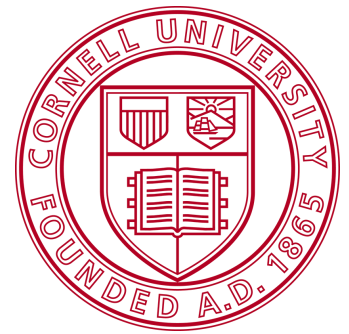


Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program



Q1 2024

Quarterly Highlights



Chris Gerling, enology extension educator, addresses the audience at Day 2 of B.E.V. NY 2024.

Program Highlights

The annual B.E.V. NY conference was held at the Hotel Canandaigua on March 5-6, 2024. The conference was attended by over 250 grape growers, winemakers and other industry members, where they heard from both experts and their peers about a wide range of topics across business, enology and viticulture.

The FLGP has received funding for several projects in the upcoming growing season, both as lead investigators and as cooperating partners. The FLGP portion of the funding from these projects totals approximately \$43,000.



B.E.V. NY 2024

This year's B.E.V. NY conference was held at the new Hotel Canandaigua in Canandaigua, NY on March 5-6, 2024. After returning in 2023 in a hybrid format, this year's conference was held only as an in-person event. The conference was also reduced from its traditional three-day format to two days, which turned out to be popular with both attendees and exhibitors.

Although the conference had one less day, there were still sessions focused on the three primary themes of the event – business, enology and viticulture. Business presentations included a summary of the current state of the craft beverage industry in the U.S. by Kathy Kelley, professor of horticultural marketing at Penn State University, and a two-part session focused on the changing dynamics of the wine market in the Northeast, featuring an all-female panel of industry members from across New York.

The afternoon of Day 1 featured split sessions for enology and viticulture topics. The Enology session included discussions on two increasingly important topics for the industry – how grapes absorb compounds from the environment (like smoke taint and other volatile compounds), and the potential for new nutritional labeling requirements for wines. The viticulture session provided updates on important pest management issues including the management of grape diseases with “biological” pesticides, new technologies for weed management, and how cultural practices play a role in controlling diseases.

The second day of B.E.V. NY was designed to focus on issues that are of importance to both grape growers and winemakers, such as changing labor regulations, harvest logistics, and a discussion about the good, the bad, and the ugly 2023 growing season. The program included speakers and panel members representing academia and the industry from across New York and were well-received overall by the audience based on the evaluations.

Attendees and exhibitors expressed appreciation for the new facility and its convenient location. While a bit smaller than some past locations, the cooperation and hard work of the hotel staff made the event go smoothly, despite a few “first time in a facility” hiccups.

Next year's B.E.V. NY is scheduled for March 4-5, 2025 at the same location.

Presentations

“I’m in a New York State of Mind – About Sour Rot”. Long Island Ag Forum, Riverhead NY. January 10, 2024.

“Managing Grafted Grapevines in Cold Climates: Mission Impossible?” WineVit 2024, Kennewick, WA (remote presentation). February 7, 2024

“Site Selection and Vineyard Design.” Pennsylvania Wine & Grape Conference, State College, PA. February 28, 2024.

“The Finger Lakes Freeze”. Pennsylvania Wine & Grape Conference, State College, PA. February 29, 2024.

Funding Received

The Finger Lakes Grape Program has received funding for participation in several regional and statewide projects in 2024-25.

Improving crop estimation for Concord grape production in the Finger Lakes region

Primary Investigator: Hans Walter-Peterson, Finger Lakes Grape Program
Funded by the NY Wine & Grape Foundation - \$39,849

Continuing Veraison to Harvest Newsletter and Fruit Sampling in 2024.

Primary Investigator: Chris Gerling, Cornell Craft Beverage Institute
Funded by the NY Wine & Grape Foundation - \$30,847

Cold Hardiness Monitoring and Microclimate Optimization of Grapevines in New York 2024-2025

Primary Investigator: Jason Londo, Horticulture Section – Cornell AgriTech
Funded by the NY Wine & Grape Foundation - \$40,220

Increasing the Reliability and Scope of NEWA Weather and Pest Model Information

Primary Investigator: Jennifer Phillips Russo, Lake Erie Regional Grape Program
Funded by the NY Wine & Grape Foundation - \$41,811

Cornell Cooperative Extension Finger Lakes Grape Program

Hans Walter-Peterson -Team Leader
Donald Caldwell- Viticulture Technician
Ellen Coyne - Field Technician
Brittany Griffin - Team Coordinator
<https://blogs.cornell.edu/flxgrapes/>

The Finger Lakes Grape Program is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extension Associations in Ontario, Seneca, Schuyler, Steuben, Wayne and Yates Counties.

