



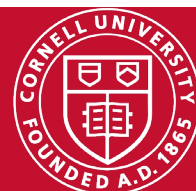
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Lake Erie Regional Grape Program




PennState Extension



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a very Happy  
Holiday season  
and Happy New  
Year!!!

from everyone at CLEREL!!

CLEREL will be closed from  
Wednesday, December 25, 2019  
through Wednesday, January 1, 2020

# Save the Date!

2020 LERGP Winter Growers' Conference  
Thursday, March 19, 2019  
William's Center at SUNY Fredonia

more information is available at:

<https://lergp.cce.cornell.edu/>

Registration will open in January

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## In this Crop Update:

- Pruning Weight Information to Inform Decision- Jennifer Russo
- Sample Letter for use in Supporting IPM Position- Jennifer Russo
- VIP Update- Kimberly Knappenberger
- Tools to Help NY Farms Manage Overtime Regulations- Kevin Martin
- **Overview of New York State Labor Regulations: 2020 :event at CLEREL Monday, December 23, 2019-10:00am- Kevin Martin**



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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.*

# Viticulture

Jennifer Russo, Viticulture Extension Specialist, LERGP

## Pruning Weight Information to Inform Decision

In some of the earlier crop updates and certainly at coffee pot meetings, we discussed the importance of really knowing your vineyards. Collecting information from each of your blocks and developing historical information sets will strengthen your operations and help with vine health and sustainability. Suggested important information should include: Bud Break Date, Bloom Date, 30 Days After Bloom (DAB) Berry Weight, 30 DAB Crop Estimation, Final Berry Weight, Final Tonnage, and Pruning Weights. Having all of this important information over time is very valuable when making vineyard management decisions and knowing your vineyards.



With harvest fresh on your mind, be sure to write down the tonnage for individual blocks. I would suggest if you have particular areas that you did your crop estimation in and already have those numbers recorded, start recording other information associated with those locations and now is the perfect time to collect pruning weights. Pruning weights is a practical way of measuring vine growth. In our industry, we talk in terms like ‘do you have a 1.5 lb. or 3 lb. vines?’ It is a measure we use when discussing vine vigor that may inform our future management decisions. Through collecting information throughout your blocks, you will be able to see how certain management practices affect vine vigor.

How do you know where to take pruning weights? Pick panels that represent the variation in your vineyard block, if you had Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) maps created let those guide you to high, medium, and low areas or soil maps can be a starting point for sample locations. If you do not have maps, no one knows your vineyard blocks better than you, choose areas that perform differently and start collecting information from there. If you know there are vines that consistently under-perform and others that always do well, then you can begin to form your own zones and flag the zones for future reference to collect more information from the same place.

When collecting pruning weights, make sure to take along your notebook, or tablet, a writing utensil or more (seems common sense, right? Many times those darn things are forgotten and one finds themselves going all the way back to fetch one), pruners (both people and equipment), a field scale, measuring tape, flagging tape, and twine or something that you can use to bundle the severed wood with, and your vineyard map. Prune the panel as you would the rest of your vineyard and be sure to note how many feet are in that panel. Collect all of the cut one-year-old wood from the entire panel, bundle it, weigh it, divide by the number of feet in the panel, and record it as pounds per linear foot.

Knowing what your pruning weights are can help you make better management decisions, and having historical information sets can help determine trends that may not be apparent to the human eye. Maybe you know that you really pushed the vines in one block this year and that you probably should not push that particular block next year for vine health. Looking at your pruning weights can help determine whether your management practices were sustainable, or if you need to manage the vines in that zone differently this growing season to allow for recovery.

---

Dear Growers,

I am addressing all of the growers in our region for a call to action please.

Your support and immediate action are required to ensure the grape integrated pest management position housed in the Lake Erie Grape Region continues into the future. To address this need, letters of support from our grower stakeholders are necessary to convey the needs of the work that Tim Weigle provided to our industry and the impacts, or success stories, that have improved your operations.

As of November 4, 2019, the industry lost critical support at Cornell University in grape pest management because of the retirement of our resident IPM specialist, Tim Weigle. In his 30-year career as NYSIPM Specialist, Tim co-edited the annual NY and PA Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes, instituted NEWA models for pest management, led research and education on grape root worm, Japanese beetle, and grape berry moth. Tim has also stayed in the forefront of invasive species such as the multicolored Asian lady beetle and the spotted lanternfly. Tim's program was exceptional at listening and responding to the needs of the grape industry in western New York.

It is our understanding that the grape IPM position will not be immediately refilled by the NYS IPM and the future of the position is uncertain due to funding constraints. Furthermore, alternate proposals are being considered because Cornell is not hearing from our industry. This is our opportunity to let our voices be heard and state the importance of Tim's position in our region or it may go away. We believe that any proposed option to move or derail focus on grape IPM is a huge mistake. The Lake Erie AVA is the largest and most productive grape region in the eastern US and we need programs to support and grow this vital economic engine.

