



Lake  
Erie  
Regional  
Grape  
Program

*LERGP Newsletter  
February 2025*

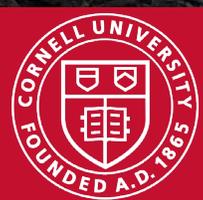
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Lake Erie Regional Grape Program



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In this copy:

**You can still reserve your LERGP 2025 Planning Calendar now!**

**Winter Grape Grower Conference Registration is OPEN!**

**Upcoming Events**

**Coffee Pot Schedule**

**Winter Conference Preview- Andrew Holden**

**Immigration Resources for Farm Employees-Richard Stup**

**Winter Conference Preview, Bud Cold Hardiness- Jennifer Phillips Russo**

**EPA Pesticide Use Affecting Grape Production- Megan Luke**

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*The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program is a Cornell Cooperative Extension partnership between Cornell University and the Cornell Cooperative Extensions in Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara county NY and in Erie County PA.*

LERGP  
Vineyard Planning Calendar  
2025



*You can still contact me to secure your LERGP 2025 Planning Calendar. We are not mailing them but we can arrange for pick up at either the NE Lab or CLEREL. They are only available to those that contact me and make those arrangements.*

*I look forward to hearing from you!*

*-Katie*

## Join the New York Wine & Grape Foundation!

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*- Jim Joy, JM Joy Farms*



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# Upcoming Events

**Thursday, March 20- 8:00am-4:30pm -**

**Winter Grape Grower Conference**-registration is available online at-  
<https://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/>  
or the paper form in this newsletter.

**Wednesday April 2-**

**How to Get Certified (for NYSDEC Pesticide license) Course-**  
9:00am-12:00pm  
<https://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=620>

**Wednesday, April 9- 9:00am- 12:00pm -NYSDEC License Exam**

Register on the NYSDEC web-site -<https://dec.ny.gov/>

**April-ongoing through growing season-**

**On-site sprayer calibration program-** First come -first served-  
you can register at <https://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/> or contact Megan Luke:

Mobile (call or text): (716) 397-9674 (preferred)

Office: (814) 825-0900

Email: [MFL5873@psu.edu](mailto:MFL5873@psu.edu)

**Coffee Pot Season  
begins- May 7- see  
schedule**



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# 2025 LERGP Coffee Pot Meeting Schedule

<b>May 7, 2025 10:00am</b>	<b>Militello Farm Supply 2929 Route 39 Forestville, NY 14062</b>
<b>May 14, 2025 10:00am</b>	<b>Knight Vineyards 18 Shaver St. Ripley, NY 14775</b>
<b>May 21, 2025 9:00am</b>	<b>LERGREC Field Day 662 N. Cemetery Rd, North East, PA 16428</b>
<b>May 28, 2025 10:00am</b>	<b>Paul Bencal 2645 Albright Rd. Ransomville, NY 14131</b>
<b>June 4, 2025 10:00am</b>	<b>Sprague Farms 12435 Versailles Rd. Irving NY 14081</b>
<b>June 11, 2025 10:00am</b>	<b>AgriAmerica 2465 Route 20 Silver Creek, NY 14136</b>
<b>June 18, 2025 10:00am</b>	<b>Arrowhead Winery 12073 East Main St. North East, PA 16428</b>
<b>June 25, 2025 10:00am</b>	<b>Liberty Winery 2861 US Route 20 Sheridan, NY 14135</b>
<b>July 2, 2025 10:00am</b>	<b>Chris &amp; Heather Kaczor 10468 Lake Shore Rd. Irving, NY 14081</b>
<b>July 9, 2025 10:00am</b>	<b>NO COFFEE POT MEETING</b>
<b>July 16, 2025 10:00am</b>	<b>Grower Demo Day at CLEREL 6592 West Main Rd. Portland, NY 14769</b>
<b>July 23, 2025 10:00am</b>	<b>Schulze Vineyards &amp; Winery 2090 Coomer Rd. Burt, NY 14028</b>
<b>July 30, 2025 10:00am</b>	<b>NO COFFEE POT MEETING</b>

# 2025 LERGP Grape Grower Conference

*Thursday, March 20, 2025  
SUNY Fredonia William's Center*

*Registration is open!*



*Come spend the day with your fellow growers, vendors  
and our team!*

*See Jennifer's article for agenda and sneak peek.*

*Register today!*

**LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM  
2025 GRAPE GROWERS' WINTER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

SUNY Fredonia Williams Center

Thursday, March 20, 2025

**Deadline for registration is Friday, March 14, 2025.**

Name (1<sup>st</sup> attendee) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address, City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Are you enrolled in Lake Erie Regional Grape Program (LERGP)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER	REGISTRATION FEES	NON MEMBER
In Person Conf. Only	\$90.00 (\$60.00 addl attendee)	In Person Conf. Only \$125.00

**Additional Attendees:**


\*Please add a **\$25.00 late fee** for each reservation made after March 8, 2024

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable (*US funds only*) to **LERGP (Lake Erie Regional Grape Program)** and mail to:

**Kate Robinson  
LERGP  
6592 W Main Rd  
Portland NY 14769**

<u>Date Ck. Rec'd</u>	<u>Amount</u>

# Business Management

Andrew Holden, Business Management Educator, Penn State University, LERGP

## Farm Management Newsletter

### Winter Conference Preview

With less than a month until our Winter Conference, I wanted to share a brief description of what I plan to cover on March 20<sup>th</sup>. One topic that continued to be brought up over the course of this past year was managing cashflow, especially after over half of our grape belt had significant crop lost due to the late freeze. This disruption of income can have long term impacts to a farming operation, and navigating the following years can be difficult. Even with crop insurance that alleviates some of the strain, farms can still face challenges after a crop lost.

This presentation will look at techniques and considerations for grape growers to help them traverse times of turbulence in growing and/or economic conditions. Additionally, we will explore how farms can make long term plans that both help manage risk and remain profitable over time. One main area of focus will be managing cash flow and best practices for farms to ensure they are able to make payments, buy supplies for the season, and invest in their operation.

I am looking forward to our conference on March 20<sup>th</sup>, and encourage everyone to sign up. See you there!

### Immigration Resources for Farm Employees

By Richard Stup, Cornell University. Permission granted to repost, quote, and reprint with author attribution.

