2017 LERGP Winter Grape Growers’ Conference is Wednesday, March 15th.

Join us on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 for our Winter Grower Conference. The conference will be held at SUNY Fredonia in the Williams Center. Registration form is available in this mailing, and you can also register online at:
https://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/event_preregistration.php?event=281

The password for the LERGP web-site will be changing in March. If you have not renewed your LERGP membership, please do so through your respective CCE office.
If it has been awhile since you attended a LERGP Growers’ Conference or you have been trying to find a way to explain to fellow growers why attending the conference is a great idea, have we got a video for you! Check out the LERGP Grape Growers’ Conference promo at https://youtu.be/E_b_4sfX6ew to see and hear, first-hand, the sights and sounds of the conference, including interviews with presenters and participants.

The morning session of the Winter Conference will be focused on the SCRI project. See the bios and highlights below:

**Efficient Vineyard, Year One Results** *Dr. Terry Bates – Lake Erie Regional Grape Program, CLEREL Director*

The goal of the Efficient Vineyard project is to identify spatial soil, canopy, and crop patterns in commercial vineyards and to develop potential management maps to improve production efficiency and block profitability. During the first year we used sensor technologies to identify technology gaps and developed novel sensor systems to collect spatial soil, canopy, and crop data in wine, juice, and table grapes. The data was converted into usable viticulture information by relating high density, continuous sensor measurements with stratified manual soil, vine, and fruit sampling and measurement. Vineyard maps were constructed to show relevant vineyard management zones. We tested two variable-rate crop load management systems (shoot thinning and fruit thinning) on a commercial scale that integrated the sensing technologies. Over all, our research has shown that commercial vineyards vary greatly in soil, canopy, and crop characteristics and could benefit, both environmentally and economically, from variable rate management.

**Precision Vineyard Imaging** *Dr. Stephen Nuske, Carnegie Mellon University*

Stephen Nuske is a Systems Scientist at the Robotics Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. He specializes in developing automated computer vision systems for agricultural, industrial and aerial vehicle applications. On the SCRI project Stephen is leading the vineyard sensing theme and a team of researchers at Carnegie Mellon University to develop an high-throughput imaging system to measure vine yield and canopy characteristics.

Up until now growers in the viticulture industry have had a very sparse view of their field making it difficult to manage against variability. The aim of the sensing team is to use automated technology to give growers a vine-to-vine resolution of their field allowing them to be much more efficient in their management and more productive in term of optimizing their fields for yield and fruit quality. One characteristic in vineyards that can now be measured at high resolution is berry size using Carnegie Mellon University’s high resolution imaging units that can size the berries with submillimeter accuracy.
Collecting, Processing and Providing Info for Variable Rate Management Jackie Dresser, Newcastle University and Rhiann Jakubowski, Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

Jackie Dresser is a PhD candidate working on the Spatial Data Processing and Decision Support work package under the leadership of James Taylor, PhD at Newcastle University. While working on the Efficient Vineyard SCRI project, Jackie plans to streamline data processing and help create an application designed for end users to utilize spatial data to inform management decisions. In creating this application, her goal is to prioritize ease of use and ease of interpretation of data for early adopters in the wine, juice, and table grape industries.

Rhiann Jakubowski is a Research Aide at the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory (CLEREL), where her main focus is in sensor technology and spatial data management. As part of the SCRI project, Rhiann collects spatial data via vineyard sensors and then cleans, processes, and transforms the data into a user-friendly output that can then be used as a visual map aide or used for statistical analysis. The sensor data will be evaluated in order to improve vineyard management and production efficiency.

Efficient Vineyard Roundtable Thom Betts and Tracy Beckman and Efficient Vineyard Project Leaders

As sensor technologies take hold in the region, we have seen increased interest from area growers. As of 2016, LERGP has had the opportunity to collect NDVI data from over 1,000 acres from 35 different area grape growers. As our understanding of sensor technology advances, so do potential uses. Successful commercial adoption of sensor technologies requires grower input and participation. This is your chance to ask researchers and growers questions on how they are using new technologies.
Crop Insurance: Conference Preview

Price guarantees for crop insurance are very high, relative to the current and expected cash market price. Price guarantees are also above expected cooperative distributions for the near term. On one hand, getting paid more is a nice benefit when a disaster occurs. On the other hand, crop insurance premiums are linked directly to the guarantee.

Growers should monitor crop insurance premiums to ensure premiums do not exceed 10% of expected gross revenue. Expected revenue typically falls in the range of $1,200 - $3,100 per acre. Currently expected revenue is in the range of $700 - $2,200. Growers probably need to keep crop insurance premiums below $70 -200 per acre to avoid a cash crunch.

