ENROLL IN THE FLGP

Enrolling in the FLGP gives growers access to research-based information that enhances productivity, profitability, and sustainability of the grape industry in the Finger Lakes region.

Benefits of enrollment in the FLGP include:

- *Finger Lakes Vineyard Update* – our weekly electronic newsletter sent every week during the growing season.
- *Veraison to Harvest* - weekly updates on fruit maturity and other harvest-related information leading up to and during harvest season.
- Important announcements about upcoming events, meetings and workshops.

For more information or to enroll online, visit http://flgp.cce.cornell.edu/enrollment.

FLGP Industry Advisory Committee Members

Ontario County
Eric Amberg, Grafted Grapevine Nursery
Rich Jerome, Jerome's U-Pick Fruit Farm

Schuyler County
John Santos, Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards
Tina Hazlitt, Sawmill Creek Vineyards

Seneca County
Cameron Hosmer, Hosmer Winery
Bill Dalrymple, Dalrymple Farm

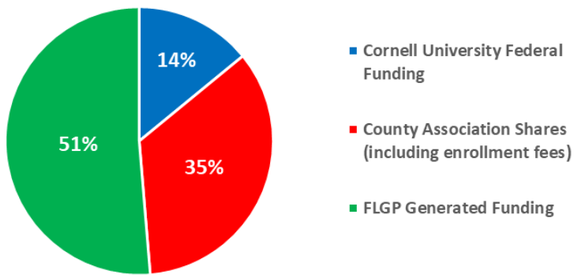
Steuben County
Matt Doyle, Doyle Vineyard Management
Mel Goldman, Keuka Lake Vineyards

Wayne County
David Smith, Smith Brothers Farm
Herm Young, Young Sommer Winery

Yates County
Harry Humphreys, Humphreys Vineyard
Eileen Farnan, Barrington Cellars

Other Members
Luke Haggerty, Constellation Brands (processor representative)
Gregg McConnell, Farm Credit East (financial representative)
Derek Wilber, Swedish Hill Winery (winemaker representative)
Justine Vanden Heuvel, Cornell University (faculty representative)
Chris Gerling, Cornell University (Enology Extension)

2018 Sources of FLGP Funding



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2018 Year In Review

The Finger Lakes Grape Program (FLGP) is a regional extension program of Cornell Cooperative Extension, serving the grape and wine industry of the Finger Lakes where more than 300 farms produce over 125 varieties of grapes from approximately 10,000 acres of vineyards. The FLGP provides unbiased, research-based information to the industry in all areas of grape production including vineyard and pest management practices, vineyard nutrition and soils, new vineyard establishment, and farm business management as a means of supporting the industry's growth and long-term sustainability.

finger lakes grape program

The 2018 growing season is behind us, and I think I can say that nobody in the Finger Lakes is sad to see it go. More than a few growers are calling this season the most challenging that they have experienced, and that's saying something. From dry conditions early in the season, to an August storm that dumped 8-10" inches of rain in just a few hours in parts of the region, to a record number of days with high humidity during harvest, there was nothing normal about this season (is there ever?). Growers and winemakers alike had to rely on every trick up their sleeve to bring in quality fruit this year, and as my colleague Chris Gerling said, they all needed some extra sleeves.

For more than 60 years, the FLGP has provided the industry with unbiased, research-based information to help address the issues that will help to sustain the farm businesses of the Finger Lakes region. This year was no exception, as we worked with growers to adapt sour rot management practices during harvest, demonstrated a new method to establish cover crops under grapevine trellises, and responded to the first identification of a new invasive pest in the Finger Lakes, the spotted lanternfly. This winter, we will continue our annual survey of bud hardiness to better understand our vineyards' abilities to survive winter temperatures, present our annual B.E.V. NY grape and wine conference program, and plan for next year's field trials and summer meetings.

The FLGP has been fortunate to have talented and enthusiastic interns from the Finger Lakes Community College Viticulture & Wine Technology Program for the past several years. This year's intern, Ellen Coyne, proved to be no exception, as she provided invaluable help with several projects this year, including our invasive pest monitoring project, several different field trials, and helping to maintain the Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard. Our partnership with FLCC has been beneficial in so many ways, and we are pleased to continue that relationship.

And finally, a hearty 'Thank You' to all the growers who supported our program this year, whether by allowing us to run experiments in their vineyards, hosting Tailgate Meetings, or enrolling in the FLGP. Your support of this program is vital to our ability to continue to provide information that is beneficial to the industry. Please do not hesitate to contact us, or any of the members of the FLGP's grower advisory committee, if you have ideas on how we can better serve the industry.

Hans Walter-Peterson
Team Leader

Pictured (from left to right): Ellen Coyne, Hans Walter-Peterson, and Donald Caldwell

New Faces with the FLGP in 2018

Donald Caldwell – FLGP Viticulture Technician

In December, 2017, Gillian Trimber resigned from her position with the Finger Lakes Grape Program. After some evaluation of what the FLGPs needs were for this position, we decided to develop a new position description to change the program's county-employed educator position to a university-employed technician. We were very fortunate to end up hiring Donald Caldwell as the FLGP's viticulture technician. Don has worked in a couple of different Finger Lakes vineyards, and also had previously worked with the FLGP for several months in 2016 as a field assistant, so his familiarity with the program helped him to get off to a fast start in his new job. Don is primarily responsible for maintaining our field trials, and managing the Teaching & Demonstration Vineyard that the FLGP shares with Finger Lakes Community College.