We believe there is a critical and obvious need to support farm-level grape integrated pest management in western NY and Erie County, PA. As of November 4, 2019, the Grape IPM Specialist position has been vacant. Having a physical presence of IPM in our region has assisted in adoption of IPM practices and sustainability of our industry. A grape IPM specialist on the Lake Erie team will insure that their research and extension will immediately address our current needs in IPM, invasive species, and address the continual need to modify spray programs to maintain pest control. What would happen to your operations if the following bullet points were to go away?

This position has been an integral part of the four-member, two-state, five-county Lake Erie Regional Grape Program since its inception in 1992. This vacancy leaves a hole in our industry and we need support to immediately address our current needs in:

- Integrated pest management
- Pesticide recommendations
- updating NY and PA Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes
- pesticide credits at Coffee Pot meetings

- invasive species education
- contact to address the continual need to modify spray programs to maintain pest control
- updating grape berry moth and disease models on NEWA

If you agree, it is imperative that you contact the following decision makers now and let them know that our industry needs IPM support in the Lake Erie Grape Region and to request additional funding support for Ag IPM:

Richard Ball  
Commissioner, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets  
10B Airline Drive  
Albany, NY 12235  
Telephone: 518-457-8876

Kathryn J. Boor  
Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at Cornell University  
260 Roberts Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
Telephone: 607-255-5335  
E-mail: [calsdean@cornell.edu](mailto:calsdean@cornell.edu)

Christopher Watkins  
Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
366 Roberts Hall  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
[chris.watkins@cornell.edu](mailto:chris.watkins@cornell.edu)  
Telephone: 607-255-8546

Jennifer Grant  
Director, New York State IPM Program  
607 West North St., Geneva, NY 14456  
[jag7@cornell.edu](mailto:jag7@cornell.edu)  
Telephone: 315-787-2353

For those of you that are not comfortable constructing letters, I am including a sample letter that you may use as a guide, however, your knowledge and personal gains from the guidance of Tim Weigle is more powerful than my words. Please be sure to tell your story. Let the decision makers know that this is very important to the success of our region.

Thank you for continually supporting the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program. Unity has always been our strongest asset and we are excited to work with you to advance the Industry/Research/Extension relationship. **I hope that you consider writing a letter to each of the above decision makers to call to action the need for funding in IPM in our region.**

All My Best,  
Jennifer Phillips Russo

SAMPLE LETTER: next page



Concord Farm, Inc.  
1234 Juice Lane  
The Best Smelling Town, NY 12345

December 12, 2019

Richard Ball  
Commissioner, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets  
10B Airline Drive  
Albany, NY 12235

Dear Commissioner Ball,

I am writing to express my concerns about future funding for Grape Integrated Pest Management in our area. Our Lake Erie Grape Region industry lost critical support at Cornell University in grape pest management because of the retirement of our resident IPM specialist, Tim Weigle. In his 30-year career as NYSIPM Specialist, Tim co-edited the annual NY and PA Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes, instituted NEWA models for pest management, led research and education on grape root worm, Japanese beetle, and grape berry moth. Tim has also stayed in the forefront of invasive species such as the multicolored Asian lady beetle and the spotted lanternfly. Tim's program was exceptional at listening and responding to the needs of the grape industry in western New York.

As growers, we need IPM support because "tell your story here, which may sound something like grape berry moth spray program saved my vines, my spray costs, etc. or use the bullet point mentioned above. Think about what will happen to your management practices when the bullet points above go away or the Spotted Lanternfly gets here."

It is imperative that our industry has access to an IPM support specialist in the Lake Erie Grape Region to continue to be sustainable. Thank you for continually supporting the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program.