To determine how changes in yield protection change crop insurance premiums, you can use a premium calculator at Ag-analytics.org. By entering in common variables (See figure 1) such as county, grape variety and average yield, the calculator is able to approximate premium levels for varying levels of protection. The premium is then displayed as a graph, see figure 2. It can also be displayed as a table. Information about producer cost, subsidy levels and administrative fees are can also be displayed.

Figure 1. Input variable data to find specific premium information for your farm.

Figure 2. Producer premium is displayed visually showing varying coverage levels. Premiums will vary significantly based on data input into the crop insurance table.
Reducing Risk through Crop Insurance

Elizabeth Higgins, Ag Business Management Specialist
Jennifer Ifft, Assistant Professor
Jing Yi, Post-Doc

Farmers face risk every day. Crops can be wiped out by disease or frost or too much or too little rain. Prices can reach record lows. When you buy an insurance policy you trade the risk of a significant loss for a specific set payment amount (premium), with a guaranteed payment to compensate you for the insured loss if it occurs. Some losses are more likely than others and some events, should they occur, would be more catastrophic to a farm business than others. Premium rates are set by the USDA based on the likelihood of the insured event happening during the insured period and the expected amount of the payment. Higher likelihood events = more frequent pay-outs. More expensive events = larger pay-outs. Both scenarios are likely to result in higher premiums to farmers. Therefore, the decision to purchase insurance and the amount of coverage you purchase should be based on the cost of the premium and the value of the coverage offered to your business, should you have a loss.

Buying a crop insurance policy is a risk management tool available to help farmers meet their financial obligations in the event of a crop loss or a significant drop in revenue. Crop insurance payouts can be used to pay back operating loans, cover business expenses and family living expenses. Most crop insurance policies are subsidized by the federal government. Beginning farmers may have even higher subsidies available. For 2011-2015, New York farmers received $2.93 in insurance payouts for every $1.00 they paid in premiums. Although in some years producers do pay more in premiums than they collect, those payments, if affordable, can help a grower ensure that they can stay in business during a bad year.

An important aspect of buying insurance is understanding exactly what is covered, what is not covered, how the value of the crop is established and how losses need to be documented. Knowing this information can help you determine whether or not the specific coverage will make sense for your business. For example, it may make sense to insure crops with very high input costs, like apples, where crop losses before harvest can result in a significant financial burden to a farm.

The USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) provides a variety of single-crop policies, although availability varies by county. The RMA has expanded crop insurance options in the past few years, improving options for growers in New York, especially small and diverse farm operations, organic producers, and beginning farmers. If you would like to request insurance on a crop that is not insurable in your county but is insurable in other counties, you may complete and submit a Request for Actuarial Change through a crop insurance agent. It can also be used to modify the existing terms and conditions in the crop insurance policy when specifically
permitted by the policy. Please see the fact sheet on **Requesting Insurance Not Available in Your County** (link below). These written agreements require individual approval by RMA.

Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) is available to all New York farmers and allows farmers to insure all of their crops, livestock, and nursery and greenhouse crops for a revenue loss with a single policy rather than many individual crop/livestock policies. For many diversified farmers, individual insurance policies may not be available for the commodities they grow, while almost all commodities are eligible to be covered under the WFRP policy. Further, in order to achieve a comprehensive coverage for their farms, farmers have to purchase many separate policies, which may not be practical or make financial sense. Moreover, for diversified farms using 50-75% coverage levels, premium subsidies can go as high as 80%.

If you grow a crop that is not eligible for insurance, another option is the USDA-FSA Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), which provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory, or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters.

Producers should consider how a policy will work, in conjunction with their other risk management strategies, to insure the best possible outcome each crop year. Federal crop insurance is sold through a network of private insurance agencies. Also, most crops insurance programs have very specific annual enrollment periods. It is critical to keep on top of deadlines if you are planning to insure your crops.

**Resources:**
- Crop Insurance Information and Quote Estimator: [http://ag-analytics.org/cropinsurance](http://ag-analytics.org/cropinsurance)
How Many Credits?
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 applied for NYS DEC and PDA pesticide recertification credits for the talks detailed below. We are hoping the applications we have submitted will result in 2 NYS DEC recertification credits and 4 PDA recertification credits being available. Check out the summary of the talks below and you will see that not only will you get recertification credits, but these talks provide you with the opportunity to get information that you need to become compliant with the changes in WPS, as well as learn about the information and resources you need to implement a vineyard IPM strategy.

