

Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program



Quarterly Report: January-March 2019

Program Highlights

- Over 400 members of New York's grape and wine industry attended the B.E.V. NY conference this year. Canned wines, biopesticides and herbicide alternatives were some of the innovative topics covered at this year's conference.
- The FLGP has been working with other industry partners to develop and conduct the first statewide vineyard acreage survey in 7 years.
- Proposals on perennial weed management and sour rot management have been submitted to funding agencies this quarter in order to address these important issues for Finger Lakes grape growers.

Innovation is the Name of the Game At B.E.V. NY 2019

More than 400 winemakers and grape growers from all over New York State learned about new ways to innovate in the vineyard and the cellar at this year's B.E.V. NY conference, held at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Conference Center in Henrietta on February 27- March 1, 2019. The annual conference, co-hosted by the Finger Lakes Grape Program (FLGP) and Cornell's Enology Extension Program, brings together experts in viticulture, enology, business management and other related topics to keep the New York grape and wine industry informed about the latest information on new and innovative ideas that can help to sustain their businesses.



Alexander Robb, Peter Bell and Christopher Missick discuss their experiences with canning wine and hard cider at B.E.V. NY.

One of the topics that garnered a great deal of interest during the conference was the emerging trend of packaging wine in cans. During Wednesday's business program, Robert and Helena Williams from Susquehanna and Texas Tech Universities highlighted their research on

consumer preferences with regard to canned wines. On Thursday, Dr. Gavin Sacks from Cornell provided important information to winemakers about how the chemistry for wines being packaged in cans is different from those being put into bottles, and how that affects decisions like package size and liners used in the cans. His talk was followed by a tasting of canned wines and a panel discussion from winemakers who have experience with canning wines. These winemakers shared both the positives and negatives with canning wines in their experience, giving those in attendance some good information to consider before taking on a new packaging system.

Innovation is the Name of the Game At B.E.V. NY 2019

Innovation wasn't just limited to the business and enology programs either. The viticulture program on Friday featured talks on using sheep for weed control instead of chemical herbicides, potential responses to the emerging challenges of climate change on horticultural crops, including grapes, and the potential for biopesticides to manage disease and insect pests while reducing the environmental impacts of pest management programs.

The conference also hosted a three-day trade show that attracted more than 50 vendors in total, as well as the New York Wine & Grape Foundation's Unity Luncheon, which honors people across the state who support the industry. The winner of this year's Grower Award was John Ingle from Heron Hill Winery, and who has been growing grapes in the Finger Lakes for more than 30 years.

B.E.V. NY 2020 is scheduled for February 26-28, 2020.

B.E.V. NY Media Coverage

"The Canned Wine Conundrum". Finger Lakes Times, March 6 2019. https://www.fltimes.com/business/the-canned-wine-conundrum/article_aa1563a0-db93-5ab6-9b92-c467cf210981.html

"Can-do: Cornell, Extension help NYS vintners test their metal". Cornell Chronicle, March 7 2019. <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2019/03/can-do-cornell-extension-help-nys-vintners-test-their-metal>

"Canned wine is the new thing but producers confront hurdles". Rochester Business Journal, March 7 2019. <https://rbj.net/2019/03/07/canned-wine-is-the-new-thing-but-presents-hurdles-for-producers/>

A New NY Vineyard Acreage Survey is in the Works

Until 2012, the New York office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducted a vineyard acreage survey approximately every five years. Unfortunately, NASS has indicated that they will no longer be conducting these surveys due to a lack of funding. In response to this, the FLGP has brought together representatives of the New York Wine & Grape Foundation, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the New York grape industry to work with Cornell University's Survey Research Institute to develop and conduct a new vineyard acreage survey for New York State in 2019. When completed, the survey will provide a more accurate picture of the current industry in New York, and provide a template for future surveys that can provide greater insight into planting decisions, varietal selection and marketing potential for the industry.

Finger Lakes Grape Program

2019 Quarter 1 Report

Grant Funding

Funded Projects

Monitoring Grapevine Bud Hardiness for Winter Survival. 1/1/19 – 3/31/19, \$2,632. Funded by Kaplan Fund, NY Wine & Grape Foundation. Collaborators: Tim Martinson, Tim Weigle

This ongoing project provides important information to growers about the winter survival of grapevine buds. Samples are collected every two weeks from Finger Lakes vineyards and analyzed for their ability to withstand cold temperatures. This information is communicated to growers so they can make determine if they need to adjust their pruning practices to compensate for bud injury. Results are posted at <https://grapesandwine.cals.cornell.edu/extension/bud-hardiness-data>.

Proposals submitted

Evaluation of Methods for Management of Field Bindweed in New York Vineyards. Submitted to New York Wine & Grape Foundation/Lake Erie Regional Grape Research & Extension Program. Proposed budget: \$6,869 (Year 2 of two-year project). Collaborator: Bryan Brown - NYS IPM Program.

Perennial weeds are an increasing problem in Finger Lakes vineyards. This project has been evaluating the effects of glyphosate, rimsulfuron, and cultivation on weed control, with particular attention to bindweed, and measure the effect of each system on yield and profitability so that growers can make more informed management decisions. Results from the first year of this project resulted in the addition of field bindweed to the list of approved weeds for rimsulfuron by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Evaluation of a Berry Cuticle Supplement to Reduce Cluster Rots in Vineyards. Submitted to New York Wine & Grape Foundation/Lake Erie Regional Grape Research & Extension Program. Proposed budget: \$15,722 (Year 1 of two year project). Collaborator: Alice Wise – CCE Suffolk County

This project will evaluate the effectiveness of a product called 'HydroShield' at reducing Botrytis bunch rot and sour rot in grapes. HydroShield is a proprietary product currently under development at Oregon State University, but is not yet commercially available. HydroShield is purported to thicken the berry cuticle and therefore provide improved resistance to egg laying of *Drosophila* fruit flies. In preliminary tests in Oregon, when sprayed on grapes, HydroShield has reduced egg laying by *Drosophila suzukii* (spotted wing drosophila) and subsequent development of cluster rot.



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Hans Walter-Peterson—Team Leader
Donald Caldwell—Viticulture Technician

The Finger Lakes Grape Program is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in Ontario, Seneca, Schuyler, Steuben, Wayne and Yates Counties.

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