Respectfully,

King Concord  
Owner and President  
(716) 111-0000



# VIP Update

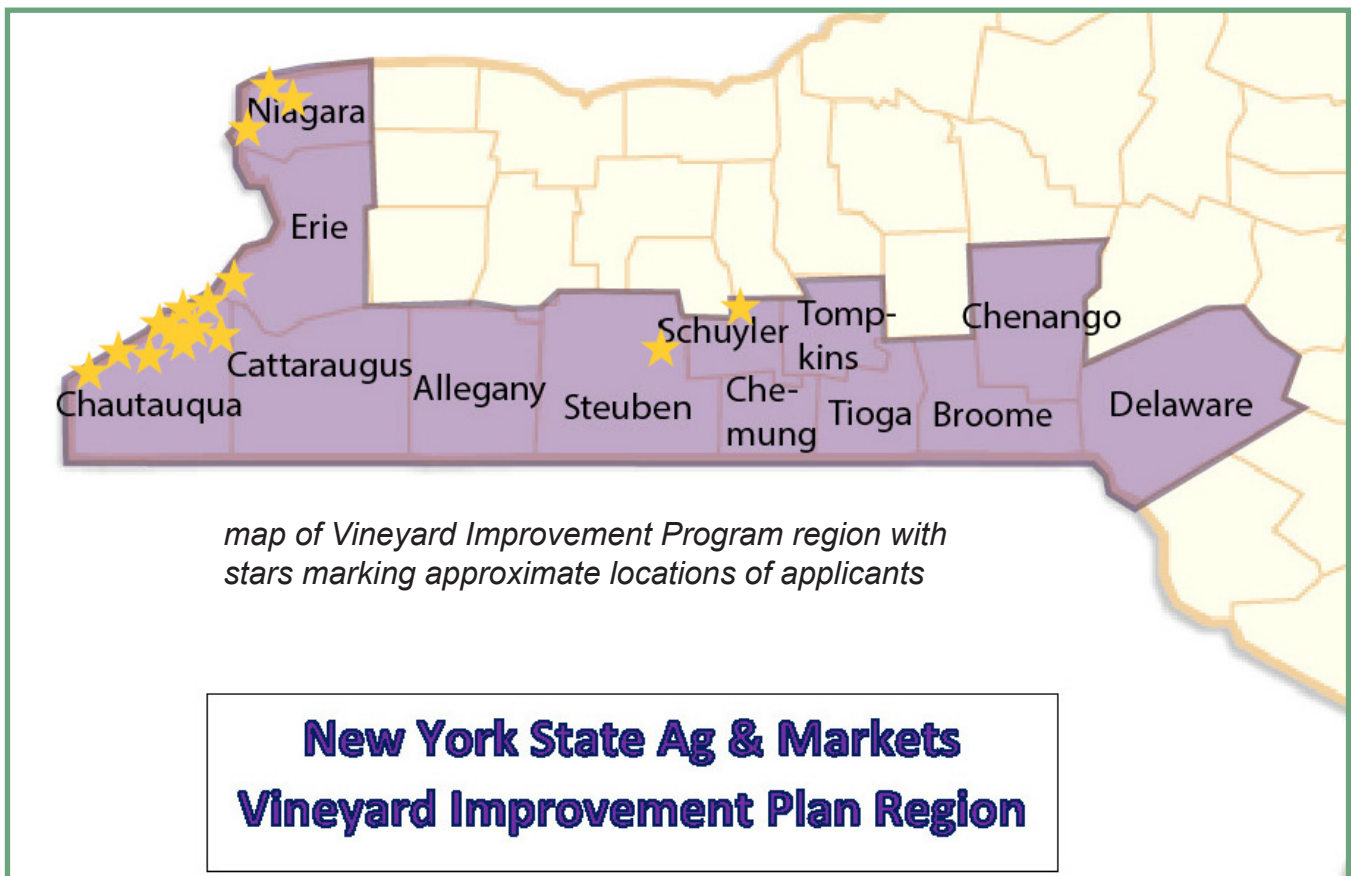
Kimberly Knappenberger, LERGP, Viticulture Extension Aide

## Vineyard Improvement Program

We now have five counties that have representation in the Vineyard Improvement Program. With a total of 16 applicants, there are just over 190 acres of underproducing Concord vineyards being removed from the region and being replaced with either grapes or another agricultural commodity. This is a great time to make the assessment to see if it will work for you.

Visit our website at [lergp.com](http://lergp.com) and click on the big purple Vineyard Improvement Program button to learn more. If you have more questions, contact Kim at [ksk76@cornell.edu](mailto:ksk76@cornell.edu) or 716-792-2800 ext 209.

Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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# INSURING GRAPES

NY, 2019

**Crop insurance** is a safety net for farmers that helps you **manage risk**. If you have a crop failure, crop insurance can help you farm again next year.

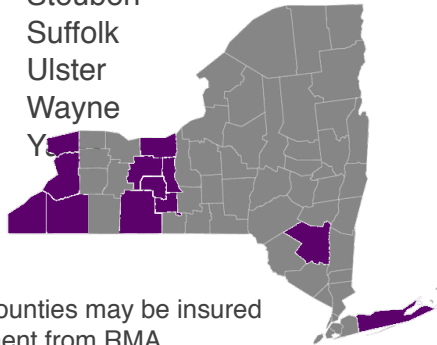
## Important Insurance Deadlines

- **Aug. 15, 2018:** Premium Billing Date
- **Nov. 20, 2018:** Sales Closing, Policy Change, Cancellation, Termination Date
- **Nov. 20, 2019:** End of Insurance Period
- **Jan. 15, 2019:** Acreage / Production Report Date



## Over 40 grape varieties are insurable in these counties:

Cattaraugus	Steuben
Chautauqua	Suffolk
Erie	Ulster
Niagara	Wayne
Ontario	Y
Schuyler	
Seneca	



