

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

Third 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



Enhancing NYS Specialty Crop Producers Resilience Post-COVID

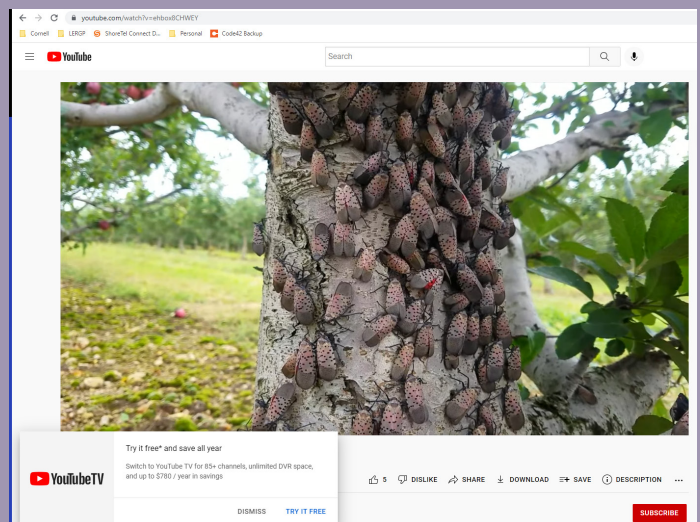
The COVID-19 pandemic presented numerous logistical and financial challenges to NYS specialty crop producers who scrambled to meet crop production and distribution issues. Producers continue to face tight profit margins and competition with other production areas and must have the most well-adapted and profitable varieties, business management information, and pest management education, monitoring, and mitigation strategies.

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Team was awarded funding from New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets on a collaborative grant with other regional teams. This funding will provide research and grower education to enhance production of tree fruit, grapes and vegetables to help New York farms recover from COVID-19 challenges. Monitoring for important insects, diseases, and invasive weed species will be conducted each year and reported to growers and crop consultants through pest alerts in team newsletters, social media, emails, and/or text messaging. A targeted educational campaign for the invasive Spotted Lanternfly in the NYS wine and juice grape industries will provide information necessary to scout, identify, report, and mitigate damage.

LERGP and Cornell Cooperative Extension Communications Department worked together to create a Public Service Announcement about the destructive invasive species, the Spotted Lanternfly. The PSA was released on social media channels in an effort to inform the public to help combat the spread of this invasive into our agricultural commodities.

Advisory Committee Meeting

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program met with their advisory committee made of up grower and industry stakeholders this quarter. This group helps to direct educational outreach and research directives for the upcoming season. The committee contributes their ideas on what topics they want to learn more about and the LERGP team tailors our educational efforts as a direct result of grower and industry input.



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Podcast Report – Between the Vines

Between the Vines was born out of the need to distribute research-based information to growers during a pandemic. This year has shown very clearly that there was a great deal of pent-up demand for in-person education. However, the podcast lives on and people keep listening. In the last quarter we reached 645 listeners, nearly identical but slightly larger than the previous quarter. For the last 12 months we've had just over 2,200 listeners. There seems to be a direct correlation between the frequency of the speaker and the popularity of the episode. Our listeners like to hear new and different things and guests are our best source of new and different. In addition to guest appearances, staff that does not always get a chance to appear often provides a high likelihood of an unusual number of listeners. As we roll out new staff members in the future the Podcast will be one of the ways we can introduce them to the industry.



In-Person Education

We continued in-person education throughout the growing season. These events conclude as growers harvest September, October and November. In July we had 4 coffee pot meetings and one virtual coffee pot meeting. We held Coffee pot meetings in 4 different counties this quarter. CLEREL also hosted an H2A learning session on July 11th. We were hosted by the Erie County Horticultural Society at gravel pit park. This large event in North East, PA is well attended by Chautauqua County growers. To conclude the season a field day tour of CLEREL took place on August 31st. CLEREL and LERGP hosted a visit to educate legislators and their staff on an agricultural tour through the region during the harvest season.



Vineyard Improvement Program

During this third quarter of 2022 there were no additional applicants to the Vineyard Improvement Program. Four additional potential applicants were interested in the program, but they did not submit applications. Much of the conversations centered around the uncertainty of the duration of the program. The money remaining is sufficient to support these programs, but we have been uncertain how to proceed – if there will/will not be an extension granted allowing all of the work to be completed. Scenarios have been presented for most of the current applicants to help them to determine how to proceed with their projects.

There were no initial site visits during this quarter. 7 other site visits were conducted to check progress of projects and answer questions. Two of these visits were final site visits which are expected to be wrapped up within the coming weeks. There were no reimbursements submitted/completed during this quarter.

A final expense sheet and new map were created and sent to the applicant for approval to be sent in the next quarter.

By the end of the third quarter we are finally able to tell the applicants that there will be an extension of the grant and that the work can be completed in the coming year. No details have been finalized at this point.



NEWA

There have been a number of maintenance issues for the stations across the Lake Erie Regional grape belt. From battery replacements, to wasp nests, to plugged rain buckets, these issues have been dealt with in a timely manner as they arose.

We were able to replace two of our aging stations with new Rainwise AgroMet stations. These were deployed at the Harborcreek and North East Escarpment sites. These new stations will allow us to collect reliable weather data that is then used in the models on newa.cornell.edu.

At the end of this quarter we have been trying to trouble shoot some connection problems with the Brant station. The data logger has been shipped to Onset for service and we hope to get it back up as soon as possible. In the interim, you can access estimated data by going to newa.cornell.edu and entering Brant in the station search bar.

Grape Commodity Survey

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program works in conjunction with the NYS IPM program to trap for three invasive species that are not known to be present in this area. The Grape Commodity Survey in the Lake Erie Region began by setting up the traps on June 6th. 108 traps were 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 remained in the vineyards and nurseries for 14 weeks and were serviced (surveyed for the presence of moths) every two weeks for a total of 7 times. Traps were removed September 12th to avoid problems with harvest (there were a few trap casualties).

Over the course of the survey zero target moths were detected but collected 3,323 other moths.

In addition the grape programs were tasked with scouting for the various life stages of the Spotted Lanternfly during the survey. None have been found in the region to date, and we are continuing to scout.

Publications - Lake Erie Vineyard Notes Newsletters (1) and LERGP Crop Updates (13)

Podcasts(10) - 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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