The new presidential administration is clearly increasing immigration law enforcement. Farm employers are advised to get their work authorization procedures in order and prepare for possible workplace enforcement. Farm employees can also take steps to be sure that their rights are protected and that they have plans in place in case they become involved in enforcement actions. New York State Department of Labor recently shared a set of helpful resources for immigrants in multiple languages, linked below. While these resources were originally prepared for New York City, almost all of the content is relevant for people living and working in farms across the state.

- [New York State Immigrant Resource Guide](#)
- [Know Your Rights with ICE](#)
- [Know Your Rights with ICE \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Know Your Rights: Federal Immigration Enforcement \(ICE\) – MOIA](#)

It is critically important for immigrants with families or other dependents in the U.S. to have a plan in case of emergency, including immigration enforcement. The [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#) provides an excellent collection of resources called the [Step-by-Step Family Preparedness Plan](#). Find it here in Spanish: [Plan de Preparación Familiar](#).

The post [Immigration Resources for Farm Employees](#) appeared in The Ag Workforce Journal.

### Mass Federal Firings Hit Agriculture Agencies

By: Ryan Hanrahan

Source: <https://farmpolicynews.illinois.edu/2025/02/mass-federal-firings-hit-agriculture-agencies/>

[Agri-Pulse's Philip Brasher, Noah Wicks, Steve Davies, and Lydia Johnson reported this past week](#) that "the Trump administration's mass firing of probationary federal employees has

**swept out workers across USDA, including loan analysts in Farm Service Agency field offices, ag scientists, and about 1,200 staff of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, according to sources.”**

“The number of firings isn’t known but there are more than 200,000 federal employees nationwide on probationary status, which means they are in their first year of federal employment, or in some cases the first two years,” Brasher, Wicks, Davies and Johnson reported. “Multiple sources told Agri-Pulse on Friday that USDA also is demoting employees who were recently given senior executive service status, which is reserved for top-performing managers just below presidentially appointed positions.”

“Multiple termination notices viewed by Agri-Pulse also include language claiming the firings were based on performance, when in fact the terminations extended to all probationary employees. In addition, employees said they had either received good performance reviews or no formal reviews at all,” Brasher, Wicks, Davies and Johnson reported. “A spokesperson for Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said in a statement to Agri-Pulse that Rollins ‘fully supports President Trump’s directive to optimize government operations, eliminate inefficiencies, and strengthen USDA’s ability to better serve American farmers, ranchers, loggers and the agriculture community.’”

[Reuters’ Timothy Gardner, Leah Douglas and Nathan Layne reported this past Friday](#) that “the firings, reported by Reuters and other major U.S. media outlets, are in addition to the roughly 75,000 workers who have taken a buyout that Trump and Musk have offered to get them to leave voluntarily, according to the White House. That equals about 3% of the 2.3 million person civilian workforce.”

“Trump says the federal government is too bloated and too much money is lost to waste and fraud. The government has some \$36 trillion in debt and ran a \$1.8 trillion deficit last year, and there is bipartisan agreement on the need for reform,” Gardner, Douglas and Layne reported. “...In addition to the job reductions, Trump and Musk have tried to gut civil-service protections for career employees, frozen most U.S. foreign aid and attempted to shutter some government agencies such as the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau CFPB almost entirely.”

### **Firings May Make it Tougher for USDA to Serve Producers, Experts Say**

**“Zach Ducheneaux, who served as FSA administrator during the Biden administration, said the firings of loan officers would likely make it harder for farmers to get USDA loans,”** Brasher, Wicks, Davies and Johnson reported. “Firing local FSA loan officers is not only a waste of taxpayer investment in their training, producers will lose the opportunity to buy a farm or ranch, if not lose their existing farm or ranch,’ Ducheneaux said. ‘They will not be able to get their operating money in a timely fashion. That’s not hyperbole. It is actual, literal fact.’”

“An estimated 40% of USDA loan officers are eligible for retirement, according to a congressional source familiar with USDA. The source said Congress has given FSA \$30 million over the last two years to hire staff to replace those nearing retirement,” [Brasher, Wicks, Davies and Johnson reported](#). “‘FSA has to do this because it is a two-year training cycle for loan officers before they are fully operational. All this talent is now gone,’ the congressional source said.”

“Approximately 1,200 Natural Resources Conservation Services employees are believed to have been fired, according to a source close to the agency who spoke to Agri-Pulse on the condition

of anonymity,” Brasher, Wicks, Davies and Johnson reported. **“The firings will be a setback for NRCS, which has been trying for years to increase its workforce to help producers implement conservation practices. Many of the impacted staff work in county offices, often serving as farmers’ first points of contact when applying for a federal program, the source said.”**

“I think this is a lot of steps backwards in terms of the ability to serve those producers,’ the source said,” according to Brasher, Wicks, Davies and Johnson’s reporting.

### **EPA Fires Nearly 400 Workers**

[Bloomberg’s Ari Natter reported this past Friday](#) that “the Environmental Protection Agency said Friday it had fired 388 workers, part of a wave of terminations across the federal government this week spurred by Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency.”

“The agency added that the probationary workers were terminated after ‘a thorough review of agency functions in accordance with President Trump’s executive orders,’” Natter reported. “‘EPA has followed standard protocols and procedures, ensuring impacted staff received notification of their status,’ the agency said in a statement. ‘President Trump was elected with a mandate to create a more effective and efficient federal government that serves all Americans, and we are doing just that.’”

“Union officials and environmental groups said the decision would hamstring the the functions of the agency, whose air, water, chemical and biofuel regulations touch nearly every sector of the US economy — from mammoth oil refineries to family farms,” Natter reported.

### **Forest Service Fires 3,400 Workers**

[Reuters’ Andrew Hay reported this past Friday](#) that “the U.S. Forest Service is firing around 3,400 recent hires while the National Park Service is terminating about 1,000 under President Donald Trump’s push to cut federal spending, people familiar with the plans said on Friday.”

“The cuts — which represent about 10% percent of the U.S. Forest Service workforce and about 5% of Park Service employees — are part of Trump and his adviser Elon Musk’s campaign to radically cut back the U.S. bureaucracy,” Hay reported. “The Forest Service is excluding firefighters, law enforcement and certain meteorologists from firings, according to Matthew Brossard, who represents the agency’s workers as part of the National Federation of Federal Employees union.” “The U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees the U.S. Forest Service, said it could not comment on personnel matters,” Hay reported.

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Educator

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# Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

## One Stop Shopping for Research-based Information and Pesticide Recertification Credits!

We have an excellent program lined up for the 2025 Winter Grower Conference featuring experts from many fields. The grower advisory panel had many suggestions of important topics that they wanted information from. As always, the day will be full of information on the latest research-based tools that can be taken home and applied to your vineyard.

