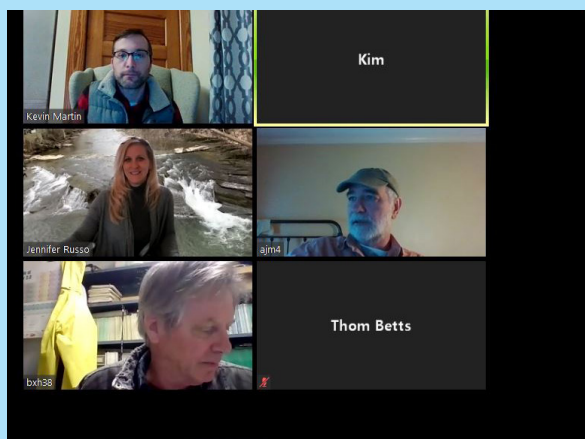


Cornell Cooperative Extension Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

Fourth 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

Podcast Series



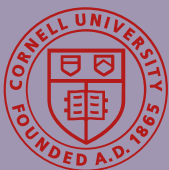
Our weekly video update has continued. Topics have included updates on many of the business concerns of growers – minimum wage changes, paid sick leave, and how COVID affects how those are implemented. Another podcast announced the availability of the CFAP2 program to grape growers and talked about what they need to do to apply. Interest in the video updates remains steady with most views coming within the first 10 days after posting. We reach an audience of 30 – 60 and often discuss similar topics that are included in the crop update.

CFAP2

Provided information and encouraged growers to apply for the Corona Virus Food Assistance Program 2.0 (CFAP2) which was created for agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. This program ran from September 21, 2020 to December 11, 2020 and many contacts were made with growers to encourage application.

NY Sick Time Mandate

Growers received information via podcast and written articles informing them that sick time has become a NYS mandate for all employers. For nearly all employers this sick time will be a paid benefit. Farm exemptions did not happen. We are still waiting on some regulations to define some ambiguities in the law. In the meantime, the recommendation is to assume the regulations will broadly define the application of the law to all employees. For employers with more than 4 employees, this sick time benefit must be paid sick time. Employers are not required to allow sick time to be used until January 1, 2021. The accrual of sick time began on September 30, 2020. Employees must accrue a minimum of 1 hour of sick time for 30 hours worked. Employees and managers should be trained (informed) on sick time policy. LERGP made certain that all of the current information was provided to the growers in timely manner.



Cornell University



PennState Extension

Market Survey

Cornell needs more information about individual Concord market. The results of this survey will impact future economic research. The funding for this research comes from concerns NYS had about the viability of this industry. Inevitably there will be a moment in the future where the industry looks bleak yet again. Hopefully, it will be 2030 not 2022. However, results of the survey and the research that follows could make the next downturn just a bit more palatable.

2021 Pesticide Prices

The biggest take-away is that my source for prices shows little change from last year. After a couple of years with some pretty big moves, at least based on this data, most chemicals are similarly priced or adjusted upward slightly. In recent years we've seen some important modes of action drop in price considerably. We've also seen some standard chemicals bump up and down based on the status of supply. Last year Covid-19 was a bit of a wild card and there were some concerns about supply that may or may not materialize in a meaningful way.



Vineyard Improvement Program

Four new applications have been received during this quarter, all from Chautauqua County. These add 34.66 acres bringing the total acreage to over 356 acres of under-producing/abandoned Concord vineyards in the program to be removed by 26 applicants.

Four initial site visits were completed in strict compliance with the COVID-19 regulations of masking and social distancing. Three of those sites were not previously mapped and did not have proof of Concord. Thanks to the timing of the applications coming in the fall, the vineyards were able to be identified as Concord through taste/smell of the berries.

One final site visit was also completed. Another had been completed in the previous quarter but the final approval and paperwork came through this quarter. Final expense reports were created and invoice requests were submitted.

Four reimbursements were completed in this quarter. Two were submitted in August and delayed until October. The other two were submitted in November and all have now received reimbursement. The total amount reimbursed this quarter is \$28,782.75.

A press release was sent out in October to promote use of the program.

NEWA

Four site visits were made during this quarter. Two were to clean the rain collection buckets on two different stations. The other two were made to the same station in succession. The first was to change the battery, and the second was to check on the solar panel to ensure that it was charging the battery.

Most problems were able to be solved through email communication. Two stations in the Finger Lakes region had problems with low batteries. The station owners were able to replace the batteries and restore service.

The East Westfield TeleMet station is still out of service. It is expect-



ed to be returned from Rainwise at some time and be restored to service.

Plans are being made to do some ground truthing of pest models in the coming year to ensure accurate recommendations for pest management continue to be made.

Bud Hardiness

November began every other week bud collection for the bud hardiness study. Canes are cut from Concord, Riesling and Vignole vines at CLEREL and labeled with their specific crop load and pruning levels. Once inside the lab the buds are sliced from the canes and placed into specific cells in trays that then go into the Tenney 2 Freezer. The buds are subjected to differential thermal analysis (DTA) during which the lethal temperature for the buds is determined. This is a valuable tool for our growers to use along with daily weather information to compare the daily low temperatures and the bud hardiness data so they can make risk management decisions in regards to pruning levels, pruning timing and shoot thinning. Results are shared in crop updates and posted on the website.



4th Quarter 2020 totals:

Publications - Lake Erie Vineyard Notes Newsletter (1) and LERGP Crop Update (6)

Podcasts - 9 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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