Grapes in other counties may be insured by written agreement from RMA

## NYS Grape Crop Insurance



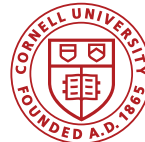
**for every \$1** grape producers spent on crop insurance premiums from 2012 to 2016, **they received \$2.07** in losses

## Learn more & sign up:

Learn more about crop insurance options available to New York producers at [agriskmanagement.cornell.edu](http://agriskmanagement.cornell.edu)

To sign up, contact a crop insurance agent. Find an agent using the Agent Locator tool at [rma.usda.gov/en/Information-Tools/Agent-Locator-Page](http://rma.usda.gov/en/Information-Tools/Agent-Locator-Page)

Cornell University delivers crop insurance education in New York State in partnership with the USDA Risk Management Agency. Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.



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# Business Management

Kevin Martin, Penn State University, LERGP, Business Management Educator

## Tools to Help New York Farms Manage Overtime Regulations

 [agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/2019/11/26/tools-to-help-new-york-farms-manage-overtime-regulations/](https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/2019/11/26/tools-to-help-new-york-farms-manage-overtime-regulations/)

November 26,  
2019

On January 1, 2020 New York farms will have to pay overtime wages (1.5 times the 'regular rate of pay') for nearly all employees that work over 60 hours a week. Researchers and extension educators from Cornell University [Agricultural Workforce Development](#), [Charles H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management](#), [Cooperative Extension](#) and [PRO-DAIRY](#), have developed several tools to help New York farms manage through these changes.

Our spreadsheet tool is designed to help farm managers estimate how much overtime they would have to pay under their current employee work schedules. The tool can also be used to estimate costs of new work schedules. To use the tool, you will need to know current compensation levels and work schedules. Worksheets are provided for collecting or calculating that information in advance, if it is not readily available.

A new extension bulletin on "[Adapting Your Labor Strategies to New York's Revised Farm Labor Employment Laws](#)" discusses the pro and cons of various management strategies that farms may consider in response to the new overtime rules. The guide does not make recommendations, but details the positive and negative implications of changes to work schedules, employee policies and farm expenses.

Please visit [agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/overtime](https://agworkforce.cals.cornell.edu/overtime) to download these tools. You can contact Jennifer Ifft ([jiff@cornell.edu](mailto:jiff@cornell.edu)) or Richard Stup ([rstup@cornell.edu](mailto:rstup@cornell.edu)) for more information.

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

The post [Tools to Help New York Farms Manage Overtime Regulations](#) appeared first in [The Ag Workforce Journal](#).



# Overview of New York State Labor Regulations: 2020

Who: Please join us for an update on NYS Labor regulations that will go into effect 1/1/2020  
Where: CLEREL 6592 West Main Road, Portland, NY 14769  
When: Monday, 12/23/2019 at 10:00 AM

Why: CCE, Farm Bureau, NYS DOL have all been offering information about new regulations. If you haven't heard this is probably your last chance to get up to speed before these requirements are mandatory. Educational opportunities will continue into 2020 but your opportunity to stay in compliance will have passed.

Employment law for NYS farmers has undergone massive changes that roll out in 2020. Join us at CLEREL and we'll provide you with the most recent information we can. The Farm Workers Bill was signed on July 17th. Regulations and department guidance has been modified as recently as 10 days ago.

In 2020 Extension will focus on how to sustainably manage labor costs with these regulations. However, by January 1st, need to make sure that everyone is in compliance and avoids penalties with non-compliance.

Some of the new requirements have the potential to be quite expensive. Others are fairly inexpensive, as little as \$2 per month, but penalties for non-compliance are high.

The Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act, which recognizes agriculture is a unique industry, includes:

- Grants collective bargaining rights to farm laborers;
- Requires employers of farm laborers to allow at least 24 consecutive hours of rest each week;
- Provides for 60-hour work week for farm workers;
- Requires overtime rate at one and one-half times normal rate;
- Makes provisions of unemployment insurance law applicable to farm laborers and reduces costs to farmers for ineligible workers (H-2A);
- Ensures sanitary codes apply to all farm worker housing, regardless of the number of occupants;
- Removes a payroll threshold for requiring farm labor employers to obtain workers' compensation coverage;
- Allows farm laborers to receive disability and Paid Family Leave benefits; and
- Requires reporting of injuries to employers of farm laborers.

## **Paid Family Leave Information for Employers**

Learn about your Paid Family Leave responsibilities and access resources to help you.

# Other links of interest:

[LERGP Web-site:](#)

[Cornell Cooperative Extension website:](#)

[Cornell CALS Veraison to Harvest Newsletter:](#)

[Efficient Vineyard:](#)

[Appellation Cornell Newsletter:](#)





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