Our upcoming in-person day is on March 20, 2025, from 8 AM to 4:30 PM. Our regional growers and industry stakeholders come to the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Growers Conference in March of each year to hear the research-based information being developed by Cornell and Penn State faculty and extension staff as well as other speakers from across the country, but many are also looking for those elusive pesticide recertification credits required by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. For those attending this year's conference on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Fredonia State University, you will not be disappointed.

### How Many Credits for In-Person Conference?

One of the questions that the LERGP extension team finds itself answering about the LERGP Growers' Conference is "how many credits are going to be available?" **We have approved for 3.25 NYSDEC pesticide recertification credits** for the in-person date of March 20, 2025, and are applying for PDA credits. The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program's Winter Conference categories 10, 1a, and 22.

Table 1. NYSDEC Pesticide Credit Certification Categories offered at LERGP 2025 Winter Grower Conference

1A - Agricultural Plant	Production of agricultural crops, grasslands, non-crop agricultural lands, sod, flowers and shrubs.
10 - Demonstration & Research Pest Control	Requires concurrent certification in a second category of specialty. This category includes but is not limited to: (1) individuals who demonstrate to the public; and (2) individuals conducting field research.
22 - Fruit	Production of agricultural crops, vegetables, small fruits, tree fruits and nuts, grasslands, non-crop agricultural lands, sod farms and nurseries. Applicants should choose the category based on their primary crop; it is not necessary to hold additional categories within this series

We are also holding our **2025 Pesticide Applicator License Prep Course** on April 2, 2025, from 10 AM to 12 noon at the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory in Portland, NY, that will be **worth NYSDEC Core credits** (PDA Core credits awaiting approval). The following week, anyone wanting to take the **Pesticide Applicator Licensing Examination** will be held at the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory on April 9, 2025.

Check out the summary of the talks below and you will see that not only will you get recertification credits for attending the session, but these talks provide you with the opportunity to get information that you need regarding cash flow in the wake of disaster, Mancozeb discussion, canopy and fruit thinning, SLF updates, what is needed to become compliant with the EPA's Endangered Species

Act regulations changes and label changes, disease identification, disease and pest updates, as well as learn about the information and resources you need to sustain vineyard production. This is your chance to have your voice heard about concerns, questions, and opportunities with researchers and extension faculty. Our program is full of timely and pertinent information to serve as a resource for your vineyard operations. We hope to see you there!

## **2025 Lake Erie Regional Grape Program Winter Grower Conference**

March 20, 2025, from 8 AM to 4:30 PM at:  
WILLIAM'S CENTER  
280 CENTRAL AVE. SUNY FREDONIA CAMPUS  
FREDONIA, NY 14063

6:45 AM – Vendor set up

7:15 AM – Grower Check In/Registration begins

8:00 – 8:30 AM – Welcome by Jennifer Phillips Russo and LERGP Overview

8:30 – 9:00 AM – Andrew Holden, Penn State University Business Management Specialist, Lake Erie Regional Grape Program – Introduction and Survey

Andrew comes to The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program with a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness and Applied Economics and a Master of Science in Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership (ACEL), from Ohio State University. His areas of specialization include, but are not limited to, Farm Business Management, Enology and Viticulture, and Ag/Farm Safety. Sixty percent of Andrew's job description is to provide leadership for planning, implementing and evaluating educational programs that addresses producer identified needs and opportunities.

While vineyards in challenging regions like the eastern US must constantly adapt to shifting conditions - from unpredictable weather patterns to evolving market demands – working through cashflow dynamics is not a straightforward choice. Andrew will guide growers through the critical financial, agricultural, and strategic factors that should inform financial decisions to help weather tumultuous times. The emphasis is on business management for commercial growers and small winery operations. This program will include but not be limited to 1) record keeping and business analysis; 2) economics of production practices; 3) financial management, forms of business organization and taxation; 4) labor management and 5) marketing.

9:00 – 9:15 AM – Kyle Bekelja, New York State IPM Grape Coordinator – Introduction

Kyle is the successful candidate for the NYS Grape IPM Coordinator. He will work with faculty and Cornell Cooperative Extension colleagues to help shape New York's thriving \$6 billion grape industry by expanding knowledge and access to sustainable pest management practices in grape agroecosystems and inspiring and working with diverse audiences and stakeholder communities to address the key issues impacting the state's grape production systems. Kyle's mission is to establish NYSIPM as a trusted authority on pest management strategies that reduce personal and environmental and economic risk for grape growers and producers through program development, implementation, evaluation and applied research.

9:15–9:45 AM – Jennifer Phillips Russo, Extension Associate with Cornell's Lake Erie Regional Grape Program – Spotted Lanternfly Mechanized Harvest Pilot Study

The Penn State and Cornell lanternfly research team/ working group has been working to identify potential risks that will be created in the highly mechanized grape production industry of the Erie region prior to Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) arrival and establishment. A potential risk identified was whether mechanical harvesters would “harvest” SLF present on the vines with the grapes, thus contaminating the harvested crop. In the Southeast region of Pennsylvania, wine grapes are predominately harvested by hand, into small totes, which are then pressed in small batches. Despite SLF being present in high numbers in the vineyards, hand harvesting and multiple points of contact prior to pressing allow for multiple points of SLF removal from the crop. The Lake Erie region of Pennsylvania and New York (approximately 32,000 acres) are predominately harvested utilizing mechanical harvesters. With most mechanically harvested grapes, no human hands touch the crop from the time of harvest through delivery to the processors, eliminating the possibility of SLF removal if SLF were to establish in our region. In general, juice grape growers do not apply insecticides during the fall harvest season as frequently as wine grape growers do, if at all. Jennifer will be presenting information on the data collected in the Spotted Lanternfly Mechanized Harvest Pilot Study that LERGP and PSU conducted in October 2024.

9:45-10:15 AM – Break and Vendor Show

10:15 – 11:15 AM – Dr. Terry Bates, Director of the Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory in Portland, NY, Cornell University – Grapevine Management Thinning Research

The objective of Terry’s research program is to help the New York grape juice industry reach their goal of producing maximum sustainable yield of high-quality fruit through viticulture research and education. We work closely with producers and processors to identify research questions that are applicable to the industry. His team supports the grape industries of western New York and Pennsylvania through Precision Viticulture, Vineyard Mechanization, and Optimized Nutrient Management. Our region is very fortunate to have Dr. Bates conducting research to benefit our growers and improve their operations, but his contribution to our industry does not have borders. Terry’s work is being adopted globally with positive impacts.

