developing scouting protocols and spray timings for grape rootworm, once considered to be the primary pest of grapes east of the Mississippi River, was conducted in 8 vineyard blocks with 3 participating growers. For the third year in a row, weekly scouting has shown first emergence of this pest occurring two to three weeks prior to the Fourth of July weekend, which is the traditional timing for scouting to determine the need to manage this pest. Growing degree day information from NEWA stations in the Lake Erie region is being collected for use in determining the first and peak emergence of this pest to allow for better timing of scouting.

Crop Insurance Education for 2018

Crop insurance education continues as growers learn about whole farm revenue, supplemental coverage options and yield exclusion. Three new programs that were introduced in the last farm bill have helped to improve subsidy levels to growers. As subsidy levels improved, premiums were adjusted for increased volatility in grape production and historically high average Concord prices. These factors had initially led to cost increases in crop insurance premiums. We hope with education to make sure growers do not reduce or eliminate crop insurance unless they are withdrawing from the industry all together. Cornell continues to improve ag-analyitics.org and we've been showing growers how to use the website to get individualized crop insurance information for their farm. This program continues to improve net profitability for growers (20%) that update their policies. The grant funded program also offsets meeting and printing costs for the LERGP team.

Cover Crop Work Continues

Recent work from Dr. Terry Bates identified vine water status as critical to berry size and relative grape quality. NDVI sensor technology revealed undersized vines on the large majority of commercial vineyards. We continue to work with cover crops in an attempt to improve soil health and vine water status to mitigate these challenges for growers. The interaction between cover crops and perennial commodity crops is one that has not been researched. We update growers with newsletters, crop updates and meetings to ensure their cover crop plantings mitigate production risks and realize economic benefits. Net profit potential for cover crop plantings has been demonstrated to exceed $200 per acre.

Invasive Species Monitoring

Monitoring for invasive species harmful to the NY grape industry began through a statewide project involving the grape programs, NYS IPM Program and NYS Ag & Markets. In 2017 the Cooperative Ag Pest Survey/Farm Bill project involves the placment of pheromone traps to monitor for four invasive species; European Grapevine Moth (*Lobesia botrana*), European Grape Berry Moth (*Eupoecilia ambiguella*), and Light Brown Apple Moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*), and Vine Mealybug (*Planococcus*). The project is taking place in vineyards on Long Island, in the Hudson Valley, Finger Lakes and the Lake Erie region. Nurseries blocks are also involved in the Finger Lakes and Lake Erie regions.

Grant Projects in Which LERGP Extension Staff are Principle Investigators or Signficant Cooperators
5 projects funded at $6,252,355. LERGP Extension team share equal to $632,052

Meetings - 19 meetings providing 268 growers with current research-based information.
Applied Research Projects - 13 growers participating in three applied research projects this quarter
Individual Consultations in quarter- LERGP Team; 161 (Viticulture: 0, Business: 78, IPM: 83)
Publications - Lake Erie Vineyard Notes Newsletter (3) and LERGP Crop Update (10)
Podcasts - 14 podcasts this quarter with a total reach of 420. http://lergp.com/podcasts/
Web resources - http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu http://lergp.com https://www.efficientvineyard.com
Like us on Facebook - Cornell-Lake-Erie-Research-and-Extension-Laboratory and EfficientVineyard