

Annual Report: 2017

**Lake Erie Regional Grape Program**

Tim Weigle  
Team Leader, LERGP  
Grape and Hop IPM  
NYS IPM Program, Cornell

Andy Muza  
Viticulture and Pest Management  
Erie County Extension, Penn State

Kevin Martin  
Business Management  
Extension Educator, Penn State

Viticulture Extension Support Specialist  
Cornell CCE  
Position is currently vacant

**Program Statement:**

Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017, this collaborative effort involving Cornell and Penn State Universities, County Extension Associations (Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Niagara Counties in New York and Erie County in Pennsylvania) and Grape Processors; National Grape Cooperative, Constellation Wine and Walkers Fruit Basket, conducts extension education programming as well as applied research and demonstration projects throughout the 30,000 acres of grapes located in the Lake Erie Region of New York and Pennsylvania.

**Major Activities:**

Meetings

A total of 744 grape growers and members of the Lake Erie grape industry participated in 22 LERGP educational events during the 2017 growing season. These events included weekly Coffee Pot meetings (16), CORE Pesticide Training, Summer and Winter Grape Grower Conferences, LERGP Open House and a Twilight meeting.

Implementing research-based practices

Members of the LERGP Extension Team conducted implementation and applied research projects in the commercial vineyards of 28 cooperating growers.

**Highlights:**

LERGP Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Approximately 85 members of the local community took the opportunity to meet extension and research staff from the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program, NYS IPM Program, Cornell Vegetable Program and Cornell Willow Breeding Program. Senator Cathy Young started the Open House with a presentation of a proclamation for the 25th anniversary of the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program. Jacqueline Chariot of Congressman Tom Reed's staff was also on hand to present a commendation congratulating LERGP on their 25th anniversary. Open House participants were then off to explore the CLEREL facility and learn about the various research and extension projects through displays in and around the main building. A hay wagon ride amongst the vineyards, vegetable plots, willow plantings and hop yards found at CLEREL was available and participants heard directly from a project team member at five stops along the

route. After filling up with knowledge, open house participants enjoyed a hotdog and hamburger BBQ courtesy of the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program.

### Efficient Vineyard Project

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Extension teams continues to provide leadership for the Technology and Adoption team for the \$6million dollar SCRI project Efficient Vineyard. As the second full year of the project comes to completion, it is interesting to examine the tools developed, and their use, to move project information into grower vineyards. The most obvious tool is the project website found at <https://efficientvineyard.com> that provides access to current research articles, bios, interviews and contact information for project participants (broken down by team), general outreach information on the project, as well as blog posts, project publications, photos, and general resources found in the dropdown menu under News. Posts are pushed out on social media (Facebook) to increase the audience for the project <https://www.facebook.com/EfficientVineyard-1105411842849154>

### Grape Rootworm

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 determining the need to manage this pest. For the first time in the history of the project, weekly scouting continued into the first week of September for two of the control blocks as we continued to find grape rootworm adults in the canopy. 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.

### **Grants:**

Members of the LERGP extension team are principle investigators (PI's), co-PI's, and/or cooperators on 7 grants representing a total of \$6,159,162 for extension, research, implementation and demonstration of the latest research-based information for grape and hops producers in the Lake Erie region. Of this funding \$411359 came to the LERGP and allowed the creation of 1 full time position, 2 three-quarter time positions as well as provides support for 5 full time positions on the research side.

### **Publications:**

- 2017 New York and Pennsylvania Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes. Weigle and Muza co-editors
- 2017 Cornell Integrated Hops Production Guide. Weigle editor
- Efficient Vineyard Website <https://www.efficientvineyard.com/>
- Lake Erie Regional Grape Program website <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/> and <http://lergp.com>
- Podcasts - <http://lergp.com/podcasts/> 46 podcasts published on a variety of grape and hop production practices.
- The Crop Update – Weekly e-newsletter published by the LERGP extension team
- Lake Erie Vineyard Notes – newsletter published by LERGP extension team
- Press Releases – semimonthly articles sent to area newspapers.