The term “alternate bearing” or “biennial bearing”, refers to the phenomenon where a grapevine (or other fruit-bearing plants) produces a heavy crop in one year, followed by a reduced crop the following year. This cycle can be influenced by various factors, including environmental conditions and the plant’s energy reserves. Due to the large frost event in the 2024 growing season and subsequent low yields for most of our eastern grape growing region, it can be anticipated that the rested vines may have a heavy crop this growing season. Canopy management is necessary for crop balance and the grower must apply viticultural practices to guide the vine and fruit into balance, with the result being perfectly mature fruit. Canopy/fruit management goals make us more consistently successful in our pursuit of efficient production of economically viable yields of grapes over the long term. Dr. Terry Bates will discuss research in both canopy and fruit management to help make informed decisions for this coming growing season.

11:15 – 11:55 AM – Dr. Katie Gold, Assistant Professor and Susan Eckert Lynch Faculty Fellow, School of Integrative Plant Science, Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology Section, Cornell AgriTech

Dr. Kaitlin (Katie) Gold is an Assistant Professor of Grape Pathology in the Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology Section of the School of Integrative Plant Science at Cornell University where she holds primary research and extension responsibilities for grape disease management in New

York State. Dr. Gold's Grape Sensing, Pathology, and Extension Lab at Cornell (GrapeSPEC) studies the fundamental and applied science of plant disease and plant-microbe interaction sensing to improve integrated grape disease management. The Gold Lab specializes in the use of in situ and imaging spectroscopy (also known as hyperspectral imaging) deployed at a range of spatial scales, from proximal, autonomous rovers to spacecraft, to characterize asymptomatic disease physiology and the impacts of management intervention on early grape disease detection.

Katie holds primary responsibility for grape disease management outreach and education in New York state via her 40% extension appointment. Learn how she is working Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, to ensure our concerns with the loss of Mancozeb would be detrimental to our industry. New York is the third largest producer of wine and juice grapes in the US, consisting of ~1400 farms spread across almost 40,000ac in four major production zones. Katie will give us an introduction into the work that her lab carries out and connect personally to our industry to listen to our needs and how we can direct research to continue sustainability into the future.

11:55 – 12:10 – Kim Knappenberger, Cornell Extension Support Specialist, Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

Kim Knappenberger will present on the NEWA | Network for Environment and Weather Applications updates, how this resource can help inform your management decisions, and how our team supports this effort to provide support to our growers. Weather stations, primarily located on farms, deliver data to the NEWA website, which automatically calculates and displays weather data summaries, crop production tools, and IPM forecasts. Pest Forecast Models, in 2007, users reported that they can save, on average, \$19,500 per year in spray costs and prevent, on average, \$264,000 per year in crop loss as a direct result of using NEWA pest forecast models.

12:15 – 1:45 PM – Lunch and Vendor Show

1:45 - 2:30 PM – Dave Combs, Cornell Research Support Specialist in Dr. Katie Gold's Lab

Dave Combs is responsible for anything and everything related to the Cornell's 4 acres of pathology vineyards, including our annual fungicide efficacy studies for grapevine powdery mildew, downy mildew, black rot, and Botrytis bunch rot. Dave has vast field experience gained over his 26 years working for Cornell managing applied field programs ranging from tree fruit insecticide trials to vineyard fungicide trials. He is responsible for all applications, scouting, data collection, analysis and reports in the annual efficacy testing experiments. Dave is the 'jack of all trades' in the lab and pitches in where he is needed. This also includes precise image annotation for training the autonomous robot, lab ordering and inventory, greenhouse duties and field equipment maintenance and operation. Dave has robust background in viticulture and previously taught Integrated Pest Management at Finger Lakes Community College. Dave's presentation is on disease identification and management strategies.

The most important step in making sure that you are able to control a disease is to make sure that you are using the correct material/technique for that particular pathogen. Proper identification will be key in making sure that you are using the correct tool for the job. Dave's presentation will walk us through grapevine diseases and pathogens that move from early to late season, what is active when different stages of the disease as it advances, and he will demonstrate comparisons of diseases that can appear similar. It is our intentions to have attendees leave this presentation confident in disease identification for strategic management.

2:30 - 3:00 PM – Megan Luke, Penn State University's Extension Educator in Viticulture and Small Fruits, Lake Erie Regional Grape Program – Back to Basics for Pesticide Application

Megan Luke holds a M.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies: IPM and Agroecology from California State University, Chico. Her areas of expertise include the implementation of IPM principles in perennial crop systems, orchard, and vineyard management practices, pesticide application strategies including variable rate mapping and equipment calibration, entomology including identification and trapping methodologies of agricultural pests, invasive species management, weed science, and PPE training. She holds a public pesticide applicator license in PA (#103136) in Category 18.

Megan will present on how Lake Erie Regional Grape Growers can remain confident in their pesticide application strategies and remain in compliance with changing pesticide label regulations. Megan will discuss best practices for record-keeping, including new Endangered Species Act mitigation measures and Bulletins, weather documentation, and equipment calibration. She will review the components of an IPM plan and discuss how recording day-to-day farm practices can aid growers during normal compliance checks.

3:00 – 3:15 PM – Break and Vendor Show

3:15 – 3:50 PM – Bryan Hed, Penn State University Research Pathologist at Lake Erie Research Laboratory, North East, PA – What does the future of disease control in grapes look like?

Bryan will present on the potential future in grape disease management with the loss of chemicals and resistance. He will present options and evoke inquiry about new and old chemical classes and their potential to fill gaps in current programs. Brian will also present on his spray management program for disease on Riesling that he concluded.

3:55 – 4:30 PM – Greg Loeb, Cornell University Professor, Department of Entomology, Cornell AgriTech

The overall goal of Greg's research program is to understand the principal forces that influence the population dynamics and species interactions of herbivores in agricultural and natural ecosystems and use this information to devise and implement multi-tactic pest management programs. His areas of research expertise include plant-arthropod interactions, biological control, chemical ecology and integrated pest management. Greg's more basic research is focused on how host plant traits and other environmental factors influence interactions between plants and their herbivores, and herbivores and natural enemies. His more applied research program focuses on the ecology and integrated control of specific arthropod pests of grapes and small fruit crops.

Greg's goal in extension is to translate and transfer results of applied research on pest biology and control to our grower clientele so that they will be better informed and better able to make sound pest management decisions. Educating growers and pest control advisors as to the proper and effective use of pesticides is an important aspect of my responsibilities. In addition, however, I include other approaches to pest control such as the use of predators and parasites, manipulation of pest behavior, cultural techniques and host plant resistance. Greg's presentation will speak about the management of Spotted Lanternfly with focus on insecticides. And he will update us on research with drosophila and sour rot.

4:30 PM – Close

## In the Vineyard

This dormant season has been reminiscent of years past with cold temperatures and heavy snowfall. The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program and Dr. Jason Londo have been monitoring cold hardiness in our region since 2019. Dr. Londo manages the Cornell grapevine cold hardiness monitoring program and [associated website](#). His current research is focusing on understanding aspects of winter hardiness and spring deacclimation in apples and grapes to identify the rootstocks and scion combinations that provide the greatest resistance to early winter warming conditions.

Jason's extension program goals are to provide research driven-tools and information to the New York fruit crop industry focusing on adapting crops to climate-change-induced environmental stress. He works collaboratively with other faculty members, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and stakeholders to identify climate induced disorders, develop mitigation methods, and improve the resilience and sustainability of fruit crop production through applied research.

One of our collaborations includes monitoring grapevine cold hardiness. The following is the context from the New York Wine and Grape Foundation grant: Winter and spring temperature profiles departing from the range of variability the New York climate regions had experienced from the mid-1950s to the 1990s. In 2012, unseasonably warm temperatures in March prompted the earliest budburst in history and led to a series of post-budburst frost events that reduced the Concord crop by 25%. While 15 of the last 16 years have seen global temperature records, January 2014 brought the arctic vortex south, and with it several sub-zero temperature episodes, with significant bud and trunk injury to Niagara grapes, some hybrids and *V. vinifera* in western and central New York. In 2015, a cold spell brought temperatures down to -22 to -29 °F in mid-February. Since the winters of 2016-2017, midwinter-low temperatures have been more moderate, with only modest levels of bud injury. Both mid-winter lows and spring frost injury are key concerns to our grape growers.

The Lake Erie Regional Grape Program has equipment (freezers and data acquisition units) to use Digital Thermal Analysis (DTA) at the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory (CLEREL). The DTA unit at CLEREL allows the research and extension team to process extension samples at CLEREL and do more frequent and detailed evaluations. A major goal is to document how crop adjustment and crop load impacts bud hardiness and potential crop of Concord and Niagara grapes – and thereby evaluate the economic risks of over cropping and potential freeze damage based on production practices. This information would allow grape growers to adjust practices and respond to climatic events.

results from the midwinter LTE measurements gave growers an early warning and 'heads-up' to growers to do extensive bud injury surveys in their vineyards and adjust pruning levels accordingly. Regional extension programs in Lake Erie, Finger Lakes, and Hudson Valley, followed up with extensive bud collections and evaluations in March 2014. The documentation of the severity and extent of bud injury led to efforts by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) to evaluate the probable extent of crop loss and winter injury in 2014, to allow farm wineries to purchase grapes out of state. This was again pursued in 2015, with determination by NYSDAM that significant injury was limited to a few varieties and geographical areas but didn't reach 40% crop reduction statewide. The past three winters (2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019) had no significant winter low temperatures, and minimal bud injury was observed.

There were many objectives of this research including weekly monitoring of LTE's during acclimation, dormancy, and deacclimation across the Lake Erie, Finger Lakes, and Hudson Valley

grape regions. Another objective was to post the data to the at [Click Here for the Cold Hardiness Website](#), where winter hardiness data from differential thermal analysis has been shared with industry since 2009, and is posted continually during the dormant season, providing growers with up to date information about potential winter injury to buds. Dr. Londo and his lab were tasked to develop a temperature-driven model that is based on real measurements of the physical response of vines to different de-acclimation temperatures. They used data collected from this project to validate the model, which provides New York and Pennsylvania growers with accurate predictions of bud freezing temperatures (based on daily min/max temperatures) and is accessible regionwide through the NEWA weather site. [Click Here for NEWA Cold Hardiness Risk Assessment Tool](#). **Use with caution. This model is for demonstration and testing purposes.** Check with your local extension or university specialist before making management decisions. *Updated 1/9/2025.*

