

# Cornell Cooperative Extension Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

Third Quarter Report 2020



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

## Virtual Coffee Pot Meetings Jennifer Phillips Russo

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program offered Coffee Pot Meetings virtually this growing season.

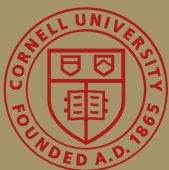
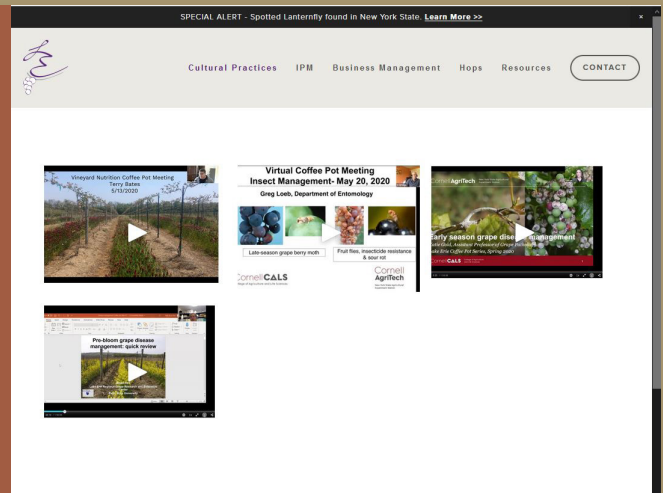
Coffee Pot meetings were started years ago in an effort to connect with local growers to address their needs during the growing season. These meetings are typically hosted by grape growers in the region that are willing to invite the group into their barn/garage. LERGP brings coffee, doughnuts, the latest research information, and pesticide applicator recertification credits.

This year, due to the restrictions in place from the COVID-19 pandemic, the group was unable to conduct business as usual. In an effort to continue the sharing of important research, as well as maintaining the collaboration of ideas from the growers, the LERGP team was successful in setting up Virtual Coffee Pot meetings. Each meeting featured a management topic with faculty and extension panelists.

In addition, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) have both approved offering pesticide recertification credits at these meetings to aid our growers. For each meeting one credit was available to both New York and Pennsylvania licensed pesticide applicators. The LERGP offered 13 opportunities to receive pesticide recertification credits in 2020. There were 13 Virtual Coffee Pot Meetings total with 13 Guest Speakers and 457 total participants in the meetings with 183 attendees in the third quarter. This unintentional platform was so well received by our stakeholders, that they have requested we continue to offer Virtual Coffee Pot Meetings in the future.

This success story was not without its trials and tribulations. The LERGP staff dedicated the first 10 minutes of every meeting to walk participants through the virtual platform to ensure that all of the DEC and PDA requirements were met. The average age demographic of our grower base is 65 years. I commend all of the attendees' willingness to embrace technology and I am proud of the work that we all accomplished together.

The Coffee Pot Meetings are discussions on timely viticulture, business management, and integrated pest management. In addition, special guest speakers with expertise in viticulture and enology from all over the country have been invited to present their research in this informal setting and answer grower questions face-to-face since traveling isn't an issue with the virtual platforms. The LERGP is excited to be able to continue to offer educational outreach and pesticide recertification credits to our industry stakeholders during this pandemic time.



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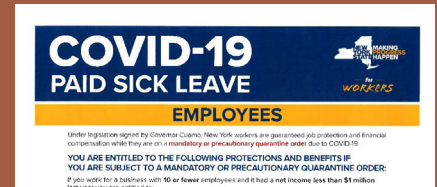
PennState Extension

## COVID-19 and Labor Relations Focus Continues- Kevin Martin

Covid-19 and Labor Relations have been the underlying theme of education this quarter. De-

livery of information followed traditional methods of podcasts, newsletters and crop updates. Additional e-mail contact was occasionally utilized as much of the information has been time sensitive. With limitations on our ability to deliver information to large groups in person, podcasting and e-mail has been essential to notify growers of timely information. Federal and state programs introducing paid sick time were one topic of focus. CFAP 1.0, PPP, Tax Credits and SBA funding all rolled out or continued this quarter. The ability of growers to receive funding was a mixed bag. The fast pace of Q2 was gone and Q3 provided an opportunity for growers to apply for less competitive funding sources, begin to work through loan forgiveness plans, while doing day to day crop management. Over-time policies in NY were also reviewed. Harvest may be the first time grape growers pay over-time under revised 2020 labor laws.

