

# Cornell Cooperative Extension

## Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

Second Quarter Report 2022

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

### Coffee Pot News

Coffee Pot meetings have been a staple of the extension work done by the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program for many years. During these meetings researchers and extension associates come together with growers in a relaxed setting to share up-to-date information and advice on how to take care of the issues that arise in their vineyards as well as offering time for the growers to collaborate on what works and what doesn't work. In addition, pesticide recertification credits are given to those in attendance who present their pesticide applicator license. These meetings ran every Wednesday throughout the growing season and were very well attended this quarter. From April through June 2022, the LERGP team reached 323 growers. In 2020, we created our Virtual Coffee Pot Meetings for educational outreach during the pandemic. The use of technologies bridged the gap of a paused society and allowed for solutions that would have lasting effects to enhance our program for years to come. The grower stakeholders requested that we continue this outreach and we held one a month this quarter to accommodate those unable to meet in person.

### Retirement

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program (LERGP) would like to take a moment to honor one of our team members since the inception of this program, Mr. Andy Muza. Our team is the only Cornell Cooperative Regional Team that is a joint program between Penn State and Cornell Universities, grape growers and grape industries in Pennsylvania and New York. The four-member LERGP Extension Team is responsible for research-based educational programming for growers and industry representatives in Erie County, Pennsylvania; and Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie and Niagara Counties, New York. Andy Muza was an extension educator in Erie County, PA with responsibilities for commercial agriculture in grapes, tree fruit, small fruit, and vegetables. He was part of Penn State's Horticulture Team and a member of our Lake Erie Regional Grape Program (LERGP) Extension Team. After over three decades of hard work and dedication to Extension in our region, Andy has earned his retirement.



Andy graduated from Penn State with a B.S. in Entomology in 1979. Upon graduating he worked at two of Penn State's Research and Extension Centers as a field scout in the Apple Pest Management Program (Fruit Research Laboratory, Biglerville, PA) and a research technician (Erie County Field Research Laboratory, North East, PA). He also managed the Lake Shore Crop Management Cooperative, a non-profit, grower-owned pest management farm cooperative in North East, PA. While working as a research technician at the U.S. Regional Pasture Research Laboratory, USDA, University Park, PA, he pursued an M.S. degree in Plant Pathology and graduated in 1990. Andy



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acquired a full-time position with Penn State in 1988 as a research assistant at the Lake Erie Regional Grape Research and Extension Center and was also manager at this facility for three years. He began working as an extension educator in Erie County in December 1997.

Andy has devoted over three decades to our industry and has made many contributions and fostered friendships with many of you throughout his career. Personally, Andy took me under his wing when I became a member of LERGP and I was new to our industry. He was very patient, kind, and supportive of my many questions without making me feel like I was a bother. He took me around the grape belt and introduced me to many of you, showed me your vineyards, and discussed his history working with you all to ease my transition. He welcomed me, helped shape me into the specialist that I have become, and I am grateful for sharing our journeys and blessed to witness Andy at work in our industry. Andy has a talent of talking to others, listening to their goals and needs, and assisting them with research-based educational programming to help them achieve their goals. His sense of humor and breadth of knowledge will certainly be missed. He has been an integral member of our team and his absence will surely leave large shoes to fill. Andy's greatest satisfaction was assisting farmers in solving crop-related problems and cooperating with numerous faculty and staff on research and demonstration projects.



### **New York State Grape IPM Specialist**

The New York State IPM Grape Specialist position dissolved after LERGP's Tim Weigle retirement in 2019. Our industry lost critical support at Cornell University in grape pest management. In his 30-year career as NYSIPM Specialist, Tim co-edited the annual NY and PA Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes, instituted NEWA models for pest management, led research and education on grape root worm, Japanese beetle, and grape berry moth.

Tim has also stayed in the forefront of invasive species such as the multicolored Asian lady beetle and the spotted lanternfly. Tim's program was exceptional at listening and responding to the needs of the grape industry in western New York. After years of effort and much collaboration with industry stakeholders to campaign to have that important position, I am pleased to announce that funding has been re-established and the position is currently posted to attract candidates. This has been a long journey, but we are excited to, once again, have this valuable resource for our grape industry stakeholders.