Jeremy Veverka – Videographer

After the departure of our videographer, Jim Monahan, this year, a search committee consisting of CCE regional ag team, communications and administrative staff convened to hire a new CCE videographer. Jeremy Veverka was hired to fill the position and started with Cornell on May 24, 2018. Jeremy is from upstate New York originally, and previously worked on video productions for Cornell's Alliance for Science program along with his own video production work. Similar to Jim, Jeremy's position is supported by four of the regional agriculture extension teams and CCE Communications, with Hans acting as his direct supervisor.

Development of Under-Vine Cover Crop Seeder Accelerates Adoption of New Practice

Recent research at Cornell has demonstrated that planting annual groundcovers under the trellis provides an innovative and cost-effective method for reducing production costs in winegrapes, with an added benefit of reducing herbicide runoff, soil erosion, and vine vigor. Adoption of this practice has been hindered, however, by the lack of any mechanical seeding options. Most mechanical seeders broadcast seed over a wide area, and not in a specific "banding" pattern that would be needed for applications under grapevine trellises.

The FLGP received a grant from the New York Farm Viability Institute to evaluate mechanical methods to apply seed for under-vine cover crops (UVCC). As part of this project, an inexpensive spreader was modified to discharge seed just to the sides. A standard fertilizer spreader with a banding attachment, which many growers already own, was also evaluated. Both systems are viable options for growers to use, each with their own advantages and disadvantages such as equipment cost, hopper size, and seeding rates to use with each method.

The FLGP developed a short video that introduces the concept of using UVCCs in vineyards and describes the modified rotary spreader that was developed for this project. We also created a spreadsheet tool that growers can use to compare the costs of their herbicide program with the use of UVCCs. This tool allows them to analyze the cost differences between the two practices and take that information into consideration when deciding on implementing UVCCs in their vineyard or not.

The idea of using UVCCs in New York vineyards is still very new, but there are increasing numbers of growers who are interested in them. The ability to mechanically seed UVCCs will make adoption of this practice a more practical option for them.

Pictured: Two seeding options evaluated for use to plant under -vine cover crops : a modified rotary seeder (top), and a fertilizer spreader with a banding attachment (bottom).

Funding for this project was provided by the New York Farm Viability Institute.

B.E.V. NY Conference Carries on Despite Winter Storm 'Riley'

B.E.V. NY is the annual grapes and wine conference hosted by the Finger Lakes Grape Program and Cornell's Enology Extension Lab. This collaboration allows for cross-pollination of information and people involved in the different facets of the grape and wine industry: Business, Enology, and Viticulture.

The fifth iteration of the B.E.V. NY conference took place on Wednesday, February 28 – Friday, March 2 at the RIT Inn & Conference Center. Registration for this year's conference was significantly higher than last year, with over 300 people attending the conference over the three days. This includes about 60 hardy souls who braved the roads in the midst of winter storm 'Riley' and attended the viticulture program on Friday.

Wednesday's program also featured the Unity Luncheon hosted by the New York Wine & Grape Foundation, where various members and supporters of the industry were recognized for their contributions to the ongoing growth and success of the New York wine and grape industry. Finger Lakes grower Tina Hazlitt was awarded the 'Grower of the Year' award.

B.E.V. NY organizers (from left to right) Anna Katharine Mansfield, Hans Walter-Peterson and Chris Gerling.

Knowing that many of the registrants for Friday would not be able to attend in person, we attempted a first at B.E.V. NY – streaming the program to registered attendees via Cornell's Zoom online meeting system. This allowed an additional 55 people to "attend" the viticulture program online. Overall, about 115 of the 180 people registered for Friday's viticulture program were able to participate. Because of the success of the online presentation of this year's viticulture program, we are adding an additional online registration option for next year's B.E.V. NY conference, which would allow us to expand the reach of the important business, enology and viticulture information that is presented at the conference.

Developing Management Strategies for Field Bindweed

Field bindweed is a perennial weed that has been appearing in more vineyards in the Finger Lakes recently. It has a deep and robust root system that makes control of this weed difficult. If left unchecked, it climbs up vines and can prevent sunlight and pest control materials from reaching the leaves and fruit, which can have a negative impact on vine health and fruit quality. Glyphosate has been shown to be the most effective post-emergence herbicide on bindweed but repeated treatments are required for eradication, which could result in development of resistance to glyphosate over time.

We started a trial this year looking at some other treatments for bindweed control, including a different herbicide (rimsulfuron, trade name Matrix) and mechanical cultivation, and compared these to multiple applications of glyphosate. Our initial results showed that Matrix was as effective as glyphosate in controlling field bindweed (and other weeds as well), and mechanical cultivation was almost as effective. Because of its perennial nature, we will need to continue this project for a couple more years to understand how effective these treatments are over the longer term.

Funding for this project was provided by the New York Wine & Grape Foundation and the Lake Erie Regional Grape Research and Extension Program, Inc.