More programs were rolled out toward the end of Q3 and additional educational information is being provided in Q3. CFAP 2.0, and NYS paid sick leave are the highlights thus far.



## NEWA

Kim Knappenberger

The stations in the Lake Erie and Finger Lakes Regions had a number of the usual connection issues that are generally cleared up with an email or phone call. There were no major issues in this quarter.

One thing that was noticed is that the Rainwise and Onset stations are recording data with some variance that results in a differing accumulation of growing degree days.

These numbers are also slightly different than those collected by the Mesonet stations. Suggestions for the reason behind this might include that the stations are calibrated differently between the three sources. Also, the timing of the collection, height at which the temperatures are recorded, and the ground cover present would all contribute to varying results. These data are used in disease models presented on the NEWA website. Growers are encouraged to consult their local stations to best assess the pest and disease exposure and the need to spray for those pests. Spray recommendations can be made around what has worked better historically in that area. If control has not been maintained, perhaps using data from a different sensor would help.



## COVID-19 PPE

Kim Knappenberger

CLEREL has been one of two pick-up locations in Chautauqua County for the free PPE supplied by New York State Department of Agriculture for producers in the county.

This quarter saw a decline in amount of PPE requested, but there were 166 gallons of the NYS Clean hand sanitizer distributed. Also distributed were 225 2-ounce spray bottles and 1,880 face masks. (Last quarter we distributed 706 gallons, 665 2-ounce spray bottles, and 3,115 masks)



## VIP Kim Knappenberger

One new application has been received for the program. It is from Erie County and adds 7.82 acres bringing the total acreage to

almost 322 acres of Concord vineyard to be removed by 22 applicants.

Two initial site visits – one was not a new application but adding acreage to an existing one. Five final site visits were made. Accompanying final expense reports were created and invoice requests were submitted for 4 of those applicants. The fifth applicant still needs to submit expenses.

Three reimbursements were finalized this quarter. The first had been submitted in the previous quarter and the applicant received payment in this quarter. Two of the applicants mentioned above also received their reimbursement payments. Two of the applicants were submitted well within the quarter, but the payment was delayed and is still expected.

Total payments out for this quarter add up to \$66,477.52, with \$8,006 still pending.

The program was presented to growers present at the July 22nd virtual coffee pot meeting and can be viewed on our website at <https://lergp.com/2020-virtual-coffee-pot-meeting-guest-speakers>. In addition information has been included in Crop Updates and Newsletters, and a press release was written to encourage attendance at the virtual coffee pot meeting where it was presented.



## Grape Commodity Survey (CAPS) Kim Knappenberger

During the third quarter the CAPS project was conducted and wrapped up. Six trips (the set up and first screening were done last quarter) were made to each of the 8 vineyards and 2 nurseries. These traps that are loaded with pheromone lures are initially screened in the field. Traps that contained moths of any kind

were collected and screened at the lab. No target moths were collected during the entirety of this survey. The target moths this year were *Cryptoblabes gnideiella* (Christmas Berry Webworm), *Lobesia botrana* (European Grapevine Moth), and *Eupoecilia ambiguella* (European Grape Berry Moth). In addition, no Spotted Lanternfly adults or egg masses were observed when scouted for in connection with this project.



To date in 2020:

Publications - Lake Erie Vineyard Notes Newsletter (2) and LERGP Crop Update (9)

Podcasts - 12 weekly podcasts 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

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