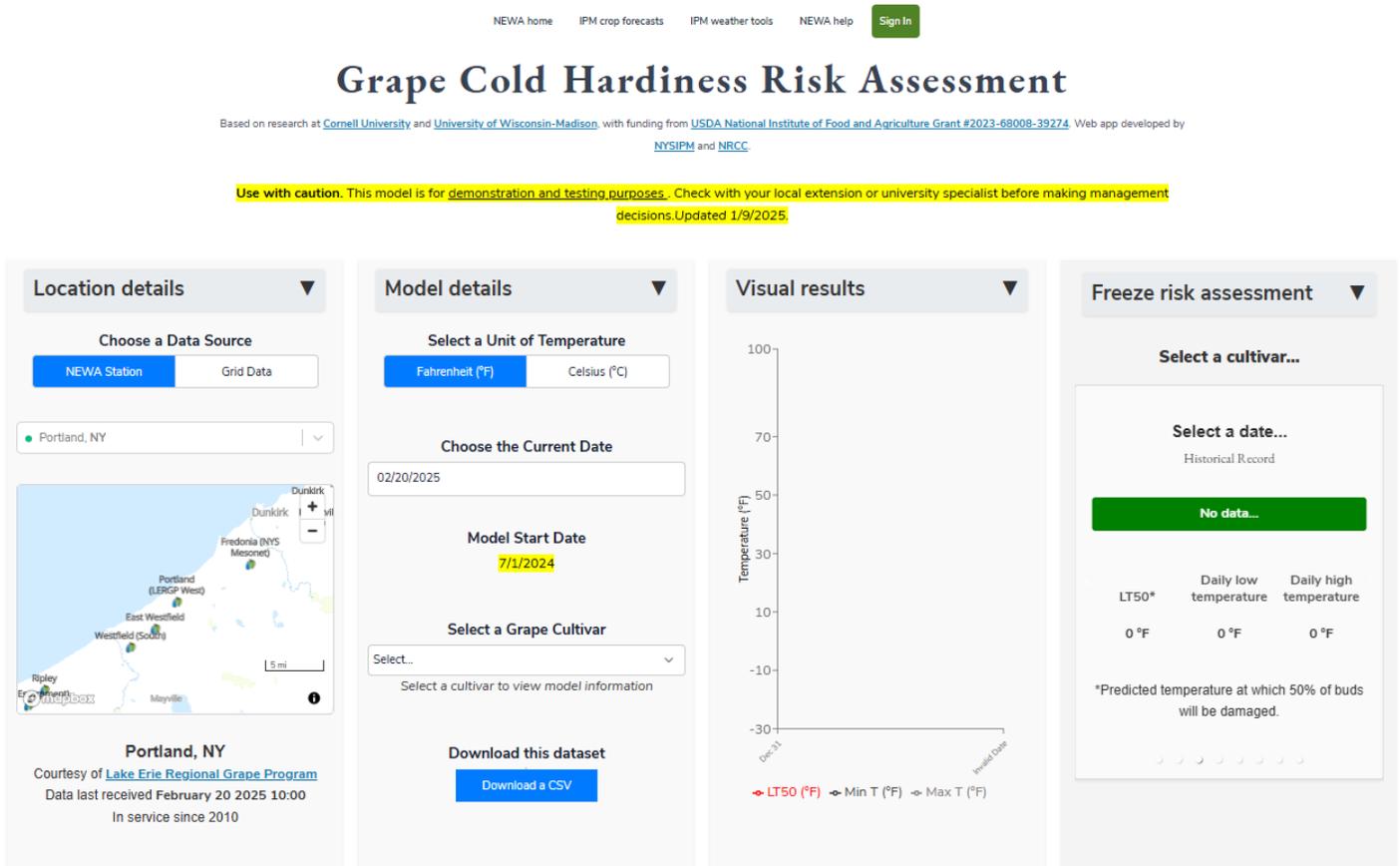


Figure 1. Screenshot of the NEWA Cold Hardiness Risk Assessment Tool Website

The Figure 2 below is the screenshot of the Concord cold hardiness model on the cold hardiness website ([Click Here for the Cold Hardiness Website](#)). The data collected from February 20, 2025, has Concord grapes hardy up to LTE50 of -22.36 °F.

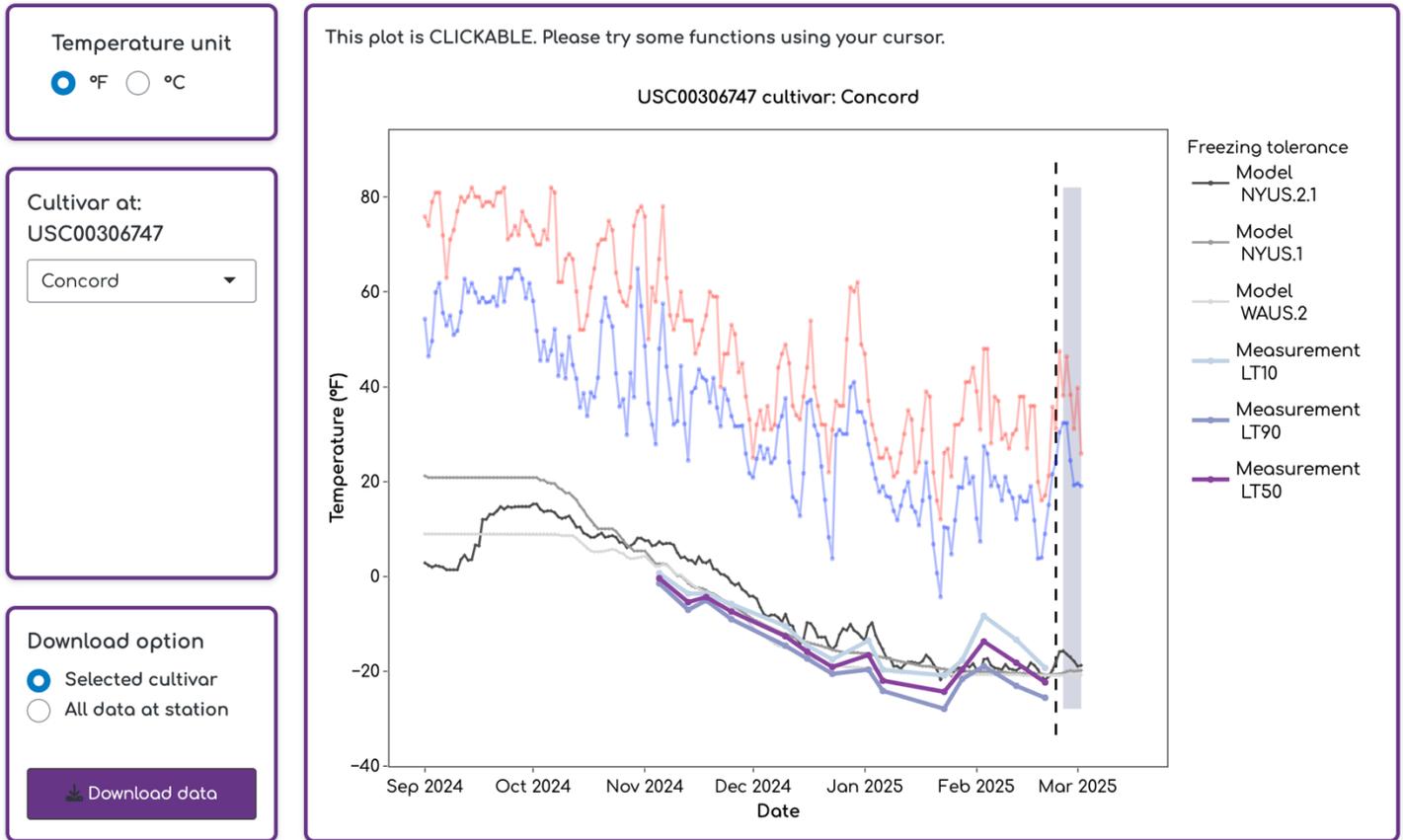


Figure 2. Screenshot of Cold Hardiness model for Concord on February 20, 2025.

Figure 3 below is a screenshot of the Network of Environmental Weather Applications, NEWA, forecast for Portland, NY, for the upcoming days. Based off the model and NEWA websites, Concord grapes should be safe from the cold temperatures that we have been experiencing at this point in the dormant season. Please use the websites to look at your cultivars and weather stations to help inform your vineyard management.