Update on Changes in the Worker Protection Standard Regulations
Michael Nierenberg, Pesticide Control Specialist II, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

According to the EPA website [https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/revisions-worker-protection-standard](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/revisions-worker-protection-standard), stronger protections are being implemented for the nation’s two million agricultural workers and their families working on farm, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses. These revisions to the 1992 Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS) will afford farmworkers similar health protections that are already afforded to workers in other industries. Mike Nierenberg will be presenting information on the major changes to the WPS and how they will affect growers, their families, and the workers they employ as well as posting requirements for no entry signs for the most hazardous pesticides. The majority of the rule revisions became effective on January 2, 2017 so if you have questions, this will be a talk that you shouldn’t miss!

Respirator Fit Testing and Other Requirements of the Worker Protection Standard for Vineyard Owners
James Carrabba, Agricultural Safety Specialist, N Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health

Jim will provide a general overview of respirators and respiratory protection that may be required to be used when applying pesticides. The presentation will discuss respiratory exposures and respiratory protection to prevent those exposures. The hierarchy of controls will be covered, explaining why it is most effective to start with engineering controls first, next implement administrative controls and finally relying on PPE for protection. The different types of respirators available will be explained. Selection of appropriate respirators will be covered. The OSHA regulation 1910.134 governing respirators use and how it applies to agriculture will be covered. Medical clearance and fit testing procedures will be explained. New regulations affecting respirator use listed in the proposed changes to the EPA Worker Protection Standard will also be discussed as well as information on cleaning and proper storing of respirators. The NYCAMH will also have a booth in the tradeshow area and Jim will be available to discuss any questions you might have about respirators, personal protection equipment (PPE) and other farm safety concerns.

Overview of Grape Insect Pests
Dr. Michael Saunders, Department of Entomology, Penn State University

You don’t want to miss what could be your last opportunity to take advantage of learning from Dr. Saunders’ years of expertise in the management of insect pests in Lake Erie vineyards. Mike will be presenting an overview of grape insect pests, and how to manage them, calling upon his decades worth of experience in the Lake Erie region to help in determining which insects to look for, when to treat for them and when their presence can be ignored. Mike and his lab were instrumental in developing the phenology-based degree day model for grape berry moth through a collaborative effort between Penn State, Cornell and Michigan State Universities’ faculty, researchers and extension staff. Mike is known for his conducting research with a goal of implementing it into grower’s vineyards.
NEWA – Where We Are and Where We Are Heading
Dan Olmstead, NYS IPM Program, Cornell University

Unless you have been living under a rock, you have heard the LERGP extension team talk, and write, about NEWA (Network for Environment and Weather Applications) and the weather and grape pest resources that can be found on their website http://newa.cornell.edu. Dan was recently hired as the full time coordinator of NEWA earlier this year and has made getting out to grower venues a priority to let growers know what NEWA resources are available to them, as well as to gather input from growers what resources they feel NEWA should develop for their industries. Come prepared with questions and ideas as Dan’s talk will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Think of this presentation as a NEWA Coffee Pot meeting.
| Date      | Time   | Location                | Address                                                        |
|-----------|--------|-------------------------|                                                               |
| May 3, 2017 | 10:00am | John Mason Farm          | 8603 West Lake Rd. Lake City, PA 16423                         |
| May 10, 2017 | 10:00am | CLEREL                   | 6592 West Main Rd. Portland, NY 14769                         |
| May 17, 2017 | 10:00am | Brant Town Hall          | 1272 Brant Rd. Brant, NY 14027                                |
| May 24, 2017 | 10:00am | Peter Smith Farm         | 4472 Van Dusen Rd. Lockport, NY 14094                         |
| May 31, 2017 | 10:00am | Dan Sprague Farm         | 12435 Versailles Rd. Irving, NY 14081                         |
| June 7, 2017 | 10:00am | Betts’ Farm              | 7365 East Route 20 Westfield, NY 14787                        |
| June 7, 2017 | 3:00pm  | Archer Pratz Farm        | 9318 Lake Rd. North East, PA 16428                            |
| June 14, 2017 | 10:00am | Jeff Schultz Farm        | 2707 Albright Rd. Ransomville NY 14131                        |
| June 14, 2017 | 3:00pm  | Orton Farm               | 10646 West Main St. Ripley, NY 14775                         |
| June 21, 2017 | 10:00am | North East Fruit Growers | 2297 Klomp Rd. North East, PA 16428                          |
| June 21, 2017 | 3:00pm  | Kirk Hutchinson Farm     | 4720 West Main St. Fredonia, NY 14063                         |
| June 28, 2017 | 10:00am | Peter Loretto Farm       | 10854 Versailles Plank Rd. North Collins, NY 14111            |
| June 28, 2017 | 3:00pm  | David Nichols Farm       | 1906 Ridge Rd. Lewiston, NY 14092                            |
| July 5, 2017  | 10:00am  | Leo Hans Farm            | 10929 West Perrysburg Rd. Perrysburg, NY 14129               |
| July 12, 2017 | 10:00am  | Szklenski Farms          | 8601 Slade Rd. Harbor Creek, PA 16421                        |
| July 19, 2017 | 10:00am  | Liberty Winery           | 2861 Route 20, Sheridan, NY 14135                            |
2017 LERGP Winter Grower Conference Agenda