### **Podcasts**

After preparation, meetings and discussions with both universities, podcasts continued this quarter with one a week. This content is also distributed through our youtube channel as a video blog. The video blog has been around for a few years and views are typically just a little bit higher than the podcast. Overall, we've increased total viewership by more than 50% due to the increase in distribution methods.

### **HeyMarket**

LERGP has developed a number of different contact lists for purposes of meeting reminders, phenology updates and other promotional materials. HeyMarket allows us to distribute this material and information via text message. Growers are able to respond to these alerts and we have been able to quickly answer questions and expand contacts with this technology. A large majority of growers attending virtual meetings prefer to get these reminders via text and report actually receiving them as well. Growers would often get an e-mail reminder prior to a meeting but actually read it after the meeting was over.





## Vineyard Improvement Program

As a result of some crop update articles, newsletter article, a press release, and being presented at our weekly coffee pot meetings, we have had an increased interest in the Vineyard Improvement Program this quarter. 4 more applicants have submitted paperwork during this quarter and 2 more have shown a great interest but applications have not been submitted by June 30<sup>th</sup>. These four applications represent 33.46 acres of Concord vineyards to be removed that have been abandoned or severely frosted and are mostly dead.



Initial site visits were completed for all four applicants during this quarter, as well as a visit for one of the pending applicants. There were no final site visits during this quarter, and no reimbursements were completed.

It was during this quarter that we realized that the grant terms in March of 2023 instead of October, so contact was made with all of the applicants via email so that they could plan accordingly. Four of the applicants fear that they will not be able to complete their projects by the end of this year and have all expenses submitted by January.

One applicant has been finished with his project, site visits complete and we are just waiting for submission of expenses to finalize the reimbursement. Multiple contacts have been made but I have not received the information at this time. Continued efforts will be made.

We were questioned about planting bulbs as an eligible replant, and that was confirmed to be eligible. An applicant is proposing to plant bulbs for cut flower bouquets.



## NEWA

During this quarter we were able to set up the two new stations in Ransomville and Silver Creek. Both set ups went well, however the Silver Creek station had some issues with the solar radiation sensor after only about 2 weeks – probably due to a storm that went through the area. That sensor has been replaced and is working properly.

The Brant Onset HOBO station was determined to not be reporting precipitation accurately. A trip to the site revealed that the rain bucket was no longer attached to the station and was nowhere in sight. A new bucket was ordered and installed.

The Northeast Sidehill station needed the station battery replaced and later needed the rain bucket cleaned to collect more accurately.

East Westfield station was almost infested with ants again this summer, but thankfully we were able to stop the ants with some Terro around the base of the post.

A wasp nest was cleaned out of the Ripley Route 20 rain bucket. This station had also experienced some connection issues this quarter due to internet availability to the site.

We did experience our usual connection issues that are generally solved with an email or phone call.



## Grape Commodity Survey

We kicked off the Grape Commodity Survey in the Lake Erie Region by setting up the traps on June 6<sup>th</sup>. There are 108 traps set up in 8 vineyards and 2 nurseries. This year the target moths include *Cryptoblabes gnideiella* (Christmas Berry Webworm), *Lobesia botrana* (European Grapevine Moth), and *Eupoecilia ambiguella* (European Grape Berry Moth).

These traps are intended to remain in the vineyards and nurseries for 14 weeks and will be serviced (surveyed for the presence of moths) every two weeks for a total of 7 times.

The first service was performed on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to reveal no target moths. A record of negative samples was recorded.

In addition we are monitoring 7 Spotted Lanternfly traps across the region from Ripley to Silver Creek. These traps were set up on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> and are checked weekly for the presence of what the current life cycle stage would be for spotted lanternfly in this area. By the end of this quarter we are still looking for the third to fourth instar. None have been observed in the traps.



## Second Quarter 2022 totals:

Publications - Lake Erie Vineyard Notes Newsletters (5) and LERGP Crop Updates (9)

Podcasts (11) - weekly podcasts available on <http://lergp.com/podcasts>

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

<https://www.efficientvineyard.com>

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