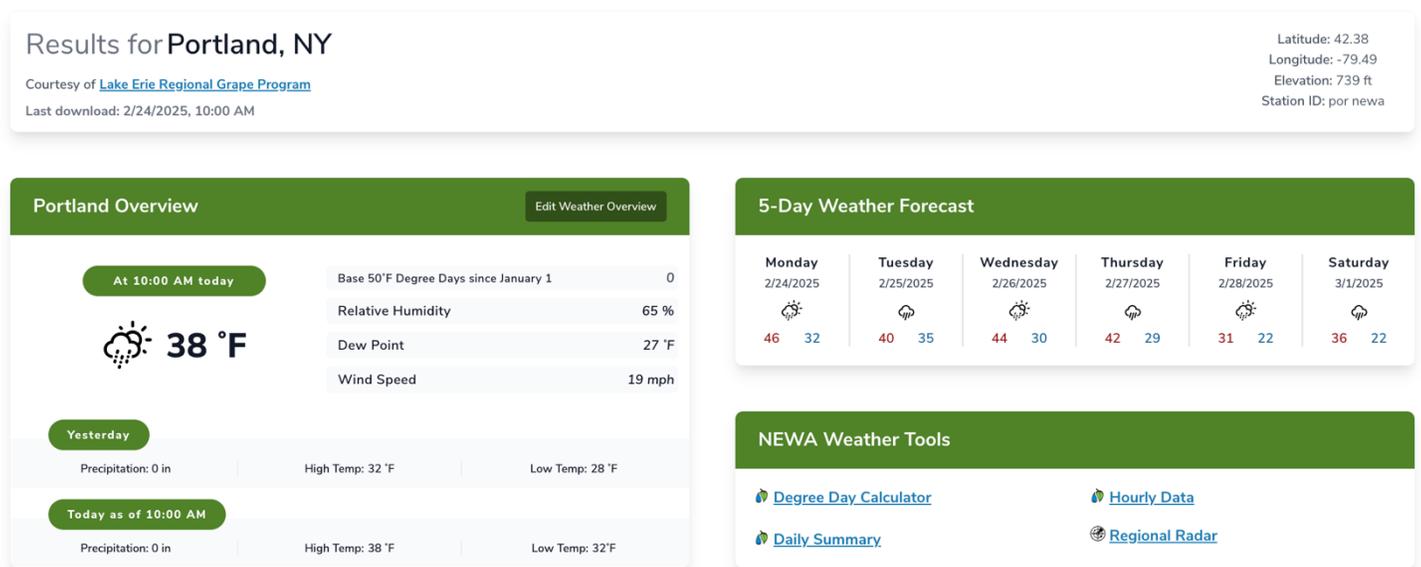
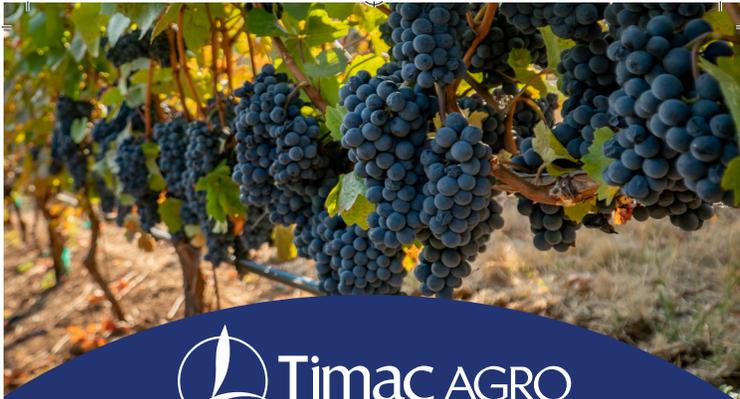


Figure 3. Screenshot of the NEWA weather forecast for Portland, NY, on February 24, 2025.



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## WHEN:

April 2, 2025  
10am - Noon

## WHERE:

Cornell Lake Erie Research  
& Extension Laboratory  
6592 W Main Road  
Portland, NY 14769

## EXAM DATE:

April 9, 2025  
10:00am Start Time  
Same Location

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

NYS Pesticide  
Laws & Regulations

Certification  
Requirements

Certification Exam  
Process

EPA Worker Protection  
Standard (WPS)

## SAME-DAY EXAM REG.

\$100 Exam Fee (Payable  
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Kate Robinson  
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# PA Update

Megan Luke, Penn State Extension Viticulture and Tree Fruit Educator

## **Registration for the on-site calibration program is open for spring 2025.**

On-site visits begin in April! Please contact Megan Luke or register through the LERGP website soon to secure your spot. This program is free of charge for NY or PA LERGP members within the Lake Erie region.

## **EPA Pesticide Use Updates Affecting Grape Production**

The EPA has released its final decision regarding herbicide use mitigation measures and changes to the re-registration and labeling process. In addition, the EPA has recently released a similar report for ALL insecticide registrations and registration reviews that are similar in scope and execution to the herbicide strategy. Several significant changes to pesticide labels are being rolled out beginning in late 2024. Specifically, there is a new requirement to check their Bulletins Live! 2 website before all herbicide and insecticide applications (when required by the label) and the requirement to include documented mitigation strategies when applying herbicides to reduce runoff and drift and/or if the farm operation is within a Pesticide Use Limitation Area (PULA), i.e., critical habitat for one or more endangered species.

These label changes are already going into effect: as pesticides come up for review and re-registration, they will be applied to the updated label. Growers can expect to see these requirements becoming more common each growing season, and they need to become accustomed to looking for the requirements and checking online sources as indicated.

## **List of active ingredients registered in grapes up for review and new labeling in 2025:**

Acetamiprid (Insecticide) EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0329  
Carbaryl (Insecticide) EPA-HQ-OPP-2010-0230  
Benzovidiflupyr (Fungicide) EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0458  
*Bacillus mycooides* isolate J (Fungicide) Docket # TBD  
Dinotefuran (Insecticide) EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0920  
Imidacloprid (Insecticide) EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0844  
Iprodione (Fungicide) EPA-HQ-OPP-2012-0392  
Tebuconazole (Fungicide) EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0378  
Pyrethrin & derivatives (Insecticide) EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0885  
Tetraconazole (Fungicide) EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0061  
Thiamethoxam (Insecticide) EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0581  
Diuron (Herbicide) EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0077  
Oxyfluorfen (Herbicide) EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0778

## **Ongoing review, likely to conclude in 2025:**

**Mancozeb\* (Fungicide)** EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0291  
Proposed cancellation in grapes and increased mitigations in other commodities. Awaiting EPA

responses to public comments, a new comment period should open in late 2025.

