

# Cornell Cooperative Extension

## Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

Fourth 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



### Winter Conference Series Part #1

#### 2023 Pest Management Spray Schedule – What's Your Plan?

This was the first session of the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Winter Conference Series. This series is in direct response to grower request for a hybrid model with both, virtual and in-person, programming. The timing of this program was to allow for growers to make changes to their pesticide management practices before purchasing product for the following year's growing season. Bryan Hed, a plant pathologist with

Penn State University, presented on all the chemical classes and how the older materials compare to the newer materials that might be considered 'Cadillac' spray materials. Bryan talked about what to use under each phenological stage. He also presented the research trials that demonstrated a clear difference in powdery mildew control between programs of old and new materials and presented the economics of each program with little variation, making the connection to switch to newer, more efficient materials especially at critical times for fruit protection. Dr. Katie Gold, Cornell University's Grape plant pathologist, presented her extension talk on biopesticides and what they are, what can they do, what can't they do, etc. Her research of different biopesticides and how they can be incorporated into an Integrated Pest Management Program to aid in resistance management and sustainability of chemicals available. She also explained how and why certain chemicals work on different pathogens. This program was well attended with 66 participants.

### Business Education

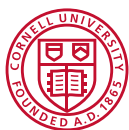
Through all of our communication tools, mentioned by other educators, business concerns this quarter have been similar to the wider economy. Growers have needed to prepare for harvest labor shortages by increasing wages, advertising wider and investing in capital that decreases labor.

One on one consultations have been much more frequent this quarter. Significantly more growers (15+ farms) are using additional available capital to invest as an attempt to control future increases in input costs.

### RISK Management Education

Presentations on risk management are ongoing. The two major themes include legal structures for executing intergenerational transfer with minimal risk. This presentation was given at the Chautauqua County Agricultural Forum and is planned for other events as well. The specific topic was well received based on discussion and feedback, specifically relative to other possible topics in the succession planning theme.

6592 West Main Rd. Portland, NY 14769 - Phone: 716.792.2800



Cornell University



PennState Extension

## Vineyard Improvement Program

By the end of the year there are a total of 38 applicants to the Vineyard Improvement Program, 22 of which have been completed. During the last quarter of 2022 six reimbursements were finalized and payments requested. In order to get those projects finalized there were final site visits, final expense sheets created, and lots of communication to each applicant to ensure everything was correct and approved.

In addition there were 2 new applicants to the program – one from Niagara county and one from Chautauqua County. With these two new applicants, it brings the total Concord grape acreage enrolled in the program to approximately 350 acres (an additional 90 acres is uncertain due to lack of communication). The replanted agricultural crops have varied greatly and include field crops, cover crops, hay fields, pasture, apple trees, wine grapes, table grapes, and even Concord grapes.

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



Figure 1 Before VIP



Figure 2 After VIP



## NEWA

The Brant station continues to be inactive due to data logger problems and is currently unsearchable on NEWA due to the length of the outage. The data logger is currently at Onset Computer Corp. being repaired. In addition there were stations that required battery replacement, motherboard replacement, rain sensor troubleshooting as well as temperature/relative humidity sensor troubleshooting. By the end of the quarter most problems had been solved with the exception of Brant, and the temperature sensor for the Silver Creek (RT 5) station.

At the end of this quarter there are 6 stations in the Finger Lakes region that are either inactive or experiencing connection issues due to aging stations.

Publications - Lake Erie Vineyard Notes Newsletters (1) and LERGP Crop Updates (6)

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>

Like us on Facebook - Cornell-Lake-Erie-Research-and-Extension-Laboratory and EfficientVineyard