

2016 Year In Review



The Finger Lakes Grape Program (FLGP) is a regional extension program of Cornell Cooperative Extension, serving the grape and wine industry of the Finger Lakes where more than 300 farms produce over 125 varieties of grapes from approximately 10,000 acres of vineyards. The FLGP provides unbiased, research-based information to the industry in all areas of grape production including vineyard and pest management practices, vineyard nutrition and soils, new vineyard establishment, and farm business management as a means of supporting the industry's growth and long-term sustainability.

Every grape grower knows that the weather conditions that influence each vintage in the Finger Lakes can vary drastically from one year to the next. For proof, look no further than 2016. Following a wet, cold year in 2015, over the span of the next 12 months we had one of the warmest winters on record (except for one night in mid-February), followed by one of the driest and warmest growing seasons in 50 years.

Whether it's drought in the summer or extreme cold in the winter, the FLGP continues to work on providing vital information to grape growers in the Finger Lakes about how to improve practices on their farms to increase productivity, quality and profitability.

Inside, you will find short summaries of just a few of the things that kept us busy this year, including field projects, Tailgate Meetings, and our new Grapes & Wine Classifieds site. We were fortunate to have two excellent co-workers with us in the field this year. Corrigan Herbert was our summer intern from the Viticulture & Wine Technology program at FLCC who helped us out with a number of projects. Donald Caldwell came aboard to work with us on our annual invasive pest survey and provided another experienced set of hands for our other projects this year as well. I greatly appreciated their hard work this year on behalf of the Grape Program.

Finally, I want to thank all of the growers who have supported the FLGP over the past year, whether by allowing us to collect samples or run trials in their vineyards, hosting a Tailgate Meeting, or by enrolling in the Grape Program. We hope that the FLGP continues to be a vital source of information for the grape growers of this region. If you have thoughts or feedback on how we can better serve the region's growers, please feel free to contact me or any of the members of the Advisory Committee, who are listed on the back page, to let us know how we can best meet the industry's needs.

Hans Walter-Peterson

Team Leader



Pictured (left to right): Donald Caldwell, Gillian Trimber, Hans Walter-Peterson, and Corrigan Herbert



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Tailgate Meetings Bring Vital Information to Growers

For the past four years, the Finger Lakes Grape Program has hosted informal 'Tailgate Meetings' at vineyards across the Finger Lakes. These meetings were held every two weeks during the growing season, allowing for plenty of opportunity to address issues as they emerged throughout the season. Ten meetings were held in total, and attendance at those meetings increased by 25% over those held in 2015.

As the drought deepened in the Finger Lakes, the Tailgate Meetings provided a forum for growers to discuss challenges they were facing on their farms as those problems were developing, leading to prompt implementation of solutions. The meetings allowed FLGP educators and Cornell viticulture researchers to help 199 grape growers and other members of the community recognize symptoms of drought stress, share strategies to mitigate drought effects, and have their questions answered. Six growers reported making changes on their farms to deal with drought stress as a direct result of what they learned. Of the meeting participants that responded to a follow-up survey about this year's meetings, 89% reported learning new information at a meeting, and over 90% stated that based on their experience they would attend a Tailgate meeting in the future. Several participants expressed appreciation of the grower-to-grower interactions they had. One respondent wrote, "Thanks for the great season. Very good info in a difficult year."



Monitoring for Invasive Vineyard Pests

The Finger Lakes Grape Program, in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension's NYS IPM Program and grape programs in other regions of the state, once again participated in the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS). The project was managed by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Division of Plant Industry and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), with the goal of monitoring agricultural areas for invasive insects, plants, and diseases.



This summer and fall, our field technician, Don Caldwell, drove across the six counties of our region every two weeks to check over 150 traps placed in grape nurseries and vineyards for the presence of European Grapevine Moth (*Lobesia botrana*), European Grape Berry Moth (*Eupoecilia ambiguella*), Light Brown Apple Moth (*Epiphyas postvittana*), and Vine Mealybug (*Planococcus ficus*), as well as to conduct visual inspections for Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*). In addition to insect pests, Don and our team monitored for two phytoplasma diseases, Australian Grapevine Yellows and Grapevine Flavescence Dorée, and sampled eighteen locations for fourteen different viruses, including Grapevine Red Blotch Associated Virus and Grapevine Leafroll Associated Virus.

None of the vineyards and nurseries monitored for insect pests showed evidence of the target invasive insect species, but thirty of the 174 leaf samples taken across the region tested positive for viruses. Though the presence of infected vines in the area is concerning, this information is invaluable to growers so that they can make informed management decisions. With early knowledge of where problematic species and diseases are located, more targeted control measures become possible. Having Don join our team for the summer allowed us to extend our reach, bring critical information on pest and disease pressure to growers.

Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard

Established in 2012, the Finger Lakes Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard is a collaboration between the Finger Lakes Grape Program and Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC) to provide an interactive, hands-on space for learning how to grow grapes on a commercial scale. August 2016 brought plenty of recognition for the quality of this project. 'Gather', a 2015 dry Riesling produced by FLCC Viticulture and Wine Technology students from grapes grown at the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard was awarded 'Best Limited Production Wine' at the New York Wine and Food Classic.