### **Ziram\* (Fungicide) EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0568**

Cancelation in all commodities awaiting federal stamp, which marks the start of a 12-month grace period for all remaining products to be sold, used, and/or destroyed

\*Product can be legally used in the 2025 growing season

**These changes to pesticide use requirements require additional record-keeping and research before every pesticide application.**

#### **Key takeaways:**

- Checking the Bulletins Live! website is mandatory if listed on the pesticide label
- The EPA is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create maps of every endangered and protected species in the USA and their critical habitat.
  - Currently, 8 total regions in the USA are designated as Pesticide Use Limitation Areas (PULAs), and this number and the ranges of these designated areas are subject to change.
- Every new herbicide and every herbicide due for re-registration will have a mitigation requirement added to the label
  - Herbicides and insecticides deemed higher risk may require more mitigation tactics to be in place at the time of use
  - Farmers **MUST** demonstrate commensurate mitigation practices to the requirement on the label and/or the Bulletins Live! website (if located within a PULA) to **USE THE HERBICIDE**
- All current information on PULAs and required mitigation practices over and above those on the print label will be hosted **EXCLUSIVELY** on the website
- If your farming operation is within a PULA, you will be required to demonstrate compliance with mitigation measures as defined by the EPA
  - Mitigation measures are outlined in a special bulletin on the EPA's Bulletins Live! website and are required by law as an addendum to the pesticide label
  - Measures will include practices such as cover cropping, conservation tillage, drift reduction practices, contour farming, etc.
  - New buffer zone requirements will be implemented specific to PULA and the associated risk of the product in use
  - In some cases, specific measures **MUST** be employed and clearly described. In other cases, a farmer may demonstrate compliance by utilizing various methods specific to their operation **AND** recognized by the EPA as impactful.

- Methods of enforcing these measures have not been widely discussed, and at this time, compliance will be checked as part of routine state government agency inspections.

Full Herbicide strategy can be found here\*: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0365>

Full Insecticide strategy can be found here\*: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OPP-2024-0299>

EPA’s Bulletin Live! 2 website can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/endangered-species/bulletins-live-two-view-bulletins>

EPA’s Mitigation Menu website can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/mitigation-menu>

PSU Pesticide Education developed this standard recordkeeping form, which can be used by commercial/public applicators, private applicators, and operations covered by the WPS to keep records of all their pesticide applications. Farm operations already keep similar records as per state and federal requirements.

**Pesticide Application Records** Records must be maintained for three years and completed within 24 hours of the pesticide application.

Business/Organization Name:			B.U. #:		Grower Name:				
Date (M/D/Y)	Customer or Grower Name and Address	Applicator/ Technician Name	Brand Name of the Pesticide Used	EPA Registration #	Dosage or Rate Used	Amount of Pesticide Used	Site, Crop, or Commodity Treated <sup>1</sup>	Completion Time (AM/PM)	Notes
Start Time (AM/PM)	Application location if different than above	Applicator Certification # / Technician Registration #		Active Ingredient	Size of Treated Area <sup>1</sup>			Restricted Entry Interval <sup>2</sup> (in hours)	
								AM PM	
AM PM									
								AM PM	
AM PM									
								AM PM	
AM PM									
								AM PM	
AM PM									

<sup>1</sup>Required for the production of an agricultural commodity but recommended for all applications.  
<sup>2</sup>If customer falls under the provisions of the Worker Protection Standard, the restricted entry interval (REI) must be recorded.

In addition to these standard pesticide records, under new EPA label requirements, it will

**be prudent for farmers to keep additional records to maintain their compliance. Use of the mitigation menu and calculator are required.**

Before EVERY pesticide application, you must read the entire pesticide label and check for requirements to access the Bulletins Live! website. Remember that these requirements may not be on the first pages of the label.

1. Determine if you are in a PULA using the Bulletins Live! tools. Print the Bulletins for each pesticide you plan to apply using the EPA Registration number on the label. This can be done up to 6 months in advance. Keep printed Bulletins with your application records.
2. Access the Mitigation Menu and follow the steps to determine if you are subject to mitigation requirements on your operation. If you are exempt, make a note of when you accessed the Mitigation Menu and the reason that you believe that you are exempt.
  - a. For example: *Accessed Mitigation Menu on 5/10/2025. Step 3 Exemption: The areas within 1,000 ft down-gradient from the treated farm/field are entirely managed areas (buildings and building perimeters).*
3. If you are NOT exempt, you must document additional measures commensurate with the number of mitigation points required by the label. This information is on the Mitigation Menu website, scroll down to "Runoff/Erosion Mitigation Options"
  - a. You can use and print the Excel calculator to find your operation's baseline points.
  - b. You can also use the provided online tables to calculate your points manually.
  - c. **BE SURE TO PRINT OR INCLUDE THESE CALCULATIONS WITH YOUR PESTICIDE RECORDS**
4. You can legally apply the pesticide if all mitigation requirements are met either through documented exemptions or meeting the required points OR mandates.

**Documenting your mitigation strategies: Keep these files with your spray records**

**Long-Term Mitigations (Print out photos for difficult to document scenarios)**

- Keep detailed maps of your operation(s)
  - Row orientation
  - Field slope
  - Managed areas
  - Soil types
  - Buildings
  - Conservation easements
  - Roads/access points
  - Water management (retention ponds, ditches, etc.)
  - Hedgerows/Wetlands/Riparian areas
- Spray equipment specifications
  - Precision components
  - Drift reduction technology
  - Nozzle type(s)
  - Calibration dates
  - Service records
  - Nozzle arrangement patterns

## Short-Term Mitigations

- Reduction of max rate or spot treatment
  - Scouting forms and maps of problem pest areas
  - Use of precision technology (dates, % reduction)
- Tillage practices
- Cover cropping
  - Include dates, incorporation practice used, types of seed, receipts
- Irrigation
  - Type, map, rates
  - Sensor use
- Inclusion of adjuvants to reduce drift
- Use of local weather records
  - **KEEP A COPY OF THE MOST LOCAL FORECAST TO YOUR OPERATION WITH YOUR RECORDS FOR EACH SPRAY APPLICATION**
  - 48-hours prior to application, print weather forecast



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This publication may contain pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly, and human errors are still possible. Some materials mentioned may not be registered in all states, may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide use should be directed to the appropriate extension agent or state regulatory agency. Read the label before applying any pesticide. Cornell and Penn State Cooperative Extensions, and their employees, assume no liability for the effectiveness or results of any chemicals for pesticide usage. No endorsements of products are made or implied.

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