

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

Third Quarter Report 2021

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



Jennifer Phillips Russo- *LERGP Viticulture Extension Specialist*

This quarter (July-September) the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program completed the Virtual Coffee Pot series offering four opportunities for growers to earn pesticide applicator credits and ask questions about timely viticulture, business management, and integrated pest management. We also held our first in-person meeting in August.

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program was contracted by Welch's National Grape Cooperative to analyze 182 crop estimation samples across the Tri-State Region for the third year in a row. The data collected projected very large crop sizes across the region with questions of whether the vines could support that much fruit and if not, what should happen to ensure a follow up crop in 2022. Specialists conducted many grower visits, podcasts, and video blogs as educational opportunities to discuss healthy balanced vines this season due to the large crop across the region. The team also collected weekly samples from 10 different varieties in the region and berry development was tracked. This data was included in a weekly state-wide Cornell publication named *Veraison to Harvest* (Tim Martinson) containing regional data for growers to track progress.

We published an article in *Appellation Cornell*, *Raising awareness in tasting rooms about spotted lanternfly*, that instructed wine tasting rooms (and those of other craft beverages) how they can provide a unique opportunity to educate consumers about the spotted lanternfly and its potential impact. The article was also run in *Fruit Grower's* publication.

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program met with our Advisory Committee to discuss the future winter programming. Growers, industry representatives, and researchers collaborated and created a list of important topics to focus our educational efforts.



Cornell University

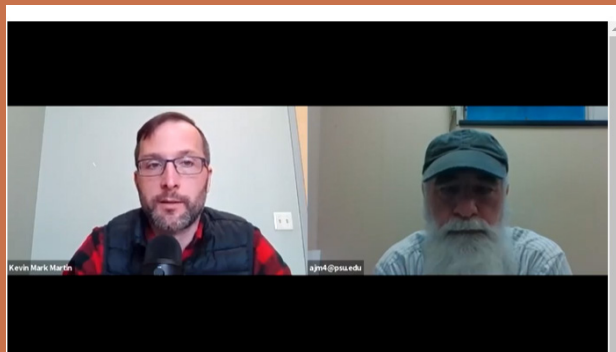


PennState Extension

Kevin Martin- *LERGP Business Management Educator, Penn State University*

Podcasting

Between the Vines continued with weekly updates throughout the quarter, for a total of 14. We were able to have 5 guest speakers for the podcast as well as provide our own updates as a team for 12 of the 14 podcasts. The subscriber base has held steady but we have successfully shifted 80% of listeners to mobile devices. Most of these mobile devices are iPhones. When we first started nearly 50% of listeners were streaming from our website. Now just 3% are relying on streaming and just 14% are using a desktop or laptop. This was a goal of ours because we want this information to push to their devices automatically. Streaming from a website is not automatic and can be forgotten. Along with texting reminders we started earlier this year we continue to improve our reach and reliability of communications.



Business Education

Through all of our communication tools, mentioned by other educators, business concerns this quarter have been similar to the wider economy. Growers have needed to prepare for harvest labor shortages by increasing wages, advertising wider and investing in capital that decreases labor. Recommendations and forecasting for those challenges were a focus for the last quarter. Additionally, supply chain issues have also been a topic that has changed recommendations and planning for growers. As we receive word that different supplies are hard to get our crop updates and podcasts have been used to alert growers. Growers have also been communicating amongst themselves as well. We've seen more inventory and parts ordering as growers need to be prepared for shipping delays and backordered parts. This has impacted other critical areas as well.



Vineyard Improvement Program has been somewhat revitalized in the interest and questions we've received regarding the program. For all new applications this quarter we've received at least 3 inquiries and hope these other interested parties will apply for the program in the next month.

Kimberly Knappenberger- *LERGP Viticulture Assistant*

Vineyard Improvement Program

One new application from Cattaraugus County has been added this quarter for 1.29 acres. This brings the total applicants to 29 and the acreage to 378 acres.

One initial site visit was completed for the new applicant. Proof of Concord was established by the technician through taste and smell. This is especially helpful this time of the year when the landowner does not possess a contract or proof that the vineyard is Concord. New maps were created.