This year's student intern and Nelson J. Shaulis scholar, Corrigan Herbert, spent the summer both caring for the vines in the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard and conducting her own research project evaluating a promising Cornell Breeding Program variety, NY 81.0315.17. In the true extension spirit, Corrigan's internship was a hybrid of university-level research and on-the-ground fieldwork. The Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard offered ample opportunity for both. After completing her time with the FLGP, Corrigan continued her project by making wine from NY81.0315.17 and its parent varieties to compare the three as part of her FLCC Enology coursework.

Members of the local grape industry and general public use the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard to learn new skills and strategies. With 16 different grape varieties, four different vine training systems, and a range of trellising, irrigation, bird deterrent, cover-cropping and vigor management techniques in place, growers can check out viticulture methods they might use in person before implementing them on their own farms. Those considering starting a vineyard are introduced to the trade in workshops and consultations with FLCC staff held at the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard. This year, FLGP workshops and tours held at the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard were attended by approximately 60 industry members and new growers.

Thanks to the New York Wine and Grape Foundation for providing financial support for the Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard.

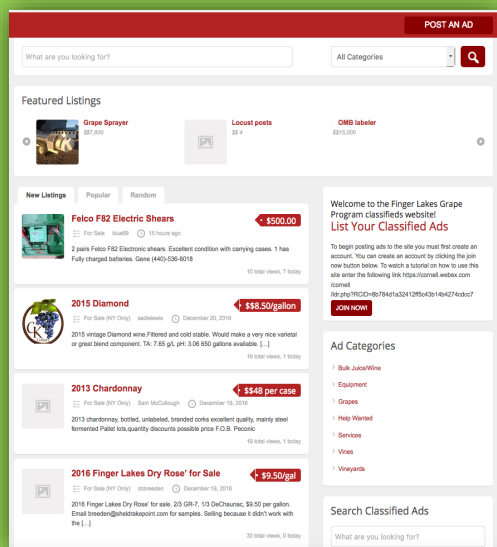
2016 Finger Lakes Teaching and Demonstration Vineyard Stats:

- 17,657 lbs of fruit
- \$5,000 worth of fruit donated to FLCC
- 23 hands-on classes

Revamped Grape & Wine Classifieds System

The New York Grapes & Wine Classifieds online system was developed to enable members of the NY grape and wine industry to find the people, products and services that they need for their business. The site has been responsible for more than \$6 million in economic activity since its introduction in 2010. In the past couple of years, however, the site had become plagued with spam and other security issues, as well as a gradual breakdown of the operating software itself, which made managing it burdensome to the FLGP.

In 2016, the FLGP developed a new site which has greatly improved security and operating efficiency, reduced 'spam' ads on the site, and provides users with new tools to better manage their own ads. These changes will allow the FLGP to continue to provide this valuable service to the industry with much less ongoing oversight than the previous system. The new site remained as active in 2016 as the previous version, with over 275 ads posted since the site was launched in March. The initial feedback we have received from users is that most of them find the new system easier to use.



ENROLL IN THE FLGP

Enrolling in the FLGP gives growers access to research-based information that enhances productivity, profitability, and sustainability of the grape industry in the Finger Lakes region.

Benefits of enrollment in the FLGP include:

- *Finger Lakes Vineyard Update* – our weekly electronic newsletter sent every week during the growing season.
- *Veraison to Harvest* - weekly updates on fruit maturity and other harvest-related information leading up to and during harvest season.
- *Finger Lakes Vineyard Notes* – newsletter with articles written by extension staff and researchers from the FLGP, Cornell, and other organizations.
- Important announcements about upcoming events, meetings and workshops.

For more information or to enroll online, visit <http://flgp.cce.cornell.edu/enrollment>.



FLGP Industry Advisory Committee Members

Ontario County

Eric Amberg, Grafted Grapevine Nursery
Rich Jerome, Jerome's U-Pick Fruit Farm

Schuyler County

John Santos, Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards
Tina Hazlitt, Sawmill Creek Vineyards

Seneca County

Cameron Hosmer, Hosmer Winery
Bill Dalrymple, Dalrymple Farm

Steuben County

Matt Doyle, Doyle Vineyard Management
Mel Goldman, Keuka Lake Vineyards

Wayne County

David Smith, Smith Brothers Farm
Serena Michels, White Pine Vineyard

Yates County

Harry Humphreys, Humphreys Vineyard
Eileen Farnan, Barrington Cellars

Other Members

Rich Stabins, Constellation Brands (processor representative)
Gregg McConnell, Farm Credit East (financial representative)
Derek Wilber, Swedish Hill Winery (winemaker representative)
Justine Vanden Heuvel, Cornell University (faculty representative)
Chris Gerling, Cornell University (Enology Extension)

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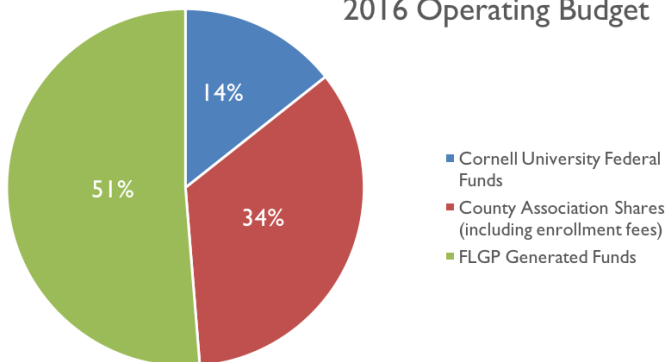
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2016 Operating Budget



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