6:30 AM  Tradeshow set up begins

7:00 AM  Registration and Tradeshow open

8:00 AM  Welcome

8:10 - 8:30 AM  The Efficient Vineyard SCRI Project – Potential Impacts for the Grape Industry  
Mark Amidon, National Grape Cooperative

8:30 – 9:15 AM  Efficient Vineyard, Year One Results  
Dr. Terry Bates – Lake Erie Regional Grape Program, CLEREL Director

9:15 – 10:00 AM  Precision Vineyard Imaging  
Dr. Stephen Nuske, Carnegie Melon University

10:00 – 10:30 AM  Break

10:30 – 11:15 AM  Collecting, Processing and Providing Info for Variable Rate Management  
Jackie Dresser, Newcastle University and Rhiann Jakubowski, Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

11:15 – Noon  Efficient Vineyard Roundtable  
Thom Betts and Tracy Beckman and Efficient Vineyard Project Leaders  
Moderated by Luke Haggerty

Noon  Excellence in IPM Award Presentation

12:10 – 1:30 PM  Lunch and Visit Tradeshow

1:30 – 1:45 PM  Climate Smart Farming  
Speaker TBD

1:45 – 2:15PM  Crop Insurance and Risk Management for Vineyard Owners  
Kevin Martin, Lake Erie Regional Grape Program, Penn State University

2:15 – 2:45 PM  Update on Changes in the Worker Protection Standard Regulations  
Michael Nierenberg, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

2:45 – 3:15 PM  Respirator Fit Training and Other Requirements of WPS for Vineyard Owners  
James Carrabba, New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health

3:15 – 3:45 PM  Overview of Grape Insect Pests  
Dr. Mike Saunders, Penn State University

3:45 – 4:15 PM  NEWA – Where We Are and Where We Are Heading  
Dan Olmstead, NYS IPM Program, Cornell University

4:15 PM  Adjourn
LAKE ERIE REGIONAL GRAPE PROGRAM
2016 GRAPE GROWERS’ CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
to be held at SUNY Fredonia Williams Center
on Tuesday, March 22, 2016
Deadline for registration is Friday, March 4, 2016.

Name (1st attendee) ________________________________________________________ $__________
Farm Name ________________________________________________________________
Address, City, State, Zip Code ________________________________________________
Phone _______________________________ E-mail ________________________________

Are you enrolled in Lake Erie Regional Grape Program (LERGP)? Yes______ No______

REGISTRATION FEES
LERGP Member 1st attendee $ 50.00
Additional attendee on same farm $ 40.00
Non-member $100.00

Additional Attendees:

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TOTAL $________

*Please add a $25.00 late fee for each reservation made after March 4, 2016

Please make check payable to LERGP (Lake Erie Regional Grape Program) and mail to: Kate Robinson
LERGP
6592 W Main Rd
Portland NY 14769

Name _______________________________ NY DEC/PA PDA NUMBER ________________________
Name _______________________________ NY DEC/PA PDA NUMBER ________________________
Name _______________________________ NY DEC/PA PDA NUMBER ________________________

Date Ck. Rec’d | Amount
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Call Kate at 716-792-2800 ext 202 with any questions.
“CORE” Pesticide Training and Pesticide Applicators License Exam  
April 26, 2016  
Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory (CLEREL)  
6592 West Main Road  
Portland, NY 14769

Space is limited ---Pre-registration is required for both sessions

CORE TRAINING
WHEN: 9 AM to 12:15 PM  
WHERE: CLEREL Meeting room  
COST: $15  
3.0 Pesticide recertification credits in the CORE category have been applied for.

The CORE training session is also designed as a review prior to taking the Commercial or Private Pesticide Applicator exam but is not required prior to taking the exam.

Preregistration for the training using the enclosed course registration form is required by April 17, 2017.

Questions on the training session should be directed to Kate at (716) 792-2800 ext 201

PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL NYS PESTICIDE EXAMINATIONS
WHEN: 1 PM  
WHERE: CLEREL Meeting room  
COST: $100  
REGISTRATION: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) requires you to register for entrance to the exam session with the Buffalo DEC office at (716) 851-7220.

