

# Cornell Cooperative Extension 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

Fourth Quarter Report 2019

## Veraison to Harvest

A weekly electronic newsletter put out by Cornell viticulture and enology extension personnel from Lake Erie, Long Island, the Hudson Valley and the Finger Lakes. Each issue provides accurate and up-to-date regional data while giving a statewide perspective as well. Veraison to Harvest begins in early September and concludes in late October. This year there were 9 issues, 10 articles from LERGP, 14 different varieties sampled across the region, distribution each week to members-226, VIP-25, and faculty/staff/other-114. The metrics from google analytics for Veraison to Harvest this year vs last shows an increase of views up 3.36% with over 1600 page views.

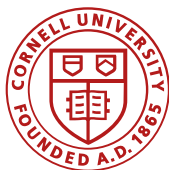
*This project was funded by New York Wine & Grape Foundation, National Grape/Welch*



## Bud Hardiness

Winter low temperatures that fall below a critical value can damage grapevine buds. The critical temperature for bud injury varies over the dormant season and responds to daily changes in temperature. We can measure this critical temperature through a procedure called differential thermal analysis, which involves controlled freezing of a sample of buds collected from vineyards. LERGP purchased the Tenney T2 freezer and Brock University Bud Freezer software package to conduct research at CLEREL on grapevine cold hardiness monitoring. The freezer is the latest model and the two systems need retro-fitting to get them to communicate; data collection will occur in January 2020.

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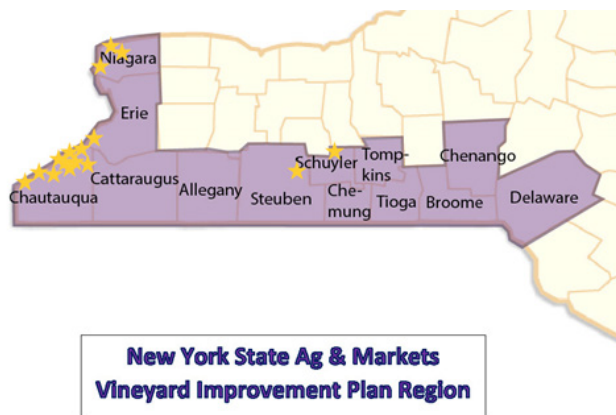
## Vineyard Improvement Program

This past quarter has brought 4 more applicants bringing the total applicants to 16 and total Concord grape acreage covered with this program to 190.34 acres (74.54 acres this quarter – 70.81 new acres + 3.73 acres added to an existing application). Site visits were conducted for those applicants and verified that they were Concord vineyards. There are currently 10 applicants from Chautauqua County (137.41 acres), 1 from Steuben (2.69), 1 from Schuyler (5.66), 3 from Niagara (39.92), and 1 from Erie County (4.66). The replant plan breaks down as follows: 26.07 acres Aurora; 5 Chambourcin; 11.3 Concord; 1.25 Elvira; 5 Foch; 0.54 Gruner; 5 Itasca; 13 Ives; 8 Seyval; 3.91 Vincent; 1 unspecified vinifera; 4 apples; 1 asparagus; 0.5 rhubarb; 0.5 strawberries; 19.98 cover crops; 67.13 field crops; 2.5 vegetable crops. (As receipts are received and reimbursements finalized there will be a more accurate representation as to what was replanted.)

Information was disseminated to growers and landowners through press releases, crop update articles, and field representative meetings. Interested parties are directed to learn more on our website at [lergp.com](http://lergp.com) by clicking the big purple button that says Vineyard Improvement Program. In addition, packets of information are kept at the front desk, during the past quarter 5 have been distributed.

The second reimbursement has been finalized this quarter with a check for \$14,801.31 sent to the applicant. A third reimbursement was actually sent in on December 3rd, but due to the holidays and the CCE office moving, the reimbursement was not finalized in this quarter.

During this quarter we completed 6 initial site visits (2 for potential applicants who have not yet submitted) and 2 final site visits. Final expense reports were created for both of the applicants that were submitted for reimbursement this quarter.



## Labor Market Regulations

Labor Market Changes hit both NYS and PA growers in 2020. Outreach efforts have included training events, crop updates, newsletters, podcasts and coffee pot meetings. Professional development and background research proved necessary to provide relevant information to growers. Research into similar changes has proven useful to help growers develop strategies to cope with increasing costs. NYS DOL and Cornell's Dr. Stup have also been helpful in providing guidance and webinars. 22 growers attended an event on December 23rd at CLEREL. 46 growers have

watched labor podcast updates as well. Parts of the law have been challenged and rollout of certain requirements may be delayed until January 24th or longer. We will continue to keep growers updated as the situation develops. We also plan to focus on strategic labor reduction at the 2020 growers conference at the Williams Center.



## Managing Improvements in Cash Flow



A series of podcasts and crop updates have provided a plan of action for growers that have improved cash flow and are concerned about income taxes on 2019 income. LERGP efforts focused on directing investments into farm capital equipment focused on areas that decrease labor costs, rather than maximizing tax deductions. Efforts to redirect available cash flow toward other risk management strategies, such as personal finance were also discussed. 44 growers viewed these podcasts.

## NEWA

During this past quarter we have resolved 29 connection issues that have occurred throughout the Lake Erie and Finger Lakes regions by connecting with the station owners via phone calls and emails sent. (Lake Erie Region: East Westfield, East Fredonia, Harborcreek Escarpment, Ripley, North East Escarpment, Versailles, Ripley Escarpment, Harborcreek, North East SideHill, Sheridan, Silver Creek, Portland Escarpment. Finger Lakes Region: Branchport, Romulus, Interlaken, Lakemont, Corwin, and Hammondsport.) The stations were usually able to come back online by resetting the IP-100. In addition, during this time it was reported that Rainwise has been experiencing server issues which have been addressed by engineers and should be resolved at this point.

The East Westfield station required the rain bucket be cleaned in order to get accurate precipitation recordings. The Silver Creek station owner is considering a new station. We are investigating the purchase of a new station (Rainwise or HOBO) as a possible solution to the issues being experienced there.



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To date in 2019:

Publications - Lake Erie Vineyard Notes Newsletter (8) and LERGP Crop Update (31)

Podcasts - 12 weekly podcasts (149 total) available on <http://lergp.com/podcasts/>

Web resources - <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu>, <http://lergp.com> and <https://www.efficientvineyard.com>

Like us on Facebook - Cornell-Lake-Erie-Research-and-Extension-Laboratory and Efficient-Vineyard

LERGP Home Pages: <http://lergp.cce.cornell.edu>; <http://lergp.com> Phone: 716.792.2800