Four “final” site visits were conducted – two of the applicants had complete removal and appropriate replant established. The other two applicants needed to finalize removal – incomplete removal of vines and incomplete establishment of the final crop. One applicant was able to complete the final expense sheet and submitted and received the reimbursement. The other applicant is nearing completion and the reimbursement will be submitted early next quarter. Seven site visits were conducted for potential VIP applicants and proof of Concord was obtained.

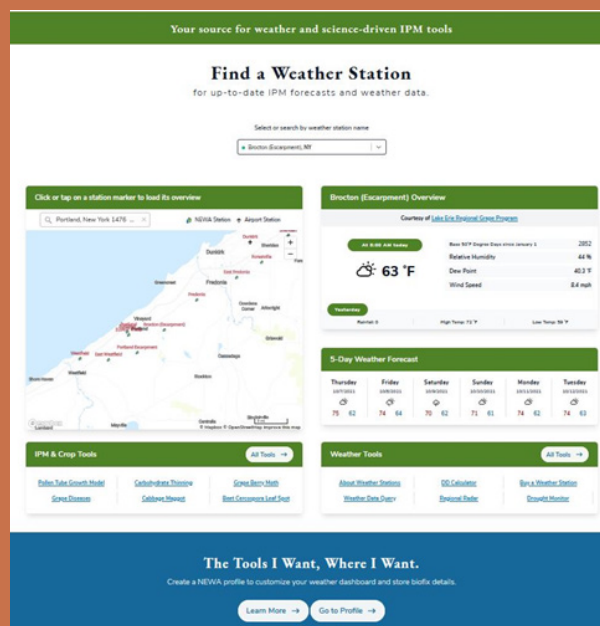
Phone and email consultations again continued through this quarter for both prospective applicants and in support of current applicants.

Information regarding this program was again presented in a press release as well as the crop updates and newsletters from the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program.

During this quarter we were able to conduct one in person meeting and the information was presented at that meeting.

NEWA

This quarter started with some big rain storms beginning July 1st. This allowed the precipitation that the stations were recording to be monitored. Ripley, Ripley State Line, Westfield, Silver Creek and Versailles all needed to have some attention – cleaned buckets, removed wasp nests and replaced reed switches. The NorthEast Escarpment station required a new battery in the station. Harborcreek and North East Side Hill have both had connection issues this quarter. Harborcreek has been rectified, but North East Side Hill is still receiving no radio signal most of the time. NEWA is able to supplement the missing data with estimated data. The Ransomville and Portland Escarpment stations are both experiencing old age issues and the sensors are becoming less reliable. Options are being investigated.



The East Westfield station TeleMet arrived and that station was placed back into service on 9/21/2021. The Westfield station is having some occasional strange precipitation that is being investigated. In addition the end of September brought both a site-wide Rainwise server outage affecting all of the Rainwise stations, as well as an internet service provider (ISP) issue that lasted for 4 days and knocked out 5 of our stations.

At the end of the quarter NEWA 3.0 was launched.

CAPS (Grape Commodity Survey)

The 2021 Grape Commodity Survey is finished for the season. No target moths (*Cryptoblabes gnideiella* (Christmas Berry Webworm), *Lobesia botrana* (European Grapevine Moth), and *Eupoecilia ambiguella* (European Grape Berry Moth) were found in the Lake Erie Region.

Traps were screened for the presence of moths in the field and collected for closer viewing in the lab. These screenings were performed on July 6th and 20th, August 3rd, 17th and 31st, and finally collected on September 14th. There were no suspicious specimens in the traps and therefore none were sent to the diagnostic lab. Negative samples were recorded: -1,322 CBW, -1,230 EGBM, and -856 EGVM. These results have been shared with the project coordinator, Juliet Carroll, via google sheets. Coordinated efforts were made to ensure that traps were not in the vineyards during harvest.

In addition no Spotted Lanternfly were found in the region after ongoing scouting efforts throughout the season. Scouting will continue through the fall in hopes that early detection will impede infestation.



3rd Quarter 2021 totals:

Publications - Lake Erie Vineyard Notes Newsletters (1) and LERGP Crop Updates (12)

Podcasts(13) - 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 EfficientVineyard

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