DEADLINE for registration to take the test is April 17, 2017. To register, call the DEC at (716) 851-7220. You will then be sent an exam application form and test instructions by the DEC.

Any questions about your eligibility to take an exam or the status of your current certification should be directed to the Buffalo DEC office at (716) 851-7220.

Commercial Applicators: You will need the “Core Manual” and the category manual for the area(s) in which you will be certifying.

Private Applicators: You will need to get the “Core Manual” plus the private category manual for the area in which you will be certifying.

CORE and category training manuals are available through the Cornell Store by calling (800) 624-4080 or the web-site link: http://store.cornell.edu/c-876-manuals.aspx

Questions on Pesticide Examinations should be directed to the NYS DEC at (716) 851-7220.
2017 CORE PESTICIDE TRAINING
REGISTRATION FORM
Wednesday April 26, 2017

Space is limited – pre-registration is required.

To register for the training, fill out and return registration form to:

ATTN: Kate
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program
CLEREL
6592 West Main Road
Portland, NY 14769

Name(s)  

Address  

Phone  

Number attending_______

Registration and payment by Monday April 17, 2017 ($15 per person)

Make Checks Payable to: Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

IMPORTANT: This registration is for the CORE training session only.

If you wish to take the exam for a NYS DEC Pesticide Applicators License you must contact the Buffalo office of the NYS DEC by calling Mike Nierenberg or Shaun Conrad at (716) 851-7220 no later than April 10, 2017 to provide ample time for them to provide you with an exam application form and test instructions.
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Jared Mosier
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Harborcreek, PA 16421

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February 2, 2017

Dear Vendor,

We are pleased to inform you that on February 1st, 2017 Lakeland Equipment and Z&M Ag and Turf, Western New York’s largest John Deere dealers, combined their assets and operations into a new company called LandPro Equipment LLC. This combination was completed with the financial support and partnership of Argonne Capital Group, LLC, an Atlanta-based investment firm that specializes in partnering with and growing closely-held family businesses, pursuant to an acquisition of substantially all of the assets of Lakeland Equipment and Z&M Ag and Turf by LandPro Equipment LLC, which is an affiliate of Argonne Capital Group, LLC. As part of the acquisition, the shareholders of Lakeland and Z&M have retained ownership stakes in the newly combined company.

With 12 dealership locations, LandPro will be the largest John Deere agricultural equipment dealer in the Northeast. The combination of the two businesses is expected to produce immediate synergies for the combined company and enable LandPro to offer its customers a broader portfolio of new and used equipment. The combined company will be headquartered in Falconer, NY and managed by Tracy Buck, President of Z&M Ag and Turf.

Despite this combination, rest assured that it will be business as usual for the company. LandPro Equipment will continue to serve the same commercial, construction, farming and homeowner customers that Lakeland and Z&M have served for the past 30 years. As the two dealerships combine, they do so with similar customer service cultures and the desire to provide every customer with a quality experience.

Please be aware that the effective date of the sale was January 31st, 2017. Therefore, any obligations to your company arising or accruing prior to this date will be the obligation of either Lakeland Equipment Corp or Z&M Ag and Turf and any obligations to your company arising or accruing on or after this date will be the obligation of LandPro Equipment LLC.

We have attached a new credit reference page on LandPro and would ask that all invoices related to LandPro be sent via email to payables@landproequip.com or via mail to our corporate office in Falconer, NY. Please update your records accordingly so there will be no confusion or delay in payment.

In closing, we are thrilled about this new partnership with Argonne and the potential it has to enable long-term growth at LandPro. Thank you for your continued support as a valuable vendor. We look forward to growing with you in the coming years.

Best,

Tracy Buck  
President  
LandPro Equipment, LLC

Ryan Payment  
Vice President  
LandPro Equipment, LLC

LandPro Equipment LLC  
1756 Lindquist Drive  
Falconer, NY 14733

Formerly  
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Clymer • Edinboro, Pa • Falconer • Hall  
Macedon • Oakfield • Savannah • Springville  
WWW.LANDPROEQUIPMENT.COM
This publication may contain pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly, and human errors are still possible. Some materials mentioned may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. Questions concerning the legal 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.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
LERGP
6592 W Main Rd
Portland NY 14769

Contact the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program if you have any special needs such as visual, hearing, or mobility impairments. Concerns about the Regional Grape Program? If so, have any special

Helping You Put Knowledge to Work
Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NYS College of Human Ecology, and NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Cooperative Extension associations, county governing bodies, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating.